

PARTNERS FOR Tomorrow

Financial & Gift
Planning Ideas
for Friends
of SPCA
International



SPCA
INTERNATIONAL

**GLOBAL
ANIMAL
RESCUE**

Summer 2015

It May Be Time for an Update

It has been said change is the only constant in life. Years of personal experience remind us that change, while constant, also presents us with new opportunities to improve our lives and the lives of those around us.

Consider, for example, your long-range estate plans. Many of life's most common events can provide you with the opportunity to periodically review and update legal arrangements you have put in place for the management and future distribution of your property.

Changes in life

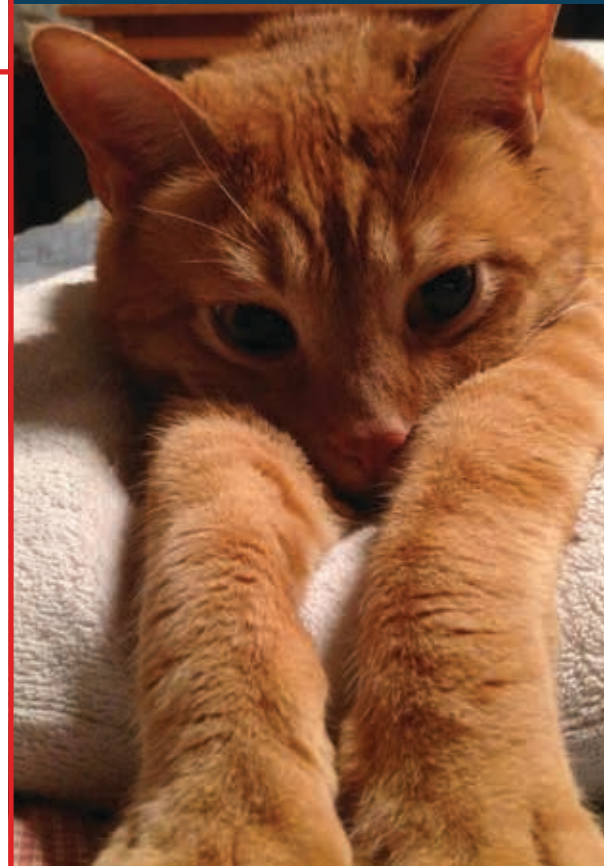
Such events might include a change in marital status, the birth of grandchildren, a move to another state, an increase or decrease in the value of assets and changes in tax laws. These are just a few examples of why you might want to revisit your plans to be sure you can achieve your personal, financial and philanthropic goals.

Who do you want to remember?

You may find that higher estate and gift tax exemption levels may allow you to give more assets to your heirs as well as your charitable interests. Careful planning can help you make generous gifts without sacrificing the future security of your loved ones.

This issue of *Partners for Tomorrow* provides helpful information as you make plans for the future distribution of your property. With the help of your attorney and other advisors, you can decide on the best course of action for your needs and those of your loved ones.

We will be happy to provide more information to you as you consider the charitable dimension of your plans.



INSIDE • How Sound Are Your Estate Plans?
• Your Will—Your Way

How Sound Are Your Estate Plans?

Good estate plans outline your wishes about the future distribution of your property. Are you certain that your plans are up to date? Take this brief quiz to find out.

1. Do you have a will or living trust to direct the distribution of property?
☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Is the makeup of your family the same as when you last reviewed your plans?
☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Do you live in the same state as when you last updated your will and/or other plans?
☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Have you given appropriate powers of attorney to someone you trust to allow them to act for you, should it become necessary?
☐ Yes ☐ No
5. Is the person you have named to settle your affairs still able and willing to serve?
☐ Yes ☐ No
6. Are your insurance and/or retirement plan beneficiary designations up to date?
☐ Yes ☐ No
7. Have you made plans for who should receive your property should your primary heirs not survive you?
☐ Yes ☐ No
8. Has the value of your assets remained the same since you last reviewed your plans?
☐ Yes ☐ No
9. Are you certain how much federal and/or state tax will be due on your estate?
☐ Yes ☐ No
10. Are your financial records easily accessible and understandable?
☐ Yes ☐ No



Last year SPCA International was able to ensure over 400 dogs in a public pound in Romania are now under the care and supervision of our partner organizations. We are continuing to work to raise awareness of the thousands of dogs that still need saving.

11. Have you discussed your estate plans with your spouse and/or other loved ones?
☐ Yes ☐ No
12. Are your charitable interests mentioned in your plans?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered **no** to one or more of these questions, it may be time to review and update your plans. For more information on how to include SPCA International in your will or other long-range plans, return the enclosed card.

Your Will—Your Way

When it comes to writing your will, you have the ability to choose how—and to whom—you want your assets distributed after you are gone. The will is an extremely flexible instrument and there are a number of ways that you can designate your loved ones and charitable interests to receive bequests.

Give “what’s left.” After first providing for loved ones, you can devote all or a portion of the residue of your estate to a charitable interest, such as SPCA International.

Give adjustable amounts. Leaving designated percentages of your estate allows you to give proportions rather than specific amounts. The amounts received are then automatically adjusted as the value of your estate changes.

Leave a fixed amount. Your will can specify a dollar amount to be given. This option can make sense if you would like to ensure that a certain amount is received before leaving any remaining assets to others. Remember, however, that your financial situation may change over time. It is important to review your will and other plans from time to time.

Wills offer flexibility

You can also combine the above methods in your will. For example, you might specify that certain amounts or properties go to certain people, then divide the remainder by percentages among your charitable interests.

Begin now

We will be happy to provide more information about including gifts to SPCA International as part of your overall plans.

Our team rescued Mickey when he was found injured and abandoned. We rushed him in for emergency veterinary care. Before our eyes this helpless, scared pup blossomed into a playful cuddle bug. Today, Mickey is loving life in his new forever home.

Did You Know...

It is important that both spouses have a will? The wills, which may be essentially the same, should complement each other and take into account any special bequests to others. Keep in mind married couples without children also need wills. Having a will may cut probate costs, waive bonding requirement, name heirs and bring estate tax savings.



Giving Alternatives

When planning for the future distribution of their assets, many people are pleased to learn there are a number of ways to provide for charitable gifts to SPCA International after first remembering family, friends and other loved ones. You may wish to consider one of these giving alternatives:

Life insurance and retirement plans

You may decide to designate gifts to SPCA International from life insurance proceeds or amounts remaining in a retirement account. Because retirement plans can be subject to more taxes than

other assets when received by heirs, it may be best to make charitable gifts from these accounts and provide for heirs from other sources.

Bank and investment accounts

In many states, it is possible to title investment and bank accounts in such a way that whatever remains becomes a charitable gift that can also pass free of estate tax and outside of probate.

We are happy to share additional information with you or your advisors about any of the ideas presented here as you make or update your plans.



Sample Bequest Language

Many of our friends choose to include SPCA International in their wills or other estate plans. Below is some suggested wording to take to your attorney to ensure your wishes are followed.

"After fulfilling all other provisions, I give, devise, and bequeath ____% of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate [or \$____ if a specific amount] as a charitable contribution to SPCA International, Federal Tax ID #87-0773320, 242 West 30th Street, Suite #1001, New York, NY 10001."

The purpose of this publication is to provide general gift, estate, and financial planning information. It is not intended as legal, accounting, or other professional advice. For assistance in planning charitable gifts with tax and other financial implications, the services of appropriate advisors should be obtained. Consult an attorney for advice if your plans require revision of a will or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on applicable federal discount rates, which can change on a monthly basis. Some opportunities may not be available in all states. ©MMXV RFSO, Inc. All Rights Reserved. NWX-15

CONTACT US:



SPCA
INTERNATIONAL

**GLOBAL
ANIMAL
RESCUE**

SPCA International • 242 West 30th Street, Suite 1001 • New York, NY 10001
(212) 244-7722 • e-mail: giftplanning@spcai.org
www.spcai.givingplan.net