

PARTNERS FOR Tomorrow

Financial & Gift
Planning Ideas
for Friends
of SPCA
International



SPCA
INTERNATIONAL

**GLOBAL
ANIMAL
RESCUE**

Summer 2016

Make Your Wishes Known

You have probably signed a number of important documents in your lifetime, including mortgages, deeds, insurance policies and beneficiary forms. But if you are like many Americans, you may not have even written the most important document you will ever sign—your will.

Did you know that the majority of Americans die without leaving a valid will? Not having a will can have serious consequences. Without a will, families are often left to cope with a bewildering array of legal problems, expenses and delays and possibly even family disputes. Is that the legacy you want to leave?

Deciding who should eventually receive property at the end of your lifetime is an important responsibility. Your will lets you provide others with particular sums of money, certain properties or exact percentages of your estate. It also provides you with a number of bequest options. For instance, you may choose to leave an exact gift of money to certain heirs and have others divide the remainder of your estate in percentages you determine.

Your will can also be a way to make meaningful charitable gifts. After making provisions for your family and other loved ones, you may wish to name SPCA International to receive all or part of your remaining property.

Start today

Call an attorney today and start the process to make your first will or update an out-of-date will. Your will, trust or other plans can often be completed with just a few hours of careful planning. If we can help with the charitable aspects of your plans, please return the enclosed card or contact us.



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Seven Things to Remember About Estate Planning

1. Make a Will and Other Plans. Unless you have a valid will or other arrangements in place, others may have to decide who will manage your affairs if you are unable to do so. Without any plans, it may be necessary for state laws to automatically transfer your property in equal amounts to your nearest relatives, regardless of your wishes.

2. Regularly Update Your Existing Plans. Having a will, trust and other plans that reflect your current wishes is vitally important. Many things can make your will and other plans obsolete, including changes in your family (marriages, births, deaths); the value of your property or how it is owned; changes in state and federal tax laws; or a move to another state.

3. Choose Your Representative. Your plans should name the person or financial institution you would like to manage the settlement of your estate. It is wise to choose someone who is knowledgeable in managing finances. It's also a good idea to name an alternate in case your first choice is unable to serve for any reason.

4. Honor Others. To commemorate the life of a special friend or loved one, consider including a memorial gift in your will or other long-range plans. If you wish, let us know of your intentions, and we will be pleased to assist as necessary.

5. Keep Plans in Balance. Most people have no way of knowing the exact value of what they may own at the end of their lifetime. To be sure their charitable gifts remain in proportion to other legacies, many designate that all or a certain percentage of their estate be devoted to charitable use after first providing for loved ones.

6. Remember Other Assets. Do not forget life insurance or retirement plan assets when thinking about your long-range plans. Beneficiary designation forms you completed in the past may not reflect your current wishes. Be sure to review them as part of your planning.

7. Use the Proper Legal Name. Also make sure your attorney uses the full legal name of the charitable organizations you include. Names can sometimes be similar and confusion can also be caused by using popular, abbreviated names.

Our Legal Name: SPCA International • **Our Tax ID:** #87-0773320



An important part of SPCA International's work since our founding has been supporting and partnering with animal groups around the world to improve the lives of animals everywhere.

Common Myths About Wills and Estate Plans

MYTH: Only wealthy people need an estate plan.

FACT: If you have any property at all, you need to plan carefully, even if your estate is modest, your heirs few and your wishes simple. Protecting a small estate is important because settlement delays and confusion usually mean more expense when it may be least affordable.

MYTH: Only someone with dependents needs to make plans for the distribution of assets.

FACT: Even someone with no dependents needs an estate plan if he or she has any assets and wants to decide who will ultimately receive them. A will can sometimes cut delays and probate costs, waive certain expenses and help reduce taxes.

MYTH: It's not a good idea to name your spouse as personal representative of your estate.

FACT: It's often a practical decision. Keep in mind, however, that it's wise to name an alternate (either another person or a trust officer at a bank) in case your spouse is unable to serve.

MYTH: A good estate plan, professionally made, rarely needs revision.

FACT: Periodic reviews are advisable since so many changes occur throughout life. Children grow up. Beneficiaries and executors can predecease you. Estate values can increase or decrease. Tax laws change. Charitable wishes may vary over time.

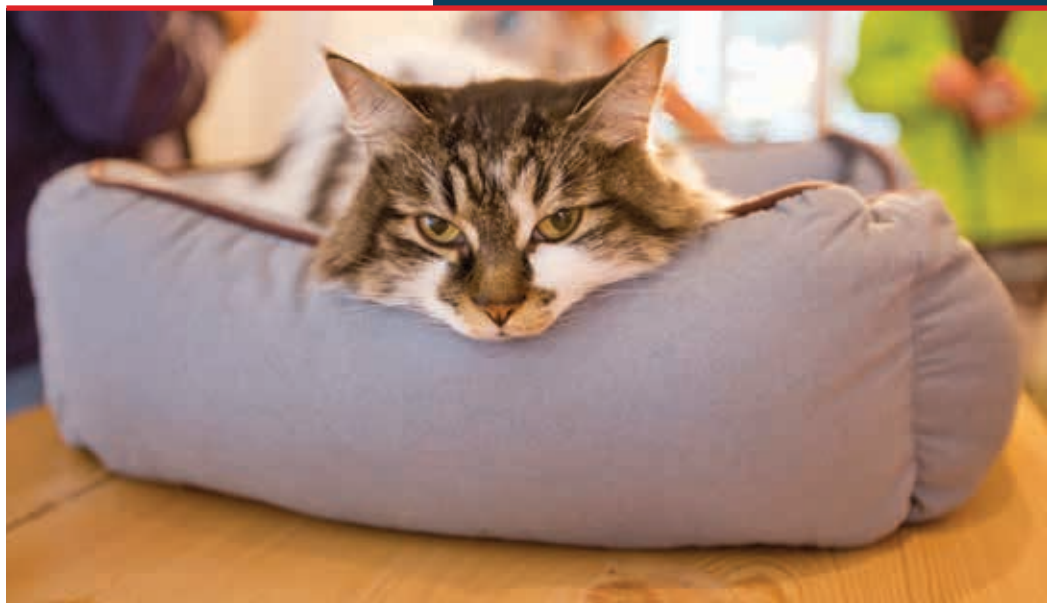
MYTH: Charitable bequests come mainly from people who have no close relatives or whose estates are so large that there is plenty left over.

FACT: People with modest estates often discover they can give meaningful gifts to SPCA International and the other charitable causes they support during their lifetime and still arrange generous provisions for their dependents and loved ones.

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."



Tax-Free Giving

Consider making a difference through tax-free giving from your retirement plan assets. In recently passed legislation, Congress has once again made charitable giving from retirement assets an attractive option.

If you are aged 70½ and older, and are looking for the most tax-efficient ways to make your charitable gifts, you can:

- Give directly from a traditional or Roth IRA completely free of federal income tax.
- Make tax-free gifts of all or a portion of any IRA withdrawals you make this year up to \$100,000.
- Give directly from your IRA without increasing your adjusted gross income and possibly subjecting your Social Security income to a higher level of taxation.
- Offset your Required Minimum Distribution and avoid taxes on the extra income.
- Make a generous gift to SPCA International that might not be possible using other assets.

For more information, consult your financial advisors. We are happy to work with you and answer any questions you may have concerning the charitable aspects of your plans.



More information

For more information about creative ways to make SPCA International a part of your legacy, visit our website at:

www.spcai.givingplan.net

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. ©MMXVI RFSCO, Inc. All Rights Reserved. NYEX-16

CONTACT US:



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