

# PARTNERS FOR Tomorrow

Financial & Gift  
Planning Ideas  
for Friends  
of SPCA  
International



**SPCA**  
INTERNATIONAL

**GLOBAL  
ANIMAL  
RESCUE**

Summer 2017

## The Sum of All Parts

**W**hen you begin to assemble a jigsaw puzzle, no one piece reveals a clear picture. The complete image becomes clear only after the pieces are fit together properly.

Creating an estate plan can seem much the same way. Once you begin assembling the “pieces” of the puzzle—the people you wish to benefit, the property you want each to have and the plans you choose to achieve your wishes—a sound estate plan takes shape, one that reflects your personal, financial and charitable goals.

### An important piece of the puzzle

One important estate planning piece is a well-drafted will, which provides a solid foundation to express your wishes. Your will can:

- Thoughtfully designate gifts to family and friends.
- Recommend a guardian for dependents.
- Suggest the person you prefer to settle your estate.
- Provide future support to the causes you care about.

### Other parts of the puzzle

In addition to your will, other planning vehicles can help you tailor your plans to fit your needs. For example, a living trust (described on Page 2) can help manage your assets and distribute them without the expense and delays that can be associated with probate.

You may also want to consider creating a pet trust to ensure your four-legged friends will be taken care of in the future. (See more about this on Page 3). Other parts of your plan may include beneficiary designations for life insurance policies and retirement plan accounts. These components need to be considered when making decisions about distributing all of your assets.

Much like a jigsaw puzzle, your will and other parts of your estate plan work together to form a comprehensive picture that others can use to make certain your wishes are fulfilled.



**INSIDE**

Living Trusts:  
Another Way of Planning

Protect Your  
Digital Treasures

# Living Trusts: Another Way of Planning

**M**any people are using a **revocable living trust** in addition to a will in the estate planning process. Because it is revocable, you can alter the terms of your living trust as circumstances in your life change.

When drafted by a qualified attorney, a living trust can:

- Manage assets during your lifetime, if you so choose.
- Manage property if you are unable to do so for any reason.
- Distribute assets to loved ones and others you care about.
- Make gifts to charitable organizations, like SPCA International.

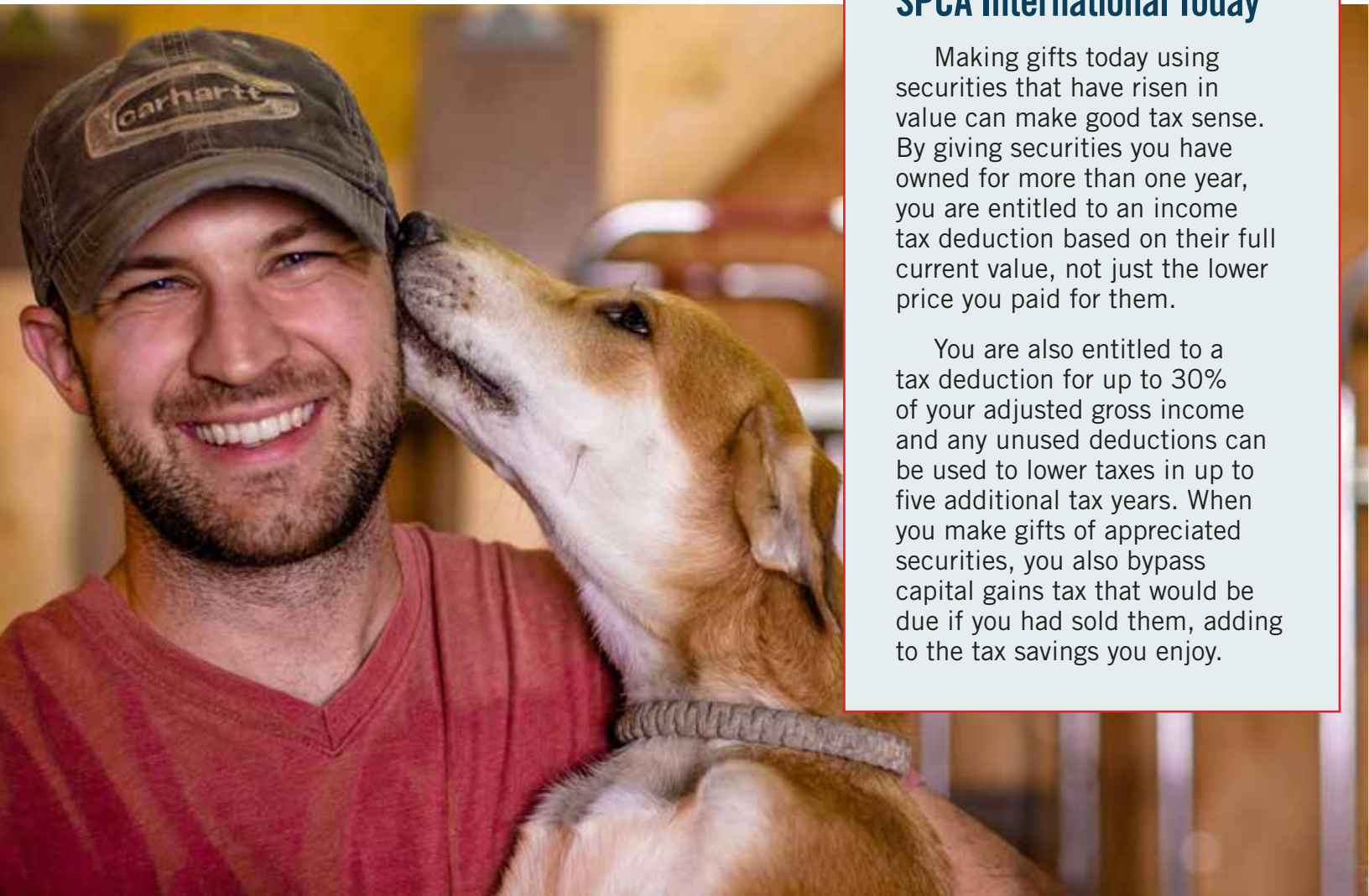
Almost any type of legal transfer that can be made with a will can also be arranged through a living trust.

A notable advantage of the living trust: Assets placed in it pass outside the probate process, avoiding unnecessary delays and expenses, and making it easier to transfer ownership of out-of-state property. What's more, the manner in which your property is distributed and in what amounts does not become public record, thus ensuring your privacy and that of your heirs.

## A Tax-Wise Way to Support SPCA International Today

Making gifts today using securities that have risen in value can make good tax sense. By giving securities you have owned for more than one year, you are entitled to an income tax deduction based on their full current value, not just the lower price you paid for them.

You are also entitled to a tax deduction for up to 30% of your adjusted gross income and any unused deductions can be used to lower taxes in up to five additional tax years. When you make gifts of appreciated securities, you also bypass capital gains tax that would be due if you had sold them, adding to the tax savings you enjoy.





# Protect Your Digital Treasures

**M**ost of us have cherished family photos. Today, most photographs are stored electronically. As we make our estate plans, our digital lives need to be considered. According to one study, every person has an average of 90 digital accounts, which contain not just photos but also important documents, emails, our social media profiles and records of banking and retirement assets.

Most service providers stipulate that only the person named on the account can have access and many state laws don't grant executors access to digital files. It is important, then, that you explicitly grant your executor or trustee access to your digital assets in your will or trust.

## Here are some important things to consider when making your estate plans:

- Make a list of all your digital accounts, including usernames and passwords, and keep it with your legal documents—in a safe deposit box or with your attorney—and make sure your executor is aware of the location.
- Include wording that grants your executor access to your digital assets, in a Durable Power of Attorney (POA) in case you become ill or are unable to access the files yourself.
- Review your list annually and update it when you add a new account or change an existing one.

For more information about the digital asset laws applicable in your state, please contact your attorney or financial advisors.



## Planning for Your Pet's Future

When making your estate plans, you can provide for your pet in the future through what is known as a **pet trust**. Much like a trust established for the care of a minor child, the trustee you name is legally obligated to act in the animal's best interest and ensure your desires for your pet's future care are met. The assets you leave in the trust can be used for anything related to the care and well-being of your animal. From food and treats to veterinary bills, your pet trust will ensure that your pet is taken care of in the ways that you specify. While the majority of states permit some form of a pet trust, details and limitations vary. It is best to check with your attorney about local laws.

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

[www.spcai.givingplan.net](http://www.spcai.givingplan.net)

# Take Charge of Your Future

**U**nderstanding how to create a will and other plans that will effectively distribute your assets according to your wishes can help ensure a secure future for you and your loved ones.

In addition to an up-to-date will, the tools described below can play an important part in your long-range plans.

A **life insurance policy** that is no longer needed for its original purpose can include SPCA International as a beneficiary. This could bring welcome tax savings to you as you make a wonderful gift.

**IRAs or other retirement plans** can be designated as a gift to SPCA International. As these funds are more heavily taxed if left to heirs, this gift strategy can make good tax planning sense.

**Savings and investment accounts** can be left directly to SPCA International under the laws of most states. Ask your financial services provider about available options.

For more information on how to plan a gift to SPCA International in your will or other plans, please return the enclosed card or contact us. We are pleased to help in any way we can.



Your gifts to SPCA International help reunite service men and women with their beloved pets through Operation Baghdad Pups: Worldwide.

## 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 1503, 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. © Copyright 2017 by Sharpe Group. All Rights Reserved. NWX-17

## CONTACT US:



**SPCA**  
INTERNATIONAL

**GLOBAL  
ANIMAL  
RESCUE**

SPCA International • 242 West 30th Street, Suite 1503 • New York, NY 10001  
(212) 244-7722 • e-mail: [giftplanning@spcai.org](mailto:giftplanning@spcai.org)  
[www.spcai.givingplan.net](http://www.spcai.givingplan.net)