

PARTNERS FOR Tomorrow

Financial & Gift
Planning Ideas
for Friends
of SPCA
International



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Spring 2013

Take Steps Today for a Sound Tomorrow

With increasing change and complexity a part of everyday life, you need well-planned action in order to preserve the assets you have worked much of a lifetime to acquire. When considering how your property will ultimately be distributed, it is important to plan now to ensure that your wishes are carried out later.

An effective estate plan will often revolve around a will or living trust. There are many reasons to have an estate plan—the most obvious of which is the peace of mind it can bring.

Imagine knowing how your assets will be divided once you no longer need them. Imagine making specific provisions for family members and others you care about, like SPCA International. And, finally, imagine knowing that your loved ones will not have to deal with unnecessary delays or difficult legal proceedings when carrying out your final wishes.

Be clear

Think of your estate plan as an instruction manual for the division of your assets. The ideal instruction manual is clear and precise, leaving no room for confusion. A poorly designed manual contains errors and ambiguities, and makes the job at hand more difficult than necessary. The only thing worse would be not having a manual at all!

Which is why, once you make the decision to plan your estate, you should enlist the aid of your most trusted advisors, particularly your attorney. A qualified attorney can ensure that your plans are clear, functional and legally valid.

Start today

If you don't already have an estate plan in place, there's no reason to wait. See your attorney to get the process started, and continue reading for more information.

INSIDE: Do your plans still fit? • An estate planning quiz



Multiple Ways to Give

To create a bequest through your will to SPCA International, simply inform your attorney of your wishes when reviewing your plans. Modest changes often do not require a new document and can be included through an amendment (known as a “codicil”) to your existing will.

If you plan to also use a living trust or other plan to help distribute your property, remember that charitable provisions may be made through them as well. For more information or if we can be of help in any way, please let us know.

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. ©MMXIII RFSO, Inc. All Rights Reserved. NYXX-13

Do Your Plans Still Fit?

Recent years have been ones of tremendous change. Many have found that tax law revisions, dramatic economic fluctuations, and other events have greatly affected their long-term financial plans.

Keeping up to date

When was the last time you updated your will and other long-range plans? Even the best and most comprehensive plans can become inadequate over time.

Many events can affect your will, living trust or other estate plans. The birth of a child or grandchild is one example. A move to another state or a change in marital status are others. Even changes in the value of your assets can call for revisions in your plans.

Things change

Your will and other plans should reflect your thoughts, desires and financial picture at a given time. When your circumstances change, so should the documents that mirror them. Fortunately, most changes in personal and philanthropic goals can be anticipated and provided for through careful planning.

Looking ahead

Pausing now and taking the time to look ahead can help prevent confusion concerning your intentions as well as any unnecessary delay in implementing them.

Please let us know if we can help you and your advisors as you consider the charitable dimensions of your plans. For more information about specific gift plans, visit our website at www.spcai.org/plannedgiving.



We continue to provide shelter support in countries such as Thailand. Our staff and volunteers are working to build a facility to improve housing where almost 1,000 animals were living in deplorable conditions.

An Estate Planning Quiz

A good estate plan helps provide security should you experience one of four common financial challenges: outliving resources, premature death, financial emergencies, or mental or physical disability. Are you certain that your plan is in shape and 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 at death?
☐ 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 executed appropriate powers of attorney to allow someone you trust 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.** Is your life insurance coverage adequate to protect survivors?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 8.** Have you made plans for who should receive your property, should your primary heirs not survive you?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 9.** Has the value of your assets changed significantly since you last reviewed your plans?
☐ Yes ☐ No

- 10.** Are you certain how much federal and/or state tax will be due on your estate?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 11.** Are your financial records easily accessible and understandable?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 12.** Have you discussed your estate plans with your spouse and/or other loved ones?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 13.** Are all the people and organizations that are important to you mentioned in your plans?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered **no** to one or more of the above questions, you may need to review your plans. Professional advisors who specialize in such matters can offer advice and help to coordinate various parts of your plan. For more information, return the enclosed card.



Following the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, SPCA International expedited 10 small grants to shelters that were badly impacted by the storm to help them continue their efforts to provide services to animals in need.



SPCA International teamed up with Spay Panama in 2011 to spay and neuter 1137 pets and stray animals.

Including SPCA International in Your Plans

When you have reached the final steps in preparing your will and estate plans, you will no doubt be pleased and relieved that you have taken care of these important responsibilities. There is one last consideration: If your family or others named in your plans are not there to benefit, have you made contingency arrangements?

Giving “what’s left” to SPCA International does not need to affect your family’s future security. Your attorney can easily include such language in your will and/or other plans, if you desire. (See box at right for sample bequest language.)

Other ways to give

Your will is not the only vehicle you can use to make a gift of the remainder of your estate. Other ways to give include:

- **Life insurance.** You can name SPCA International as a final beneficiary of a life insurance policy.
- **Retirement plans.** It’s easy to include SPCA International as a beneficiary of your retirement plan assets.

- **Living trusts.** If you use a living trust to distribute some of your assets, you can include SPCA International. Simply notify your attorney.

An attractive feature of all these plans? None is a permanent designation; they can be changed at your discretion. You can feel free to arrange your “gift of a lifetime” knowing that it can be changed at any time.

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 all 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.”

CONTACT US:



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