

Wag Rag & Cat's Meow



Humane Society of West Alabama

What will happen to my pet when I die?

By Emilee Scheeff, attorney with Sydney Cook & Associates, LLC

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Pets play a huge part in our lives and are often thought of as family members. When making an estate plan, consider what would happen to your pets when you die in order to avoid them being in the middle of a family feud or with no place to go.

Under Alabama law, pets cannot be directly given money, but an individual may create a pet trust for the benefit of pets that are alive during a person's lifetime. This trust will provide the vehicle through which an individual can leave money for the benefit of the pet to ensure that the pet is cared for in the way desired. There are several legal requirements under Alabama law to consider in set-

ting up a pet trust.

Who will care for your pets? Adding a pet to a household is a significant responsibility. Additionally, you should designate an alternate in the event your first choice is unable to care for your pet due to a change in circumstances.

How will the ownership of the pet be conveyed? Under Alabama law, pets are considered personal property and must be dealt with as part of an estate plan (through a will or trust). Therefore, it is advisable to include a specific direction for disposition of the pet in your will.

In addition to designating someone to care for your pet,

you should consider how you will financially provide for their care. Pet owners need to consider what property they will use to fund the pet trust. Funding can be accomplished in many ways including beneficiary designations for assets. If the value of the property exceeds the amount required for the care of the pet you may designate an organization such as HSWA to receive the remainder of the trust.

We will provide more information on this topic in the next issue. Call Emilee Scheeff, attorney with Sydney Cook & Associates, LLC at 205-561-5400 for more information about how you can plan for your pets when you are no longer are able.

Foster the beneficiary of a pet trust

The HSWA would like to gratefully acknowledge and recognize the estate of Dewey and Dorothy White for the generous bequest which has enabled the HSWA to establish an endowment for the long-term benefit of the

HSWA and its mission to find loving homes for dogs and cats.

The Whites left Foster a pet trust for his care. He is currently living in a wonderful home where he is the king of the castle!



Please mail donations to:
Humane Society of West Alabama
P.O. Box 70054
Tuscaloosa, AL 35407



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Gypsy finds a happy ending in Act II with adoption story

A good Samaritan found this two month old, terrier mix puppy roaming around in the woods all alone. She took her home, fed her, gave her a bed and began looking for a home. She named her Gypsy because she was found roaming in the woods. Gypsy slept in the bed with her three year old son every night. Finally she called the HSWA for help in finding Gypsy a forever home.

So... she was brought to Hot Diggity Doggie Camp, owned and operated by

Amy Trice. Amy volunteers for the HSWA providing foster care and training.



Paul and Susan Looney were looking for a dog after the loss of their dog, Sug-

ar, about a year ago. They saw Gypsy's picture and made an appointment to meet her. It was love at first sight! The Looney's have both worked in theatre all their lives, so they said it was destiny that they adopt a dog named Gypsy. Actors are often called gypsies because they travel a lot to perform.

Gypsy's job in her new home is to make sure no squirrels enter the Looney's back yard. According to Susan she is doing an excellent job!

Dog house care-takers are life-long animal lovers

Carlee Harrod and Taylor Southgate make a great team as the dog house care takers for the HSWA. Carlee is a recent UA grad with a degree in biology. Taylor will graduate in August from UA with a degree in environmental science.



Carlee has always had a passion for ani-

mal welfare and volunteered with the Kentucky Humane Society through high school and fostered for the HSWA as an undergraduate. Taylor grew up with horses, cats, dogs, rabbits, chickens and ducks, so caring for animals was always a major part of his life.

"It's been a challenge trying to give all the pups the attention they deserve, but it is very rewarding training them and watching them get comfortable in their play groups," said Carlee. She said the



Best feeling is getting up-dates after being adopted and hearing how loved they are in their new homes.

Tall, dark and handsome— that describes our Joe

Joe is a two year old male with a thick black coat and white markings. He is a good-sized dog weighing about 45 pounds. He was surrendered by his owner because he could not afford to keep him.

Joe is a friendly, sweet and loving guy. He is playful, social and just loves to be with you and make you smile. Joe has some



Joe is a Labrador Retriever and Border Collie mix

energy, but settles down nicely. He loves car rides! He would make a great running/walking partner.

Joe gets along well with other dogs and would do well with

children ten years old and up. He will require a fenced yard.

We have started on his crate training. Joe is up-to-date on vaccinations, neutered, heartworm negative and micro-chipped. This great dog deserves a wonderful forever home. Call 205-554-0011 to schedule an appointment to meet Joe.

Mr. Rogers is one very lucky and talented cat

Last Halloween someone left this small, black kitten on a front porch in Woodland Hills along with food and a note stating that they couldn't keep him. He arrived at the cat shelter and was immediately named Lucky since he was a black cat and it was Halloween. Sometimes black cats get an undeserved bad rap.

Lucky was a gorgeous, soft, solid black kitten that loved



Mr. Rogers is one smart cat learning several tricks.

to play. He was over-looked for six months until April Fool's day when Susan Goode arrived at the cat house to visit. She spent all morning getting to know the cats and kittens. Finally she selected Lucky to adopt, or maybe he chose her.

Susan renamed her kitten Mr. Rogers. She bought a book on cat training and has taught

Mr. Rogers several tricks including fetch and sit. He now enjoys watching television, playing chase and looking outside from high atop his cat tree. What a great adoption story! Susan is an organist at a local church and I will not be surprised to hear she has taught him to play the piano or at the very least to sing.

Being a black cat turned out to be very lucky indeed for Mr. Rogers and for his new mom, Susan. She says he is the most social and affectionate cat she's ever had. They make a great team!

Cat care coordinator loves everything about cats

Kathy Jones Box is the coordinator of the cat house. She has always had a love of animals and worked with TSNIP prior to becoming a volunteer with HSWA. She is also a neo-natal nurse at DCH. Her husband Greg Box is also a volunteer at the cat house.

Kathy said she feels honored to be the coordinator and wants to make a difference with the HSWA and the community. "The most rewarding thing is seeing an adult cat arrive at the shelter scared and

untrusting change into a sweet, loving cat," Kathy said.

She also enjoys watching the kittens as they grow and develop their own unique little personalities. One thing that is a challenge is trying to place a cat in a room where it will make friends. "We have some strong personalities and sometimes have to move them around to make for a happier environment," Box said. Kathy wishes we had a larger shelter so we could rescue more cats and kittens!



Pansy is a gorgeous calico kitty

Meet Pansy, a six year old female calico. She is sometimes bashful around new people, so she needs a little time to get to know you. Did you know that almost all calicos are female?

Pansy absolutely adores snuggling with other cats and



Pansy loves to cuddle with other friendly cats. She prefers the ginger boys!

always has a boyfriend. Her hobbies include climbing to the top of the cat trees and finding comfy places to hide.

She likes to use the other friendly cats as pillows for nap time, but they don't seem to mind.

Pansy is a strik-

ingly beautiful cat and hopes to find a home with a lot of love. If she sounds like the perfect addition to your family, please visit our website at www.humanesocietyofwa.org and complete an adoption application. The cat house, located at 2430 36th Street, Northport, is open every Saturday from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Come meet Pansy and all her snuggle buddies real soon.

Humane Society of West Alabama

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Email: humaneswa@yahoo.com

We're on the web

www.humanesocietyofwa.org

CHRISTMAS CAT QUILT

Donate \$1.00 for a chance to win!

Quilt measures 48" X 52"

Drawing will be 9/24/16 at the HSWA
Canine Classic 5K Run at Kentuck Park

Tickets available at **the makers market**



THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF WEST ALABAMA

Presents **YOUR** pet as
PET OF THE MONTH

This year we thought it would be fun to mix it up a little and have an open casting call. ANY dogs and cats are welcome, not just alumni of HSWA.*
If you have always thought your baby would look great in the spotlight, please sign up today! Here is what you get for \$100.00 donation to HSWA:

- Professional photos will be taken of your pet (required)
- Your pet will be featured in the calendar with their very own month.
- A 2017 calendar

* In order to provide a variety, there may be a limit per breed.

LIMITED SELECTION! The dogs and cats may be on separate calendars.

The first 12 dogs and the first 12 cats accepted and PAID IN FULL will be in the calendar.

For more information and to sign up, please contact Barbara Goodwin at bjgoodwin2@gmail.com or go to www.barbigphotos.com



14th Annual Canine Classic 5K Race

The Canine Classic 5K Race is directed by the Humane Society of West Alabama in conjunction with the Tuscaloosa Track Club. The first 100 registrants will receive a t-shirt on the day of the race and all participants will be entered into a drawing for door prizes. Sports drinks, fruit and water will be available for race participants. Walkers are welcome!



Awards will be standard Grand Prix age groups. No duplication of awards. Registration is \$20.00 if postmarked by 9/19 and \$25.00 afterwards and race day. Registration is at 7:00 AM and race time is 8:00 AM.

Make checks payable to:

Humane Society of
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PO Box 70054
Tuscaloosa, AL
35407

Please direct ques-

tions to Betty Freeman at 205-737-7442.

Saturday, September 24, 2016

**Located at Kentuck Park, Northport
2016 Tuscaloosa Track Club Grand
Prix of West Alabama**

Sponsors include: Stripes, Animal Medical Center, Club Mutts, Campus Collection, Hot Diggity Doggie Camp, Bryant Bank, Ellis Architects, Alberta Veterinary Clinic and the Westervelt Company.