

If I'm interesting in making plans with PAL for the care of my animals, how do I start?

You begin with an application that is found on the PAL website (www.PalmettoAnimalLeague.org) under Peace of Mind. If your pet(s) are accepted, PAL agrees to make every effort to put your pet in a new home as quickly as possible should the need arise.

How will I know the pet will be cared for if I die?

You and PAL will sign an agreement which will give PAL all the information needed to get your pets. This includes the information on neighbors, family and/or your executor who can get into your home. You will also have given PAL information on the pet's needs, care, likes and dislikes, and veterinarian.

What is the cost?

To include an animal in the PAL Peace of Mind Program, we require a minimum of \$20,000 for your first animal and \$10,000 for each additional pet to cover the costs of housing, food and medical care for the life of the animal(s). This gift ensures that your animals will be lovingly cared for the rest of their lives. Once your animals die, the funds will provide care for other animals. The cost will be a **legacy gift** forever helping pets. If you are able to give more than the minimum bequest per animal, a **named fund may be established in your or your pet's name**, per PAL's fund guidelines, to support our on-going animal rescue and adoption work.

Must the enrollment fee be paid now?

No, the cost is paid upon your death when PAL has assumed responsibility for the pets. It is generally done with a bequest in your will or in a codicil to your will. It can also be done with a beneficiary designation to your IRA, and this may be the easiest way as it can be done on-line with no attorney. Some people may consider leaving PAL a generous legacy of the residual of their estate, after other debts and obligations are paid, specifying that it must be at least \$20,000 for the first pet in Peace of Mind Program plus \$10,000 for each additional pet enrolled. You may decide to leave your house to PAL which would cover the Peace of Mind Program plus create a named legacy fund. We welcome the opportunity to discuss options with you and/or your adviser.

Must I see a lawyer to change my will to be in the program?

It is often best to see an attorney, but in SC, you may write a codicil and have it witnessed by two individuals that would specify that you have enrolled your pet and are naming PAL for the required bequest.

Can I leave a bequest specifically for a named animal?

It may be best to check with your attorney, but we recommend your will or the codicil state "my surviving pets" avoiding the need to change it as one pet passes, and you acquire another pet.

What if I have no pets when I die?

We hope that even if your pets predecease you, you will wish to leave a bequest to PAL that in perpetuity will provide a second chance for a better life for homeless animals. You love animals thus creating a legacy as a pet lover seems very appropriate for you! But the will or codicil may state that the bequest will be realized only if you have pets that outlive you.

What else should I do once my pets are enrolled?

- 1. Inform your family, neighbors, friends and executor that the pets are in the program and how to contact PAL.**
- 2. Write PET CARE EMERGENCY DIRECTIONS (PET ICE)**

We recommend you always have a PET CARE EMERGENCY DIRECTIONS note in your wallet by your medical cards and on removable PET ICE notices on your front and back door, that

- a. Lists your pets' names and type (cat, dog...),
- b. Names and telephone numbers of people who have access to your home and can give the pets temporary care for a few days, and
- c. If something happens to you so it impossible for you to go home to your pets again, the caregivers and/or emergency personnel should contact PAL for the pets enrolled in the Peace of Mind Program.

Why is it so important to join this program? Won't PAL just take my pets if needed?

No, PAL can not always accept pets when they need a placement. Often there is a wait list. Some must go to other shelters which may not adhere to a no-kill philosophy.

Enrollment in the Peace of Mind Program gives you just that! You will know that PAL understands the needs, behavior, likes and dislikes and unique qualities of your pets. It is important that PAL know if they will be good with other animals. PAL will have current information on their care, medical needs and medications.

Can PAL guarantee placement for my pet if he is in the program?

Because PAL is a no kill adoption center and the need is great, sadly PAL often has a long wait list. But if your pet is enrolled in the program, s/he is guaranteed immediate placement and has priority for placement in a good home. In addition, PAL staff will follow-up to be sure the new home is working well during the grieving and transition process. This follow-up service is only available for pets in the Peace of Mind Program.

What if I have to go to a facility permanently and can not take my pet or am too ill to continue to care for them? Will the program kick-in?

If the pet is enrolled in the Peace of Mind Program, and you can no longer care for the pet, contact PAL or have your POA contact PAL to discuss options. The enrollment fee would be due at the time that PAL assumes responsibility for the pet if you are still living and surrender the pet. Proof of a bequest will not be sufficient to cover PAL's obligations for care of your pet in this situation. In some instances, delayed payment may be an option during the sale of your home, for instance, but this would require a binding agreement. PAL wants to help your have peace of mind during such a difficult time so call us.

What if a friend or family member decides they want my pet?

If you wish, you may designate in the Peace of Mind Agreement a "preferred adopter/caregiver" for your pets. If this person is available and willing at the time of placement, PAL would place the pet with him/her if it is deemed in the pet's best interest. If there is someone who has known you and your pet and wishes to adopt your pets, but is not stipulated in your agreement with PAL, they should contact PAL explain how they know you and the pet so we consider them as a potential adopter. This may be ideal for the pets.

Palmetto Animal League Peace of Mind Program Frequently Asked Questions

Does PAL require a copy of my will?

It would be helpful for PAL to have a copy of the section of the will or IRA beneficiary designation form that covers this agreement, but it is not required. The enrollment agreement you will sign stipulates that you have completed the necessary legal arrangements and documents and will not change them ensuring PAL has the funds should the need arise.

I am thinking that I will just leave directions to euthanize my pet. Is that OK?

Being concerned about what will happen to your pet after your death is normal. But some people take this concern to extremes, requesting that their pet be euthanized out of fear that no one else will care for the animal appropriately. When an owner puts this request in his will, that provision is often ruled invalid by the legal system when the animal is young or in good health and when other humane alternatives are available. As in all legal matters, check with your attorney but the Peace of Mind Program seems to be a better option which will not be overturned by a court.

I'm concerned I do not have the cash needed. What do I do?

Many pet owners have homes and other tangible property which would be sold upon their death and cover the required bequest. Others may have a life insurance plan which could have PAL as one of the beneficiaries to cover the cost. You may also consider purchasing a life insurance plan for the cost with PAL as the beneficiary. You may wish to speak with your family or advisor. Also, we welcome your calls to discuss ways to give you peace of mind that your pets will be in a good home and receive loving care if they outlive you.