

# Q & A OVERVIEW



OREGON  
HUMANE  
SOCIETY

*Friends Forever*®

Development Department  
(503)416-2988  
Fax (503)285-0083  
www.oregonhumane.org

1067 NE Columbia Blvd.  
Portland OR 97211

Please contact OHS's Vice President for Development, Gary Kish at (503) 416-2988 if you have any questions or would like to explore how the *Friends Forever* program can be tailored to meet your needs: how planned gifts can be used to create a perpetual legacy to benefit shelter animals; or if you have questions on any aspect of the Oregon Humane Society. We're always here to help.

**I want to ensure my pets will be cared for in the event of my death, and I plan to leave part of my estate to them. Is this a wise thing to do?** Sadly, some people are under the assumption that they can leave their estate to their pets. Under current state laws, money cannot be left to surviving pets. Instead, you must name a caregiver as the recipient of your pet and a sum of money to provide for the animal's care. Special care must be taken when naming the guardian for your pet. It can be difficult to guarantee that at some distant time the guardian will be able and willing to accept responsibility for your pet, or that they will use the money you've provided as designated.

**How can the Oregon Humane Society help me provide for my pets in the event of my medical incapacity or death?** The Oregon Humane Society has developed a unique program that ensures the well-being of pets who survive their owners. This carefully designed program is called *Friends Forever*. The essence of *Friends Forever* is that if people remember OHS in their wills (or other estate documents) by making a planned gift, OHS will receive, care for, and guarantee new homes for their surviving pets. *Friends Forever* participants really appreciate the peace of mind this program creates.

**How can I be assured that OHS will find my pets good homes?** The Oregon Humane Society was founded in 1868 and has been protecting and advocating for animals ever since. In fact, OHS is the third oldest humane society in the entire nation. Our new shelter is a state-of-the-art facility

and one of the best in the nation. It was designed with the needs of the animals as the foremost consideration.

OHS is well known for its nationally recognized adoption program which successfully places thousands of animals every year into loving and caring homes. Our adoption process is designed to carefully match adopters with animals who fit well within their lifestyle.

As *Friends Forever* enrollees, should your pets come to OHS, they will receive the best care and special attention while OHS does its utmost to honor your commitment to them by finding carefully screened, loving homes—that's a promise!

**How does OHS ensure my pets will go to a proper home where they will be treated with the love and affection that they're used to?** For the pets' sake, it's helpful to have as much information on each animal as possible (i.e. training, health issues, food preferences, vet care, likes and dislikes, etc.) to facilitate the adoption process and help new caregivers. Included in this package, you'll find a Pet Profile that asks important questions about your pet. By filling out this enrollment form, you'll be providing us with vital information to find the best home for your animal companion. In addition, a new caregiver will be provided with useful details so they can make your pet feel at home. Furthermore, OHS carefully screens potential adopters through a one-on-one counseling process.

(More...)

**What if my surviving pet is an older animal or has special needs?** Finding homes for pets with special circumstances can be a challenge. Fortunately, OHS has the resources. When OHS received Tutu, a 15-year-old cat, as a *Friends Forever* pet, we featured her in one of our Pet-of-the-Week television spots, and the very next day she was placed into a new loving home. The Oregon Humane Society's extremely successful and nationally recognized adoption program, with its many strategies, helps ensure that *Friends Forever* pets will spend minimum time waiting for a new home.

**What kind of planned gift can I make to be eligible to enroll my pet(s) in *Friends Forever*?** There are many ways you can leave a legacy to OHS and qualify your pets for enrollment in *Friends Forever*. The *Friends Forever* "Planned Gifts" insert outlines typical ways that planned gifts are made. The most common strategy is to make a bequest to OHS in a will.

**What do I need to know about including OHS in my will?** To make certain your will complies with state law, and thereby ensure that your wishes will be followed, wills should be created with the assistance of a legal professional; most commonly an attorney. To direct a bequest or other planned gift to the Oregon Humane Society we recommend the following language:

**For the benefit of: The Oregon Humane Society  
Federal tax #: 93-0386880**

**Residing at:  
1067 NE Columbia Blvd.  
Portland OR 97211**

We encourage supporters who are making provisions for pets to call upon OHS to review their wills, or specifically those sections pertaining to pets, once these provisions are drafted. Of course, there is no charge for this service and the decision to have OHS review the draft is entirely up to the donor. Time and experience have taught us that it's better to identify possible problems with wills while there is the opportunity to make corrections.

**Since the law considers my pets to be personal property, will the probate process delay their adoption?** The *Friends Forever* program has a solid foundation in Oregon law. In 1999 Governor Kitzhaber signed into law the Oregon Humane Society sponsored SB-601, which exempts pets from the probate process thus expediting their legal transfer to OHS and new homes. Prior to this landmark bill, surviving pets were considered personal property and subject to probate which can take several months to more than a year.

**What about my privacy?** Please be assured that any information you decide to share with us remains strictly confidential. Furthermore, OHS does not sell, trade, or otherwise make its donor information available. The *Friends Forever* information you provide will be kept in secure, confidential files. Should your pets ever be delivered to OHS, the information will be available to authorized personnel so they can immediately begin providing the quality care you want your pets to receive.

**Can OHS assist me in planning for my estate?**

Our staff is available and will gladly meet with you and your advisor to discuss the *Friends Forever* program and/or planned giving options. However, we cannot provide tax or legal advice. We strongly recommend you use the services of an estate planning professional who can analyze your situation and advise you accordingly.

Additionally, OHS maintains the latest gift-calculation programs and can provide you with detailed analyses including revenue projections and the tax effects of various gift options such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts.

**Do I have to live in Oregon to participate?** *Friends Forever* is available to everyone. Distance is not an obstacle; it only needs to be planned for. It will be very important for the person administering your estate to understand they need to contact OHS and coordinate the transport of your pets. When planning your estate, if you expect your pets to be beyond Oregon or Washington, please contact us to discuss planning transportation.