Pet Guardianship Program

At the Humane Society of Central Oregon, we know that pets are not merely animal companions. They are members of your family.

Provisions for your pet(s) should be included in your will or living trust, just like you would if you were appointing a guardian to take care of your children.

We know that it is not always possible to make private arrangements with family members or friends to care for your pets, and we want you to know that you may designate through your will or trust that your animals be entrusted to the care of HSCO.

HSCO does not euthanize healthy or treatable shelter animals and takes great pride in placing every healthy or treatable shelter animal left in our care.

How to Enroll in the Pet Guardianship Program

Have an estate planning attorney draw up a will or trust for you.

Have your attorney: Name family members or friends; if they aren’t available, HSCO will take your animals upon your permanent incapacity or passing.

The following is suggested language for a will or a trust concerning a pet:

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF CENTRAL OREGON PET GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM

I wish to provide for the care and welfare of any and all pets I own at the time of my death. It is my desire that they live the balance of their lives in a stable home environment. Accordingly, I give, devise and bequest my pets to my spouse. If my spouse does not survive me:

1. I give, devise and bequeath my pets to the Humane Society of Central Oregon (HSCO), a non-profit organization, 61170 SE 27th Street, Bend, OR 97702, Tax ID 93-0616957, for permanent placement in a stable home environment.

2. I request that HSCO arrange for the permanent placement of my pets in a stable home environment through their pet adoption program. I understand, however, that adoption may be precluded based on poor health or temperament.

3. I do not desire that extraordinary means be used to prolong their lives. Further, I understand that HSCO may euthanize any pet at the sole discretion of the shelter management due to the above-stated reasons.

To arrange for my pet(s) intake, my trustee/executor shall contact the Humane Society of Central Oregon executive director at 541-382-3537.