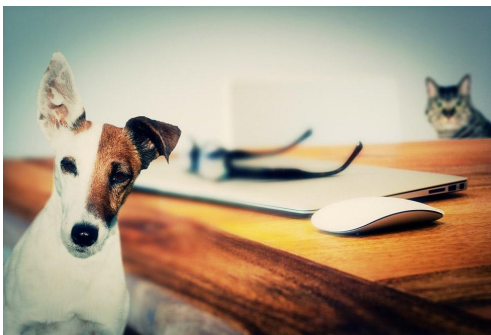




Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

Emergency Planning, Pet Trusts And Wills



Since our beloved fur babies unfortunately live much shorter lives than we do, often we don't think about the consequences of them outliving us. Death is never an easy subject to

Speak about or plan for but in the event of an unexpected illness, accident or death, what will become of your pets? As difficult a subject this is, planning now will ensure your pet will be cared for if the unthinkable should occur.

Make sure those you have listed are trusted family or friends and are made aware they are listed as your contacts and agree they can properly take care of your pet in case you can no longer do so. Your trusted emergency caregivers should have access to your home, whether by keys or security code, feeding and care instructions for your pet, the name of your veterinarian or animal clinic, and if they aren't going to be a permanent caregiver for your pet, the contact information of the permanent caregiver. Remember, the new owner will have complete control over your pet's care, including veterinary treatment and euthanasia, so it is of the utmost importance to choose someone you completely trust. If your pet is microchipped, your pet caregiver will need to update their chip information, in the case of death, they will need an obituary or death certificate to be able to do so. Life can be unpredictable and circumstances can change, therefore, it would be a good point to also check in with this person often to review your choices and make sure they are still in agreement.

Health Tip for the Season

Caretakers often put the needs of others before themselves but pet parents also need to think about their own health and wellness. When scheduling your pet's yearly wellness exam, remember to schedule yours, as well. If you do have medical concerns, either now or in the future, speak with your Professional Pet Care Specialist about your plans for your pets if you are hospitalized or unable to care for your pets.

Training Tip for the Season

Pets love their homes and their families and will often have guarding tendencies around the home. This can be as simple as alerting a family member to someone outside the house or barking at people passing on the street.

There is a lot that you can do to plan for the care of your pets when doing estate planning. Make sure that you discuss with your attorney your concerns about your pets and what you want for their care in the event of your death or incapacitation. Don't forget about your power of attorney. Should you become seriously ill or incapacitated, the person you give power of attorney to will not only make financial decisions, but may also have to decide what is best for your pet(s). Make sure that you make your wishes known to them. When family and friends are consumed with grief over a loved one's unexpected illness, accident or even death, pets can become overlooked in the confusion. Please be aware that verbal arrangements will NOT be enough to ensure your pet goes to the person you have chosen. If you obtained your pet through a breeder or rescue, check the paperwork to see if there is a clause that requires that you return the pet in the event you can no longer care for them. If you truly wish a family member to take over permanent care, talk to an attorney about breaking the contract or adding an addendum to the adoption contract. It will be to your benefit to work with an attorney to draw up a trust, add provisions to a will or other document stating the name of the caregiver to whom you are giving ownership.

When planning for the long-term care of your pet as part of your estate planning, you need to keep a couple things in mind. First, pets are considered property under Pennsylvania law and you cannot leave property (or money) to property. Therefore, even if you put a clause in your will leaving all your estate to your fur baby, it will not stand up through the probate process. While estates can't be left to a pet, you can provide in your will for funds to go to the designated pet caretaker to pay for the care of your pet. In Pennsylvania, you can set up a trust to provide care for your pet. Now, there are some limits here; the pet that benefits under the trust must be alive when the trust is created. So you can provide for the care of your pets, but not for any puppies or kittens that they might have after you are gone.

A Pet Care Trust fund can be established under your will and funded through your estate (this is known as a testamentary trust) or it can be established during your lifetime as a separate, stand-alone document (this is known as an inter vivos trust). An inter vivos trust can be funded when it is created or through your will. This can be done in your will or by having a separate pet trust fund. The pet care trust fund will name a trustee to manage the funds held in the trust and ensure the animal is receiving care. In most states, including Pennsylvania, the trust lasts only for the lifetime of the pet(s) that is the subject of the trust. While setting aside the amount you want to bequeath for your pet's care, take into consideration your pet's age and overall health.

If at any point in the process you feel you are unsure of how to proceed or legal avenues need to be taken during this process, seek the help of a legal professional in preparing all documents to protect your pet.

Make sure all parties involved, including friends, family and power of attorney are aware you have been using a

However, it can become an issue if the pet is aggressive or doesn't allow someone new to enter the home. It can be downright dangerous if a pet parent is incapacitated and emergency personnel need to enter the home. If your pet does have aggression issues surrounding guarding the home, seek out a positive reinforcement, force free, modern, scientific based trainer who can address the issues. All pets should reliably know the "place" or "crate" command, so it can be used if emergency personnel need to enter the home to provide immediate care.

Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

It's an unfortunate truth of life that emergencies can happen at any time or place, and while no one ever wants to think about it happening to them, it's paramount for the wellbeing of your family, including pets, to have a plan. Your Professional Pet Care Specialist may be able to provide care in your home during a medical emergency or temporary hospitalization, but plans will need to be made if you should require permanent care or in the case of a death. Is there someone that can take care of your pet if an emergency should happen?

Professional Pet Care Specialist who knows your pet and is familiar with their care and they are provided with the contact information of that Professional Pet Care Specialist. Another benefit of having a trusted pet sitter is that they can reach your home and have access to it and your pet if the emergency contact isn't immediately available.

No one wants to think of the unthinkable, but it's vital that arrangements be made for the safety of your pet. Taking the time now will ensure your pet can be properly cared for in your absence and will give you peace of mind now, knowing you have done everything you can to provide for your pet, even after your death.

Have you spoken to this person about taking on the care of a pet? Does this person know your wishes for your pet? Are you leaving any financial means for your pet? If the trusted friend or family member lives outside of the area, are they willing to travel to pick up the pet and provide care? As always, update your pet's profile with your emergency contacts when you have a plan in place.

Featured Product of the Month


I have an animal at home!

If you're reading this then I'm either in the HOSPITAL or otherwise in trouble. Please help my **PET!**

My Name: _____

I have: _____

Pets Name(s): _____




Please See Reverse Side for Contacts

I have an animal at home!

Either contact person can care for my animals until I come home:

My Pet Sitter:
Jennifer Sybol
Owner
724-366-1568



Name 1: _____

Phone 1: _____

Name 2: _____

Phone 2: _____



Emergency Alert Cards

The first way to protect your pet in case of an emergency while you're out of the home is to have an "alert card" on your person at all times. It will let emergency personnel know there is an animal at your home and lists the names and phone numbers of your emergency pet caregivers. Unfortunately, animals can get overlooked in an emergency simply because no one is aware they are alone at the residence.

Pictured above are Comfort at Home Pet Services emergency alert cards and an emergency alert card and key ring tag from [DuraPaws via Amazon](#).



August Birthdays

Phil Kienholz
Dinah Cortez
Trico Escalante
Pia Moreau
Skye Hommel
Sansa Hommel
Phineas Yates
Fiona Yates
Lea Massarelli
Knox Ingram
Butters Coleman
Gabriella Borrasso
Barkley Paredes
Heidi Coates
Zeke Diorio
Aida Diorio
Za Sisco
Jax Cieslak
Rainey Nigro
Mo Mo Kimes
James Burkett
Sidney Poitier Beatty
Lacey Berardo
Sammy Billings
Tootsie Durham
Mallie Scheffler
Cinder Swarts
Lafayette Fisher
Morty Wiles Ellis
Phil Kotcher

Happy Birthday, all! Paw-ty hard!

Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

Apple Cinnamon Delights

Ingredients:

4 cups unbleached white flour

1/2 cup all natural applesauce (no sugar)
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/4 cup honey
1/4 cup water
2 eggs
1/4 cup wheat germ
1 Tbsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp baking soda

In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients.

Knead the dough on a floured surface.

Roll out the dough to 1/2 inch thickness, and cut out shapes with a cookie cutter. Put the cookies on a baking sheet, 1 inch apart.

Bake at 400 degrees for 8-10 minutes.

When done, the cookies should be firm to the touch. Turn the oven off, and leave the cookies in for 1-2 hours to harden.



Bacon and Apple Cat Treats

Ingredients

1/2 cup bacon grease
1 grated apple with peel
2 cups flour* plus extra for dusting the dough

Preheat your oven to 350°F (180°C).
Soften the bacon grease in the microwave for about 30 seconds.

Fold in the apple and flour, forming the mixture into a dough.

Mix as little as possible to get an even consistency – or use a pastry dough cutter – this ensures that the cookies have a flaky, delicate texture.

Roll dough onto a well-floured work surface and roll with a rolling pin, sprinkling some flour on top as you go to avoid sticking.

Roll into a sheet approx. 5mm (1/8") thick and use cookie cutters or small object to cut into shapes.

Line cookie sheet with parchment paper, add the pre-cut cookies, and bake at 350°F (180°C) for 20-25 minutes, until golden.



Barking Truth

Clients, followers and friends have voiced their appreciation of our educational blogs and monthly newsletters and have urged us to release a pet care podcast. We are excited to announce that we have answered the call with Barking Truth, a podcast exposing the



Barking Truth

By Comfort at Home Pet Services

truth in the pet industry to keep all pets safe, healthy and well.

We will be releasing a new podcast every Wednesday and hope you can tune in and support pets everywhere by uncovering the truth of pet care.

Be sure to follow us on Anchor, Spotify or your favorite podcast service.



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner strives to provide educational, informative and fun content to our readers! We love hearing your feedback on our newsletters and blogs and want to know what you, dear reader, would like to see in future newsletters and blogs. Are there topics you are interested in that we haven't covered or you would like more specific information? Please feel free to let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

Please email suggestions

to Jen@comforthomepetservices.com

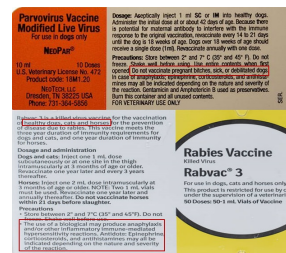
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