



**A pet trust is
a responsible, loving thing to
do for your pets, and
it's an important part of
a comprehensive estate plan.**



Toni DeGasperin
Attorney at Law

Toni DeGasperin, a pet lover herself, is dedicated to working closely with pet owners to ensure that their pets will be properly cared for in the event the owners die or become disabled.

Toni's practice focuses on comprehensive, values-based estate, charitable and family legacy planning. She lives with her children, Lindsay and Sean, one dog and three cats.

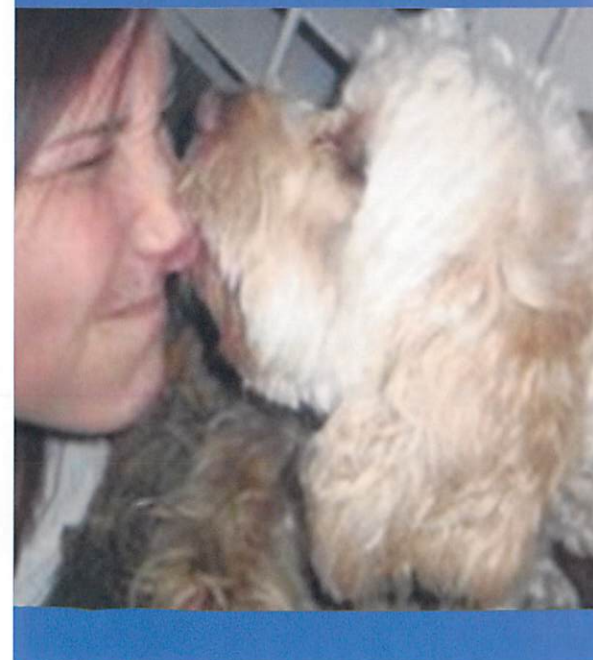
Contact me for more information.

23232 Peralta Drive, Suite 200
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

ph.: 949.770.4271 | email: toni@yourfamilytrust.net
www.yourfamilytrust.net

Toni DeGasperin
Attorney at Law

**Estate
Planning**
for Families with
Pets



Have you considered what would happen to your pets in the event of your disability or death?



- **Appoint a caregiver to take care of your pets**
- **Give directions about your pet's needs and routines**
- **Appoint a trustee to oversee your pet's care**
- **Provide a source of funds for your pet's care**
- **Protect the money designated for your pet's care**



Estate Planning Can Protect Your Pets

WHY PLAN FOR YOUR PET?

As a pet owner, you want the best for your pets. When the day comes that you are no longer able to provide for the care of your pets, your estate plan can ensure that your wishes are known to those who will care for your pets. Proper planning can provide for the care of your pets not only in the event of death, but also for incapacity or temporary emergencies. Planning can lead to peace of mind, so you can rest assured that your pets will be cared for in the way that you desire.

APPOINTING A CAREGIVER

In your plan, you will name the person who will be the caregiver for your pets. You can also name back-up caregivers or provide methods for finding a caregiver in the event that the person selected cannot take care of your pets.

PROVIDE FUNDS FOR CARE

We will create a trust to protect the money that is designated for the care of your pets and provide guidelines for the use of those funds. A trust is better than an outright gift of money to

a caregiver because assets in a trust are not subject to the caregiver's creditors, marital disputes or bankruptcy. Also, if you leave an outright gift of money



to a person in your will for the care of your pets, the money goes to that person's beneficiaries at his or her death and may not be available for the care of your pets.

APPOINTING A TRUSTEE

If you want to, you can appoint a different person to oversee the ongoing care of your pets to ensure that the caregiver is treating your pet in the manner that you set out in the trust. Appointing a separate trustee allows for a double-check and ensures that the money you have left is properly

used for the care of your pets. If there are any funds remaining after your pet's death, the trustee will ensure that these funds are distributed in the manner designated in your plans.

GIVE DIRECTIONS FOR CARE

You can provide directions regarding your pet's medical conditions, health care, exercise needs, dietary needs, preferred veterinarian, and burial. Provisions for immediate access to your home for caregivers can be made.

HOW WE CAN HELP

The laws of the state of California allow for trusts for the care of pets or domestic animals for the life of the animal. We will work with you to design the legal documents to take advantage of these laws for your pet's protection. Your estate plan should take into account your wishes for the care of your family, your pets, and your property. Once your documents are in place, we will provide you with a Pet Alert card to keep in your wallet to help guarantee that someone can begin caring for your pets as soon as possible.



- **In the US, an estimated 500,000 pets per year are orphaned and tragically euthanized due to the death or disability of their owners.**
- **If you don't know a person who could be the caregiver for your pet, a pet sanctuary or life-time care facility could be an option.**
- **Over 67% of American pet owners treat their pets like family members, but as few as 12% think to include their animals in their estate planning.**
- **Your pets can be identified via physical descriptions, pictures or microchips.**
- **You cannot be sure that you will outlive your pets, and they will always rely on you for their care.**

Toni DeGasperin
Attorney at Law

949.770.4271