

Sample Pet Provisions in a Will or Trust Language

The sample language provided in this document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal, tax, or financial advice. Individuals are strongly encouraged to consult with an attorney or financial advisor to ensure their estate plans align with their personal goals and comply with applicable laws.

For Establishing a Provision for Pets in Your Will

Gift for Pets. I give all my pet(s) to my Executor with the direction that the Executor (i) deliver my pet(s) to _____ if he/she survives me with the request that he/she take custody of my dog(s) and provide them with a good home or if _____ does not survive me or if he/she is unable to take custody of my dogs, (ii) find and deliver my dogs to a suitable person or persons to take custody of them and provide them with a good home and proper care. The Executor shall distribute the sum of _____ Dollars (\$_____) to the person who has custody of my dogs. If no dogs survive me, the Executor shall distribute the sum of _____ Dollar (\$_____) or remainder of the funds to the AKC Canine Health Foundation, Inc., located in Raleigh, North Carolina, (Federal Tax ID 13-3813813) to further their mission to prevent, treat, and cure canine disease.

Definition of "Pet(s)". The terms "pet(s)" means my dog(s) presently _____ and _____, and any other dog(s) owned by me and living at the time of my death.

For Establishing a Provision for Pets in a Trust

Gift to Trust for Pets. If I am survived by one or more dogs of mine, the Trustee shall set aside the sum of _____ Dollars (\$_____) and shall hold such sum in a separate trust to be disposed of for the benefit of my pet or pets that survive me under the following provisions:

Trust for Pets Provisions: The trust property directed to be held in the Trust for Pets in accordance with the provisions of this Section shall be disposed of as follows:

1. Distribution Until Termination of Trust: Until the death of the last surviving pet of mine

- The Trustee may distribute all or any portion of the trust property to _____, the person I appoint to have custody of my pets or if she is unable to take custody of my pets to the person the Trustee appoints as a suitable person to take custody of my pets, or directly apply such trust property, for the care of any one or more of my pets in such amounts and at such times as the Trustee, in the Trustee's discretion, may determine. Such care shall take into account my pets' living standard at the time of my death, and includes but is not limited to costs for food, veterinary care, medication, grooming, routine expenses, pet sitting and the disposition of my pets' remains.
- The Trustee shall also distribute the sum of _____ Dollars (\$_____) to the person who has custody of my pets for the time and effort of providing a good home for my pets.

2. Termination of Trust: This trust shall terminate upon the death of the last surviving pet of mine. Upon termination of the trust, the Trustee shall distribute the then remaining trust property to the AKC Health Foundation, Inc., located in Raleigh, North Carolina, (Federal Tax ID 13-3813813), to further their mission to prevent, treat and cure canine disease.

Definition of "Pet(s)". The "pet(s)" means my dog(s) presently, _____ and _____, and any other dog(s) owned by me and living at the time of my death.

Have Questions? We're Here to Help.

If you have additional questions about retirement plans or any other type of gift, call or email the Director of Philanthropy, Fleming Samuels, 919.334.4023 or fleming@akcchf.org.