

PET GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM

Kentucky Humane Society™
Lifelong Friends



**Peace of Mind
For Your Pet's Future**



Kentucky Humane Society • kyhumane.org • 502-515-3147

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PET GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM



The Pet Guardianship Program is an exclusive benefit for members of the Kentucky Humane Society's Lifelong Friends Society, which is open to anyone who includes KHS in their estate plans.

This program allows you to designate KHS as a temporary guardian for any dog(s) or cat(s) who outlive you. Pets who qualify for adoption will be cared for by our compassionate shelter staff and volunteers until a suitable adoptive home can be arranged.

KHS recommends looking first to a friend and/or family member who are familiar with your pets to care for them, but know you can rely on KHS if other options are unavailable.

KHS does not euthanize healthy or treatable animals, and takes great pride in finding homes for every animal in our care.

By enrolling in the Pet Guardianship Program and making a planned gift to KHS, you have our promise to immediately receive, care for, and place into new homes, any surviving pets. KHS will be there for them when you no longer can.



BENEFITS OF ENROLLMENT



By naming the Kentucky Humane Society as a beneficiary in your estate plans, you are ensured loving, attentive care for your pet if something happens to you.

Benefits of Enrolling:

- You have the opportunity to write detailed care instructions that will be given to your pet's future guardians
- KHS will pick-up your pet within a 60-mile radius of our East Campus adoption site (1000 Lyndon Lane, Louisville KY) and transport your pet to KHS for adoption
- A KHS representative will contact you annually to update files regarding your pets in the household or as needed
- A wallet card with KHS contact information will be provided for your records
- Enrollment provides security, dependability and peace of mind

KHS strongly recommends looking to friends and family members FIRST to care for your pets prior to enrollment. Rest assured you can rely on KHS to rehome your pet if no alternatives for placement are available.

Exceptions for adoption placement include if your animal is in pain and suffering and there is no medical alternative to relieve their pain

Please note that while KHS can be listed as a beneficiary in a will, the organization cannot act as the trustee, executor or personal representative of a will.

ENROLLMENT PROCESS



For a one-time fee of \$100 per pet, an individual or family can enroll as members in the Kentucky Humane Society's Pet Guardianship Program. Complete the Pet Profile Questionnaire for each animal, include a photograph, and sign the Pet Guardianship Notification form. The Pet Profile will go with the pet, giving the temporary guardian important information to help him or her care for that animal. Keep copies of these documents with your legal papers and make sure key persons are aware of your wishes and the location of these documents.

Please Note:

KHS may be listed as a beneficiary in a will, however, the organization cannot act as the trustee, executor or personal representative of a will.

KHS believes in responsible pet ownership and reduction of pet overpopulation. For this reason, we encourage pet owners to spay or neuter their pets, unless they are medically unable to have the surgery due to age or illness.

This membership covers up to five cats and/or dogs; remains in effect during the lifetime of the enrollee. Each pet will have to follow KHS's admission policies.

KHS requires you to have a designated individual (e.g. friend, relative, neighbor or personal representative) who has access to your house and your animals in the event of your incapacity or death. This individual will be responsible for contacting KHS for notification of your circumstances or passing and assist in the feeding or care of animals prior to transfer of enrolled animals.

Always keep your wallet card with contact information for your designee and KHS in easy accessible location.

FAQ'S AND QUESTIONS

Question: How many pets can I enroll and are there any restrictions on what type of pet I can register?

Answer: There is a \$100 fee per pet which will cover up to five companion animals in your household at the time of your death. This includes dogs and cats. If you have small critters, farm animals, horses or other livestock, please be sure to make other arrangements for them since they are not included in our adoption program. Your enrollment fee may be considered a tax-deductible contribution.

Question: If I die and my pet caretaker (as determined by the will) is unable to take the pet(s) immediately, can Kentucky Humane help in the interim?

Answer: KHS is unable to provide short-term housing for pets. In the event that temporary care of the pet is needed, please contact your preferred pet sitter or boarding facility and make sure your will designates your wishes.

Question: What if I change my mind and decide to leave my pet to someone else?

Answer: Membership entitles you to the program services but does not require you use these services. However, the enrollment fee is not refundable should you change your plans.

Question: What if my surviving pet is an older animal or has special needs?

Answer: Finding homes for pets with special circumstances can be a challenge. Fortunately, KHS has the resources and has successfully found homes for hundreds of senior pets over the years. We are also grateful for an outpouring of love from the community for special needs pets.

Question: What if my animal is sick, injured or behaviorally challenged?

Answer: KHS will care for an individual's pets in accordance with responsible and compassionate ownership practices. In very rare cases, difficult decisions may be made by our Shelter Services management team if your animal is in pain and suffering or if your animal is too aggressive or behaviorally challenged to be rehabilitated. If there is no medical or behavioral alternative to relieve the discomfort, the animal will be humanely euthanized.

Question: What if I end up in a nursing home or incapacitated?

Answer: As a member of KHS' Pet Guardianship Program, you can have peace of mind we will care for your pets after surrender, when you can no longer do so.

Question: What kind of planned gift can I make eligible to enroll my pet(s)?

Answer: Name KHS as a beneficiary of your will, trust, life insurance, donor advised fund or retirement accounts in any amount. Or fund a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. The most common strategy is to make a bequest in a will.

Sample wording: *I give any pet(s) that I may own at the time of my death to family member/friend. If he/she is unable to provide for my pet(s) I give my pet(s) to family member/friend. If he/she is unable to provide for my pets, I give my pet(s) to Kentucky Humane Society. I authorize Kentucky Humane Society to evaluate my pet(s) and determine in its exclusive judgment whether the animal is in a condition to be healthy and treatable. I authorize Kentucky Humane Society to place my pet(s) in a loving home.*

Question: Can KHS assist me in planning for my estate?

Answer: We are happy to meet with you and/or your advisor to discuss the Pet Guardianship Program. However, we cannot provide tax or legal advice.

**KHS can provide you with a list of attorneys who are certified specialists in estate planning for your convenience.*

Additional questions please contact:

Kristin Binkowski, Donor & Estate Planning Specialist at 502-515-3147

kbinkowski@kyhumane.org or development@kyhumane.org

Federal tax identification number is 61-0463938

Legal name is Kentucky Humane Society Animal Rescue League

KHS is a private, local, nonprofit organization and has no affiliation with any government agency or other local, state, or national animal welfare agency. Annual donations are appreciated to help maintain the future stability of this program.