



FieldHaven Feline Center

Mission

FieldHaven promotes the care and safety of animals in need. We inspire positive change through innovative solutions for the lives of animals and the community.

Guidelines on Bequeathing Pets to FieldHaven

Many friends of FieldHaven who choose to make charitable contributions by bequest to our organization also ask about the possibility of entrusting their pet(s) to the care of FieldHaven after their death.

While our first recommendation is to identify a trusted and willing friend or family member to care for your pet after your death, we recognize that this alternative is not always available. Therefore, FieldHaven has adopted the following guidelines to help pet owners as they prepare their wills and consider their charitable giving.

INTRODUCTION

From the time FieldHaven first began, we have cared deeply about finding a way to unite unwanted or homeless pets with loving new families. We have a “no-kill” philosophy, which ensures that no healthy animal is ever euthanized. FieldHaven accepts cats and kittens with the understanding that every effort will be made to place the animal in a new home as quickly as possible. Our commitment is to do everything possible to match a pet’s personality and physical requirements with an adoptive family’s lifestyle, needs and space.

POLICY

For the benefit of all pets taken into the pet placement program, it is important that charitable bequest donors who wish to leave their pets to FieldHaven understand:

1. FieldHaven’s adoption program is limited to cats and kittens.
2. Be sure that your pet is current on all of its required vaccinations and have veterinary records kept with your other important papers. Each animal FieldHaven offers for adoption must be in excellent health and neutered/spayed before going to a new home.
3. FieldHaven provides physical examinations, vaccinations and neutering/spaying for its adoptable animals, but to keep costs down for both FieldHaven and the adoptive family, you are urged to take care of these requirements before your pet comes to FieldHaven.

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4. For more expedient adoptions, animals should be in stable health with no chronic medical problems, and they must be of non-aggressive good temperament. Special exceptions will be considered.

It is FieldHaven's belief that cats belong in a loving home and not in a kennel. Therefore, all animals bequeathed to FieldHaven will be put up for adoption. Rest assured, FieldHaven's Adoptions Program goes the extra distance to match a pet's temperament and requirements with an adoptive family's lifestyle. Animals who are taken from their own homes sometimes suffer from stress and anxiety. FieldHaven's volunteers make every effort to alleviate these problems through personal attention, grooming, exercise and socialization. In the event that an animal is not adopted it will remain in FieldHaven's care even if that encompasses the animal's lifetime.

In every instance, FieldHaven considers what is best for the animals. For this reason, FieldHaven will sustain animals only as long as they are physically and mentally healthy. If the animal(s) start to significantly deteriorate in body or spirit, euthanasia must be considered.

BEQUEST COMMITMENT

As a non-profit organization, FieldHaven must continually seek donations to fund its current commitments. Costs to shelter, feed, groom, and provide medical care for the orphaned animals in our care are substantial. Therefore it is necessary that charitable bequest donors make the following financial provisions in order for FieldHaven to accept their pets:

Cats under three years of age - \$5000 per animal
Cats from three to six years of age - \$8000 per animal
Cats over six years of age - \$10,000 per animal

Pets with special medical or behavioral requirements will require an additional donation.

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PROCEDURES

FieldHaven's adoption program is not one where animals are simply placed in the first available home. Every step is taken to ensure that each adoption is a permanent match. If you wish to bequeath your cat to FieldHaven, please take care to complete the following steps to ensure your pet's smooth and successful transition into a new situation.

1. Ask your attorney to state specifically in your will that you wish to entrust your pet to FieldHaven Feline Center.
2. Inform the executor of your estate, family members, and/or friends that you wish to have your pet cared for by FieldHaven so that the transfer of your pet can be accomplished as soon as possible.
3. Complete the Surrender Questionnaire form and place it on file with your will and send a copy to FieldHaven, 2754 Ironwood Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648.
4. This form provides FieldHaven with important information about your pet's name, medical history, lifestyle, preferences, and behavioral characteristics that will help FieldHaven find the best possible match with a new family.
5. Ask your attorney to incorporate into your will the following language for making a charitable contribution to FieldHaven:

I give to FieldHaven Feline Center Organization, a non-profit, California corporation, currently located at 2754 Ironwood Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648, the sum of _____ dollars (or, if insurance policies, land, or other property, please describe). This gift is unrestricted, and may be designated at the discretion of the board of directors.

6. When your will and Surrender Questionnaire are complete, please notify FieldHaven in writing of your plans. It will help FieldHaven to better serve you if you include a copy of the Surrender Questionnaire with your letter. This will assure that FieldHaven has current information about your pet on file when he/she comes to us. Please direct your correspondence to: Joy Smith, 2754 Ironwood Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648.

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If you have questions or would like additional information on charitable giving by bequest, or on FieldHaven's adoption program, please call Joy Smith at (916) 434-6022, or email her at: joy@fieldhaven.com.

Thank you for thinking of FieldHaven Feline Center Organization.

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