

“Estate Planning With Pets” Seminar Available to Members

This public service seminar, sponsored by the law offices of Mary Kay Elloian in Burlington, is valuable to pet owners and veterinarians alike. This article was provided by Attorney Elloian.

All too often, veterinarians face the dilemma of euthanizing a healthy, vigorous pet when a pet owner dies, just because the owner feared that no one would want the pet. Or, the pet owner mistakenly believed no one would care for the pet in the manner that their pets had become accustomed. To help prevent these misconceptions, Attorney Elloian has developed the seminar, “Estate Planning With Pets” to provide pet owners and veterinarians with the information they need to help prevent such tragedies from occurring. With some simple Estate Planning steps, pet owners can be assured that their pets will be cared for by the caretaker they choose, as well as the veterinarians they have come to know and trust.

Providing Pet Owners With Choices for Peace of Mind

In her seminar, Attorney Elloian outlines the steps necessary to develop a pet care and maintenance plan, both long- and short-term. Owners can designate that the pet’s veterinarian be the one to provide continued medical care for the pet after the pet owner is no longer able. By providing such health and maintenance directives in an estate plan, pet owners can have peace of mind that their loved ones will be properly cared for and trauma minimized while a new caretaker situation is established.

Identification Measures to Ensure Pets are Being Cared For

The seminar provides current security information about “microchipping” pets to assure that the pet to be cared for is in fact the one being cared for. This is especially important in multi-pet households where medical services must be provided for a specific pet, or if one pet is a breeding pet. It also helps identify the pet in the event the pet is lost or stolen. By microchipping, a pet owner is reassured that it is “their pet” that is being cared for as designated in their Estate Plan.

Short-Term Care Planning: As Essential as Long-Term Planning

In addition to long-term care estate planning, a short-term care plan can prevent a potential crisis situation from having a devastating effect upon a pet. If a pet owner suffers a sudden incapacity or worse, their pet can be inadvertently forgotten for days or weeks with no designated caregiver to immediately provide assistance. To avoid this possibility, pet owners can work with an experienced legal professional to develop an estate plan that will serve their pets’ long- and short-term care and maintenance needs.

Some of the topics discussed are: how pre-emptive estate planning can help save the life of the pet; how to choose the caretakers and the veterinarian who will care for the pet; microchipping, pet alert cards, and other identification methods to ensure that the correct pet is being cared for; current

legislation that may make tax-deductible money left to benefit animal-related charities.

Reservations

For more information, contact Attorney Elloian at 781-275-2225 or Counsel@mkelaw.net; or visit www.mkelaw.net.

