



Darbster's Forever Plan for Your Pet

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Darbster's Forever Plan details important steps
for you to take to protect your pets
should something happen
to you and you are no longer able to care for them.

For further information, please contact Kim Hanson, Senior Philanthropy
Counsel at kim@darbster.com

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Darbster's Forever Plan for Your Pets

Most pet owners today regard their pets as members of the family. However, the law does not recognize them as such. Rather, they are considered personal property. And since property cannot inherit property, they cannot be the beneficiaries of retirement accounts, trusts, or any other assets.

So here is what to do to protect them if something unexpected – accident, illness, incapacity, or death – happens to you.

3 Simple Steps to Protect Your Pets' Future

1. Wallet card and microchip

- a. Carry a pet alert card in your wallet. This card can alert authorities that you have a pet at home.
- b. List two emergency contacts (include their phone numbers) to notify if something happens to you. These should be friends or relatives who have agreed to serve as temporary emergency caregivers. They should have care/feeding instructions, name of veterinarian, and information about the permanent care provisions you have made for your pet.
- c. Be sure your pets are microchipped and that your emergency caregivers are included on the microchip profile.
- d. List Darbster Rescue (in FL) or Darbster Doggy (in NH) or Darbster Kitty (in NH) as a final emergency contact to ensure that your dog(s) or cat(s) come to us if an emergency occurs. Your pets will need daily care and immediate attention if something happens to you.

Making these arrangements for temporary caregiving are essential, life-saving measures to protect your pets. Too often in the confusion that arises during an unexpected illness, accident or death, pets may be overlooked. Sometimes, pets are discovered in their owner's home days after a tragedy. Do all you can to prevent this happening to your pet.

2. Create a pet profile - file with important documents/share with caregivers

A Pet Profile is a detailed guide to those who will be caring for your beloved pets. It is a good tool to have while you are still alive to give to pet sitters or pet day care centers, but it is essential if you are gone. Be sure to keep it updated and that your temporary caregivers have it on hand in case of an emergency. This profile includes:

- Habits
- Food preferences
- Medical conditions and medications
- Veterinary information and records
- Behavior around other pets/people/children

Pet profiles on each of your pets should be kept in a safe place with other important papers and copies should be given to everyone in your pet's circle of care.

Please see pages 6-10. Remember to print a full profile for each pet in your household.

3. Decide on what kind of permanent care provisions you want for your pets

There are two types of permanent care provisions you can make: informal (does not involve the assistance of an attorney) or formal (legally enforceable).

Informal options:

These can be either oral or written agreements made with family, friends, veterinarians, dog walkers, day care/kennel staff, animal trainers, breed rescue groups and local humane groups. These arrangements are not legally enforceable, so it is critical to select highly trustworthy, ethical people to care for your pets when you are gone. Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Do not assume that the caretakers you have selected (including rescue organizations) will be able to assume the responsibility of care. You need to speak directly with each individual or organization about the commitment you are seeking from them to be sure they are willing and able to act as a potential guardian for your pet.
- It's best to have several successive guardians in place. This way, if the primary guardian you have chosen is unable to accept the responsibility at the time it arises, your pet will not be left without a home. Circumstances change, so always have a back-up plan.
- Because these informal arrangements are not legally enforceable, you are relying entirely on the integrity and continued health and ability of the person or organization you have chosen. Choose with care!

Formal options:

Formal arrangements are legally enforceable provisions for the future care of your pet.

Warning about relying on a will: A will does not take effect until your estate has been administered. This can take time, especially if there is any conflict among beneficiaries. Any provisions for your pets must wait to be implemented until notifications of all beneficiaries are completed, all conflicts are resolved, and the probate process is finished. This can take months, sometimes years. You might want to consider the following options to ensure your pets get a timely resolution for permanent care.

A. Pet Trust

For specific law relating to establishing a pet trust in New Hampshire, please refer to the revised Statutes Annotated of the State of New Hampshire. Title LVI. Probate courts and Decedents' Estates. Chapter 564-B. Uniform Trust Code. Article 4. Creation, Validity, Modification, and Termination of Trust. 564-B:4-408 Trust for Care of Animal.

For specific law relating to establishing a pet trust in Florida, please refer to 2024 Florida Statutes, Title XLII, Estates and Trusts, Chapter 736.0408 – Trust for Care of an Animal.

New Hampshire and Florida both allow for pet trusts to be created to provide for the care of an animal that is alive during your lifetime. The trust terminates upon the death of the animal or, if the trust was created to provide for the care of more than one animal alive during your lifetime, upon the death of the last surviving animal.

Unlike a will, a pet trust can provide for your animal immediately and can apply not only if you die, but also if you become ill or incapacitated. You determine when your trust becomes effective. When you create a trust for your pet, you set aside money to be used for care and you specify a trustee to control the funds. There are two additional benefits to a pet trust over a will:

- a. It can be written to exclude certain assets from the probate process so that funds are more readily available to care for your pet;
- b. It can be structured to provide for your pet even during a lengthy disability.

It is important to get legal advice when establishing a pet trust. An attorney can ensure your trust is valid under your state law, can advise how to reduce potential controversies with relatives or other heirs, and can help you plan to keep the costs of administering and maintaining the trust over time within reason.

Once your trust is in place, leave copies with the person you have chosen to be executor of your estate as well as with designated caregiver for your pet. That way, your executor can look after your pets as soon as the need arises (the executor and the caregiver are often not the same person). Be sure both have the pet profile information as well.

B. Power of Attorney

A Power of Attorney (POA) authorizes someone else to conduct some or all of your affairs while you are alive. Such a document can be written to take effect upon your physical or mental incapacity as well and to continue in effect after you become incapacitated. POA's are simpler than trusts and do not create a legal entity that needs to be maintained.

The person receiving the POA is referred to as your attorney-in-fact. Provisions can be inserted into a POA authorizing your attorney-in-fact to take care of your pets, expend money to do so and even to place your pets with permanent caregivers.

But like any other legal device, a POA cannot ensure that your pet is fed, walked, medicated or otherwise cared for daily. Legal devices can only complement your own efforts in thinking ahead and finding temporary and permanent caregivers who can take over immediately when the need arises.

C. Darbster's Forever Plan for Your Pets

Sometimes a person finds themselves in a position where family or friends are just not available to take on pet care responsibilities. That is why we have developed the Darbster Forever Plan for Your Pets.

Enrolling in this plan ensures that if something happens to you, Darbster Doggy or Darbster Kitty will accept your pet for immediate intake, providing thoughtful attention to daily needs and right away beginning to seek a permanent loving home for your pet.

This option cannot provide care for your pets in the cases where you become ill or temporarily incapacitated. But if you have passed away or can no longer see a time when the pet can return to your own care, we can ensure a clean, safe, kind and responsible intermediate home for your pet while we find him a new, loving adoptive home.



Darbster Doggy is located in Chichester, New Hampshire where it offers a high level of service and attention to the dogs in its care. A spacious facility offers radiant heat in the winter and air conditioning in the summer. Separate indoor and outdoor play areas are set up for big and small dogs. Darbster Doggy is a unique facility. In addition to the rescue animals finding their “fur-ever” families there, Darbster Doggy offers short-term boarding.

Darbster Kitty is located in Manchester, New Hampshire with its goal to place kittens, adult, and senior cats with great, forever homes throughout New England. Because most of our kitties are transported up from South Florida where the euthanasia rates are very high, we bring an ingrained life-saving commitment to all we do. Darbster Kitty offers short-term boarding for cats and kittens, as well. 100% of the proceeds from kitten boarding go to support the care of our rescue kittens.

The requested donation to enroll your pets is \$3,000 for a cat or \$5,000 for a dog. These donations support the ongoing daily care for animals at Darbster’s New Hampshire adoption centers or the costs of transport for Florida animals coming to New England. There are 6 different payment options outlined on the enrollment form. No immediate payment is required to enroll if you elect to make these donations from your estate.

If you enroll in Darbster’s Forever Plan for Your Pet, your pets will receive:

In Florida:

- Immediate medical review and placement in a local foster home with trained caregivers until transport to New England can be arranged
- Safe transportation via air or van to our adoption centers in New Hampshire

In New Hampshire:

- Exceptional, experienced shelter and medical care at Darbster Doggy or Darbster Kitty until adoption into a forever loving home is complete
- Follow-up at the end of the first month following adoption
- Annual follow-up to ensure your pet is healthy and happy in its adoptive home



Pet Profile

Your Pet Profile documents should be kept in a safe but accessible place with your other important papers and copies should be distributed to all parties in your pet's circle of care.

PET OWNER

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Mobile Phone #: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Work Phone #: _____ Email: _____

In the event of my illness or death, I have made arrangements for the care of my pets with the person or organization listed below:

PET 1

Name: _____ Type of Animal: _____ Male Female Age: _____

Physical Description: _____

Where the pet is currently housed: _____

Microchip #: _____

I have checked with my pet's microchip service and ensured that Darbster Rescue is added as an Emergency contact.

Photos Attached Medical History Attached Veterinarian: _____ Phone #: _____

PLEASE INFORM

Person/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Other #: _____

Your Pet Profile documents should be kept in a safe but accessible place with your other important papers and copies should be distributed to all parties in your pet's circle of care.

PET 2

Name: _____ Type of Animal: _____ Male Female Age: _____

Physical Description: _____

Where the pet is currently housed: Microchip #: _____

I have checked with my pet's microchip service and ensured that Darbster Rescue is added as an emergency contact.

Photos attached Medical History Attached Veterinarian: _____ Phone #: _____

PLEASE INFORM

Person/organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Other #: _____

PET 3

Name: _____ Type of Animal: _____ Male Female Age: _____

Physical Description: _____

Where the pet is currently housed: _____

Microchip #: _____

I have checked with my pet's microchip service and ensured that Darbster Rescue is added as an emergency contact.

Photos attached Medical History Attached Veterinarian: _____ Phone #: _____

PLEASE INFORM

Person/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Other #: _____



Pet Profile

Your Pet Profile documents should be kept in a safe but accessible place with your other important papers and copies should be distributed to all parties in your pet's circle of care.

PET 4

Name: _____ Type of Animal: _____ Male Female Age: _____

Physical Description: _____

Where the pet is currently housed: _____

Microchip #: _____

I have checked with my pet's microchip service and ensured that Darbster Rescue is added as an emergency contact.

Photos attached Medical History Attached Veterinarian: _____ Phone #: _____

PLEASE INFORM

Person/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Other #: _____

PET 5

Name: _____ Type of Animal: _____ Male Female Age: _____

Physical Description: _____

Where the pet is currently housed: _____

Microchip #: _____

I have checked with my pet's microchip service and ensured that Darbster Rescue is added as an emergency contact.

Photos attached Medical History Attached Veterinarian: _____ Phone #: _____

PLEASE INFORM

Person/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ Other #: _____

Behavioral Information

Please attach a separate form for each pet.

Please describe your pet's preferences, likes, dislikes, phobias, and habits:

Please list verbal and nonverbal commands your pet responds to, as well as body language used to communicate:

Does your pet respond to routine commands such as "sit," "stay" or "down"? If yes, please describe:

What is your pet's daily routine? (Examples: walking, feeding, playing, bedtime, etc.)

Is your pet allowed outside? Yes No

Does your pet have free access to your home? Yes No

Has your pet lived with children? Yes No

Does your pet get along with children? Infants: Yes No Ages 3+: Yes No Ages 9+: Yes No

Explain: _____

Has your pet lived with other pets? Yes Dogs Cats Rabbits Birds Others: _____
No

Behavioral Information

Please attach a separate form for each pet.

Does your pet like other animals? Yes Dogs Cats Others: _____

No

Explain: _____

Does your pet have any favorite toys or possessions? Yes No

If yes, please describe the items and where they are kept: _____

Does your pet enjoy games such as fetch, tug-of-war, etc.? Yes No

Please describe: _____

How is your pet when left alone? _____

How does your pet behave at your veterinarian's office? _____

How does your pet behave at the groomer? _____

Special Pet Care Instructions: _____

Other Information: _____



Enrollment Form

*DARBSTER RESCUE FOREVER PLAN FOR YOUR PET
AGREEMENT AND ENROLLMENT FORM*

Pet Owner(s)/date(s) of birth:

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address(es): _____

Pet Name(s)/date(s) of birth, if known:

Darbster Rescue wants to be a part of assisting you ("Pet Owner,") in providing for the care and treatment of your pet or pets ("pet") in the event of your incapacity or death. We recognize how important your pet is to you. Your pet is also very important to us. After all, the sole reason for our existence is to provide care and to find homes for pets like yours. Darbster Rescue has set up the Forever Plan for Your Pet program so that you can be sure that your pet will be cared for by us on a temporary basis until we can find a great home for your pet. What we ask in return is that you formally enroll in our program so that we can receive the transfer of your pet right away should the need arise and that you make a future gift provision to allow us to perform the shelter, adoption and veterinary services that pets receive upon coming into our care.

To Enroll:

I have agreed to make a gift to Darbster Rescue in the following amount and in the following manner as part of enrolling in the Forever Plan. [\$3,000 per cat; \$5,000 per dog – suggested gift amounts]

Darbster Rescue has received with this enrollment form an immediate donation in the amount of \$_____ to secure this enrollment agreement.

Darbster Rescue has received with this enrollment form an immediate donation in the amount of \$100 with a pledge for the remaining amount of \$2,900 per cat or \$4,900 per dog, payable monthly at \$100 per month, to secure this enrollment agreement. I guarantee that any balance unpaid at the time this plan goes into effect will be paid from my estate.

Darbster Rescue is the payable on death or transfer on death Beneficiary of Pet Owner under an account set aside for the benefit of Darbster Rescue at _____ [name of institution holding the account.] in the amount of \$_____ [copy of provision attached.]

Darbster Rescue is the beneficiary under a funded pet trust created by Pet Owner in the amount of \$_____ [copy of provision attached].



Enrollment Form

DARBSTER RESCUE FOREVER PLAN FOR YOUR PET AGREEMENT AND ENROLLMENT FORM

Darbster Rescue is the beneficiary named under a life insurance policy or retirement plan with a benefit payable to Darbster Rescue in the amount of \$_____ [copy of provision attached].

Darbster Rescue is the named beneficiary under Pet Owner's last will and testament in the amount of \$_____/as a ____% beneficiary [copy of provision attached].

I agree that I will provide directions to my executor, personal representative, trustee or other legal representative that payment of the amount listed above be made to Darbster Rescue as soon as possible upon my incapacity or death. Also, I agree that my commitment to make a gift under any of the ways described above may be enforced by you, at your election, if necessary. I will provide documentation to Darbster Rescue about any legal instruments or beneficiary designations I have established in relation to the Forever Plan.

I have provided information concerning my pet on the attached Pet Profile form, and I agree to update that information from time to time so that Darbster Rescue will always know what pets I may have that will be entrusted to them.

Yes _____ or No _____: I have also signed a Limited Power of Attorney in favor of Darbster Rescue to allow it to care for my pets in the event that I am permanently unable to do so because of illness, injury or incapacity. I will make other arrangements for pet care that may be required because of any short-term or temporary illness, injury or incapacity.

Witness Signature _____

PET OWNER

Print Name _____

Witness Signature _____

Print Name _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

Signature _____

PET OWNER

Print Name _____

Witness Signature _____

Print Name _____

Print Name _____

Date _____