



# HUMANE SOCIETY

— N A P L E S —

## PROVIDING A LOVING LEGACY *for Our Pets*

By Andy Reed

Imagine the unthinkable: a tragedy happens to you and your family. Now ask yourself if your family has plans in place for the future of your pets. Would you have to depend on the goodwill of friends or neighbors to "step up" and assume responsibility for your four-legged family members if you could no longer care for them?

In 2002, the State of Florida adopted a statute that recognizes the establishment of a trust to provide for the future care of an animal. Such trusts provide assets to a caretaker who has the rights of a trust beneficiary for the purpose of enforcing the trust.

At The Humane Society Naples, we have worked with many families and their professional advisors to discuss what will happen to their beloved pets should the owners no longer be able to care for them. We are proud to say that we serve our community as a resource that can ensure pets will be loved and cared for in our shelter until they are placed in a loving, lifelong home or environment. We do not euthanize animals for space nor after a specific duration of residence.

With this said, it is important to communicate your family's intent and wishes in advance with both your executor and The Humane Society Naples. Given that we have a finite amount of habitable space available for pets in our shelter, we need to plan ahead to ensure that our staff, volunteers, and board are aware of those families depending on us to provide assistance in the future.

As the director of development for The Humane Society Naples, I would also like to invite you to explore the possibility of including our organization as a charitable beneficiary in your family's trust or estate plan. It's important to consider the future of your pets and other family members when considering the many different options. We can help you, and we wish to serve as a resource to individuals and their professional advisors. We look forward to honoring your family's legacy at The Humane Society Naples and will continue



Charlie depends on his owner to provide for his future.

to be diligent stewards of these resources that benefit our community's companion animals. [ND](#)

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