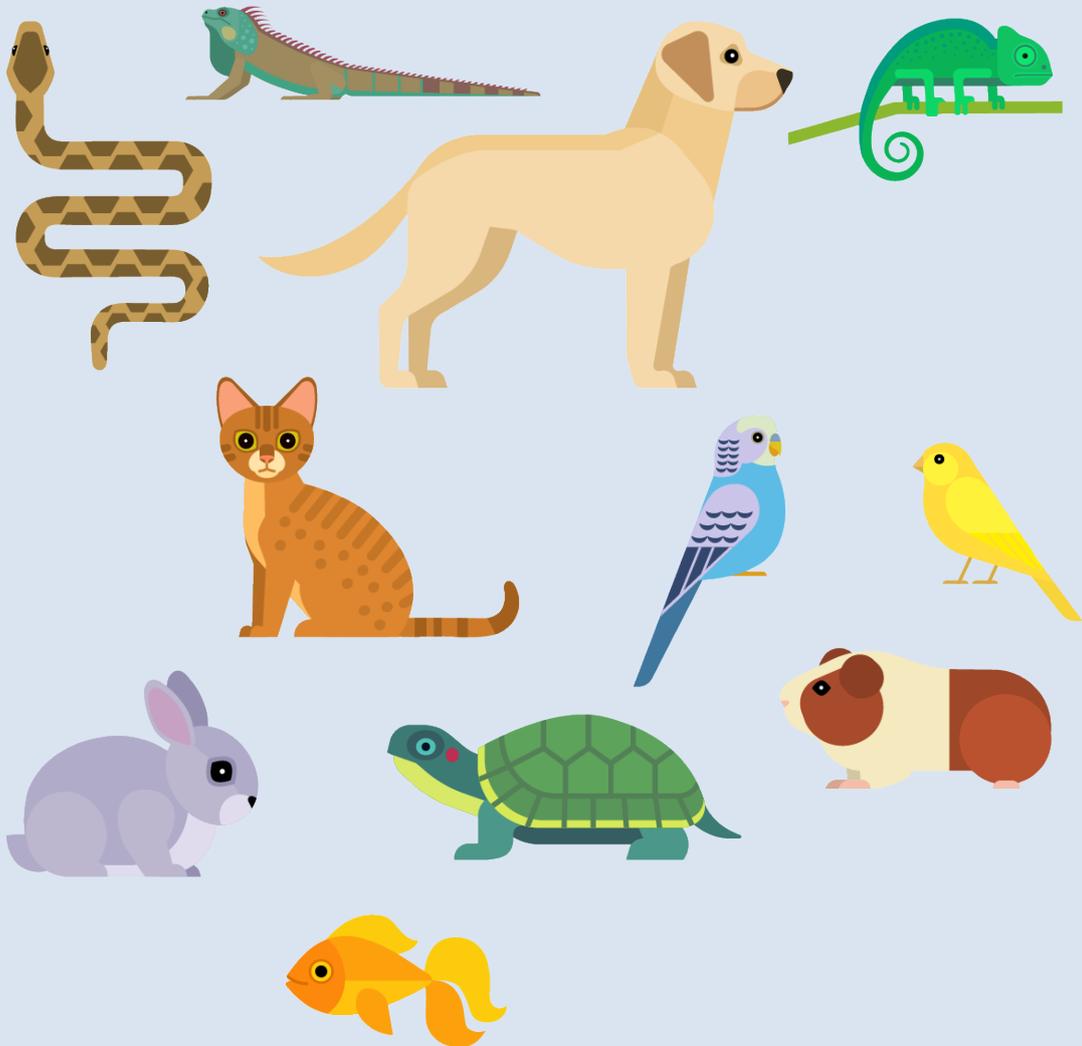


Checklist For Pet Owners

What Happens To Them When You're Gone?



Checklist for Pet Owners

Things to consider when making provision for the care of pets in your will.

1. What is your pet's expected lifespan?

Your pet's expected life span will give you an indication of how much time approximately you will need to account for their care. Average lifespan of pets:



10-15 Years



8-15 Years



7-10 Years



4-8 Years



40-50 Years



10-15 Years
(Parrots can live up to
40-60 years or more)



1-10 Years



9-15 Years



3-20 Years

2. What should you consider when deciding who to leave your pet to if you pass away?

As your pet is property under the law, you can make provision for their care when you pass away by gifting your pet to a carefully chosen carer in your will.

Here are the top things you should consider when deciding who to leave your pet to in your will:

1. Who is the best friend or family member to receive and take on the care of your pet, taking into consideration lifestyle and family circumstances?
2. Do they have enough time, patience and love to care for your pet?
3. Are their current circumstances likely to change in the future, affecting their ability to take on the care of a pet?
4. Will you adopt or acquire any other pets in the future that may also need to be gifted to the same recipient?
5. What are the costs associated with looking after your pet and what are the costs likely to be in the future?
6. Would you like to leave gifts or money to the recipient to cover the reasonable costs of your pet's care?

7. Should you index the costs of pet care to allow for inflation?
8. Does your pet have a history of illnesses or diseases or is prone to certain illnesses or diseases that require special care?
9. Is the prospective recipient aware of your intention?
10. What should the prospective recipient know about your pet? It is a good idea to prepare a document including information about your pet's medical history, veterinary clinic contact, pet insurance policy, funeral wishes etc.
11. Is there a possibility that your chosen recipient may predecease you or be unable to take on the task when the time comes? If so, you may want to include an alternative choice.

3. What if you don't have a suitable friend or family member to leave your pet to?

If you don't have suitable family or friends to re-home your pet with you can look into having your pet re-homed through an animal shelter such as the RSPCA.

The [RSPCA](http://www.rspca.org.au) (www.rspca.org.au) is a great option to re-home your pet. The RSPCA is an independent, community-based charity providing animal care and protection services across Australia.

4. Do you want to create a better world for animals?

You have the ability to make a lasting difference. If you're passionate about the wellbeing of companion animals and wildlife, you can include charities as beneficiaries of your estate in a will. Here are some examples of charities committed to animal welfare:

- [World Wildlife Fund Australia](#): WWF has been a leading voice for nature for more than half a century, working in 100 countries on six continents with the help of over five million supporters.
- [Animals Australia](#): Animals Australia is Australia's leading animal protection organisation uniting millions of people who believe in a world where animals are free from cruelty.
- [WIRES](#): WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service Inc.) is Australia's largest wildlife rescue organisation. WIRES has been rescuing and caring for wildlife for over 35 years.
- [Companion Animal Network Australia](#): Companion Animal Network Australia is aiming to make the world a better place for pets and celebrate the human-animal bond and promote responsible pet ownership.

- [Wildcare Australia Inc](#): Wildcare Australia is a non-profit organisation situated in South-east Queensland. They rescue and care for sick, injured, orphaned and displaced native wildlife with the intention of returning them to the wild.
- [Animal Welfare NSW](#): Animal Welfare NSW has been operating for over 60 years. They provide expert care to surrendered, neglected and abandoned companion animals across New South Wales.
- [Australia Pet Welfare Foundation](#): The Australian Pet Welfare Foundation is committed to decreasing the killing of pets in pounds and shelters.
- [PetRescue](#): PetRescue is a national animal welfare charity with a vision of a future where every pet is safe, respected and loved.

5. How should I make my wishes known?

Expressing your wishes and documenting a plan for the welfare of your pet is helpful to family, friends and your executors. You should speak with the prospective recipient of your pet and ensure they are comfortable to take on the task. You can then formalise your wishes in your will in the following ways:



Will Consultation*

Seeking advice from a professional will writer is the best way to ensure that you're making the right plans for your pet's care.

The team here at State Trustees, via a remote or in-person will consultation, can help you draft a will that considers and sets your wishes out in detail for your pet. [You can book a consultation here online.](#) (*Victoria only)



Online Will

If you have straightforward circumstances, an online will is a great choice for you. State Trustees Online Will is a secure and guided experience, available across Australia. It's simple and easy to nominate the recipient of your pet and the entire will can take as little as 30 minutes to complete. [Create your will online.](#)