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### This Month's Articles

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## It's National...

### World Animal Day on October 4th.

World Animal Day started in 1925 when Heinrich Zimmermann organized the first celebration in Berlin. He launched the event to raise awareness and improve the welfare of animals. October 4th is also known as the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron Saint of animals.

World Animal Day is not just for domesticated animals, it is for wild animals, endangered species and those threatened by environmental devastation or lack of protection. This day reminds us not only to love the animals in our homes but to appreciate and respect all living things.

Animals that have been a part of our lives:

Hamsters, Rabbits, Parakeets, Lovebird, Fish and of course dogs!



October 2021 | Vol. 4

# Estate Planning Buzz

## Planning for Our Pets

To say we are animal lovers is an understatement. Every time I meet a new client with a pet, I must ask the type and the name to report when I go home for the evening. This past year we decided embark on some family road trips and everyone joined in on the fun. Nash has now visited 40 states and Zoe has visited 26 and both have been to Canada as well. There is nothing we wouldn't do both with and for our pets which is why we believe estate planning should include providing for animals.

With proper pet planning you can ensure that your pet will continue to receive the same special care that you provide when you cannot. You can provide for your pet in your will or in your trust. A Pet Trust, however, is the best tool to ensure that a pet will remain with you if you become disabled. It also becomes effective immediately and can address the needs of your pets during a disability as well as after death.

Michigan law recognizes pet trusts and allows the Trust to provide special instructions for your pet and the care of your pet including but not limited to, food and diet instructions, grooming, vet care, socialization, and compensation for a caregiver and the trustee. To learn more contact us at (248) 409-0256 or [info@ferrilawpllc.com](mailto:info@ferrilawpllc.com). I look forward to hearing from you!

# Inside and Outside of the Courtroom

## Wealthy Four-Legged Beneficiaries

Providing for pets is not a novel idea. Here is how a few wealthy people have provided for their pets in their estate plans.

Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, the widow of "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry, left roughly \$3.3 million to her pets when she died in 2008. She also left £662,000 to her housekeeper who would "be allowed to" continue living in the family's mansion and to take care of the cats and dogs that resided there.

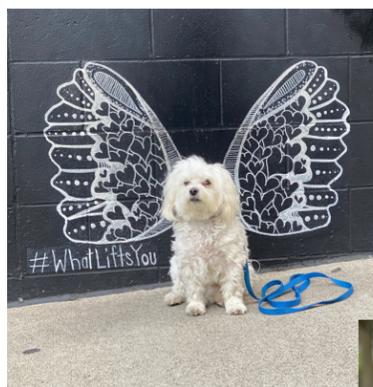
The world's richest dog is a German Shepherd named Gunther. Gunther III, a German Shepherd, inherited \$65 million when his owner, the late German countess Karlotta Liebenstein died in 1992. The humans who managed his doggy estate eventually invested Gunther's money and turned it into \$375 million which was passed onto Gunther's son, Gunther IV. Gunther IV and his team of handlers have used that money to snatch up mansions and villas all over the world (including Madonna's) and now Gunther IV is actually considered the world's richest dog.

According to Guinness World Records, the richest cat in the world was a black cat named Blackie who inherited about \$12.5 million in 1988 when his owner Ben Rea (an antiques dealer) left much of his fortune to his beloved pet.

One of the most famous millionaire pets, is Leona Helmsley's Maltese, Trouble.

When Leona Helmsley passed away in 2007 she left \$12 million to Trouble. A year later, a judge decided that \$12 million was excessive for the necessary care for the dog and reduced the inheritance to \$2 million. Trouble lived the remainder of her life in Sarasota, Florida with her new caretaker until her death in 2011.

People have not only left money but also land for their animals. After Nora Hardwell died in 2002, she left her collies Tina and Kate, about \$500,000 and five acres of land near Bath, England. The dogs remained on her estate after her death and were cared for by the gardener



# Tips for Your Estate Plan

## Some simple steps to take

When considering a Pet Trust start with identifying your pet(s) and describing your pet's daily routine and care.

Determine the amount of money to adequately cover the expenses for your pet's care and specify the treatment you want your pet to receive in the event the animal is diagnosed with a serious illness or ailment. Clearly describing the type of care and treatment helps the caregiver and trustee provide for your pet.

Select someone to be the pet's caregiver and select someone else who will manage and disburse the funds throughout the pet's life. Together these individuals should help ensure that your pet receives regular care and monitoring by your veterinarian.

Describe how you want to provide for the final disposition of your pet (burial, cremation, memorial, etc.) and determine where the remaining funds should be distributed after the pet's death.

## Take A Break

### Things About Nash

E A F P J R Y X N Q U O N W A L K J X J  
 G E L I T K K Y U V B W N T P W Y I B T  
 G W A I R P L A N E X Q O O N R T C A H  
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 J D I A T D O I M U Y B S W N Y J U F G  
 X M M T R D C Y G P E T P T Y K W U N I  
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 L Y Y G I F R R X Z Y G O A T C Z O S I  
 Z I K S U P E R B O Y V O M R E L I A T  
 F N I O H H U D Z H R O M J A I L E T Y  
 J V I H T Y S V E N J T X T V E Z J S A  
 W D S C J Y A Z R E Q R O X E D N O V N  
 Q T G H U B H P Z N E A Q Y L S A D N B  
 L W R Y M M Q X W J X D F L S U W G W A  
 A D M E M V L T Y I V M F N S Q N D V A  
 B U A F A O Y X Q E X Z L D L Q D D M L  
 W E H B C T I L Q F I Z O D P B Q X E B  
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