



**Equine and
Pet Trusts:
Planning for
your pet's future**



Estate Preservation Law Offices

Protecting assets during your lifetime.
Preserving them for future generations.



Having a pet trust for my horse Angus has made a big difference in my life. Knowing that he will be cared for the way I want him to be, if I can no longer do so, has brought me great peace of mind.

—J. Osgood

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), “approximately 5 to 7 million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide every year, and approximately 3 to 4 million are euthanized.”

What better reason to plan so that this does not happen to your beloved pet?



Pet Trust: A legally binding document used by pet owners to ensure that their pets are lovingly and financially cared for when the owners are no longer able to do so.



Equine and Pet Trusts: Peace of Mind for Pet Lovers

People have varying reactions when they hear about legal trusts for pets. Whatever your particular reaction to the idea of creating a trust for the benefit of a pet, it is clear that we as a society revere our pets and view them as valued members of our families.

Having the option to create a trust for a pet can offer peace of mind for pet owners. The societal value of pet trusts reaches even further. Pet trusts keep animals out of overburdened shelters and can prevent unfortunate instances of abandonment and euthanization.

Estate Preservation Law Offices: Equine & Pet Trust Planning

When Massachusetts passed a law in January of 2011 authorizing the creation of trusts to provide for the care of pets, known as "An Act Relative to Trusts for the Care of Animals," we viewed it as a welcome

development for our clients and pet owners alike. In working with our clients during the estate planning process, we've come to know and respect the deep bond they develop with their pets. We've also heard clients express concerns about how their pets' needs will be met when they are no longer able to care for them.

The new law is an answer to pet owners' concerns. As trusted estate planning professionals, and pet owners ourselves, we can now do more than just listen to your concerns – we can provide a solution through Equine & Pet Trust Planning.



Creating Your Pet Trust

Our approach to creating a Pet Trust is straightforward. We meet with you to learn all about you and your beloved pet or pets, and your wishes for their care. We'll discuss:

- Creating a trust
- Selecting a trustee and trust protector – these are the people who will be in charge of the funds for your pet
- Funding the trust – this discussion will include evaluating your pet's life expectancy as well as your pet's particular needs and projected costs of care
- Selecting remainder beneficiaries – these are the people or charities who would inherit any remaining funds upon your pet's passing

Based on that discussion, we will recommend the solution that best meets your current estate planning situation and wishes regarding your pet's care. If you already have an estate plan, it can be amended to include a pet trust. If you do not have an estate plan, we can develop an estate plan for you which includes a pet trust.

Stability
Integrity
Trust



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*With satellite offices in Braintree
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Estate Preservation Law Offices of Worcester, MA provides multi-leveled and integrated estate planning and asset protection planning services. Its services includes: estate planning, asset protection planning through domestic and foreign techniques, business and corporate planning, corporate and individual tax planning, elder law and Medicaid planning, estate and trust administration, guardianships and conservatorships, retirement planning, special needs and disability planning, financial aid planning, veterans benefits planning, charitable and exempt organizations, and equine and pet trust planning.