



## *Guidelines for the N.O.A.H. Pet Care Trust*

Many friends of the Northwest Organization for Animal Help (N.O.A.H.), who choose to make charitable contributions by bequest to N.O.A.H., also ask about the possibility of entrusting their pet(s) to the care of N.O.A.H. after their death.

While N.O.A.H.'s first recommendation is to identify a trusted and willing friend or family member to care for your pet after your death, we recognize that this alternative is not always available. Therefore, the Board and Management of N.O.A.H. have adopted the following guidelines to help pet owners as they prepare their wills and consider their charitable giving.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The motto of the new N.O.A.H. Animal Adoption Center, which opened in May of 2003, is "*Building a Bond for Life*". The goal of N.O.A.H. is to stop the euthanasia of healthy adoptable pets in Northwest Washington. Each of N.O.A.H.'s programs work toward that goal:

- Adoption Program: Transfer-in animals from overcrowded area shelters and care for them until they are adopted into a loving home.
- Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program: Provide low-cost spay and neuter surgeries to the pets of low-income families to reduce pet overpopulation.
- Dog Training Program: Provide dog training classes to improve relationships between owners and their pets.
- Volunteer Program: Offer volunteer opportunities to the community, allowing them to share in the joy of saving pets.

### **POLICY**

N.O.A.H.'s Adoption Program is designed to transfer-in adoptable animals from overcrowded shelters and find them each a new, loving home as quickly as possible. Dogs and cats are rescued on a space available basis. When one pet is adopted, it allows us to transfer another homeless pet.

As a general rule, N.O.A.H. only accepts animals directly from area partner animal shelters where overcrowding could result in euthanasia. However, in recognition of donors who make charitable bequests or provide irrevocable trusts to N.O.A.H., we will waive this policy, providing that each pet meets N.O.A.H.'s general adoption criteria.

For the benefit of all pets taken into N.O.A.H.'s pet placement program, it is important that charitable bequest donors who wish to leave their pets to N.O.A.H. follow a few essential guidelines:

- N.O.A.H.'s Adoption Program is limited to cats and dogs.
- Be sure that your pet is current on all of its required vaccinations. Keep these veterinary records with your other important papers.
- Each animal N.O.A.H. offers for adoption must be in excellent health and spayed or neutered before going to a new home.
- N.O.A.H. provides a physical examination, vaccinations, and a spay/neuter surgery for each of its rescued animals. However, to keep costs down for both N.O.A.H. and the potential adoptive family, you are urged to take care of these requirements before your pet comes to N.O.A.H.
- For more expedient adoptions, animals should be in stable health with no chronic medical problems and they must be of non-aggressive good temperament. Special exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis.

It is N.O.A.H.'s belief that dogs and cats belong in a loving home and not in a kennel. Therefore, all animals bequeathed to N.O.A.H. will be put up for adoption. Rest assured, N.O.A.H.'s Adoption Program goes the extra distance to match a pet's temperament and needs with an adoptive family's lifestyle. Animals that are taken from their own homes sometimes suffer from stress and anxiety. The staff and volunteers of N.O.A.H. make every effort to alleviate these problems through personal attention, grooming, exercise, and socialization techniques.

In every instance, N.O.A.H. considers what is best for the animals. For this reason, N.O.A.H. will keep animals only as long as they are physically and mentally healthy. If an animal starts to significantly deteriorate in body or spirit, humane euthanasia must be considered. The decision to put an animal to sleep at N.O.A.H. rests solely with the staff of N.O.A.H..

## **BEQUEST COMMITMENT**

As a non-profit organization, N.O.A.H must continually seek donations to fund its current programs. Costs to shelter, feed, groom, and provide medical care for the orphaned animals in our care are substantial. Therefore it is necessary that charitable bequest donors make the following financial provisions in order for N.O.A.H. to accept their pets:

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Dogs and Cats (3 years old or less) | \$7,500 per animal  |
| Dogs and Cats (3 to 6 years old)    | \$12,500 per animal |
| Dogs and Cats (over 6 years old)    | \$25,000 per animal |

*Pets with special medical requirements or behavioral needs will require an additional donation.*

## PROCEDURES

N.O.A.H.'s Adoption Program is not one where animals are simply rushed and placed in the first available home. Every step is taken to ensure that each adoption is a loving and enduring match. If you wish to bequeath your dog or cat to N.O.A.H., please take care to complete the following steps to ensure your pet's smooth and successful transition into a new situation.

1. Ask your attorney to state specifically in your will that you wish to entrust your pet to the *Northwest Organization for Animal Help (N.O.A.H.) Adoption Program*.
2. Ask your attorney to incorporate into your will the following suggested language for making a charitable contribution to N.O.A.H.:
  - a. "I give the Northwest Organization for Animal Help (N.O.A.H.), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization currently located at 31300 Brandstrom Road, Stanwood, Washington, 98292, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars. (or, if insurance policies, land, or other property, please describe in detail). This gift is unrestricted and may be designated at the discretion of N.O.A.H."
3. Complete the Dog/Cat Background Information form. Contact Kelly Hill, Interim Executive Director of N.O.A.H., at (360) 629-7055 to request a form. This form provides N.O.A.H. with important information about your pet's name, medical history, lifestyle, preferences, and behavioral characteristics. This crucial information will help staff make the best possible match with a new family.
4. Inform the Executor of your Estate, family members, and/or friends that you wish to have your pet cared for by the professionals at N.O.A.H. so that the transfer of your pet can be accomplished as soon as possible.
5. When your will and the Dog/Cat Background Information form are complete, please notify N.O.A.H. in writing of your plans. To better serve you and your pet, please enclose a copy of the Surrender Questionnaire with your letter.

Please direct your correspondence to:  
N.O.A.H. Animal Adoption & Spay/Neuter Center  
31300 Brandstrom Road  
Stanwood, WA 98292

We commend those who plan ahead for the benefit of those left behind.  
Thank you for choosing to entrust your pet into our care!