

**making a difference**

Provided by **Jean Stelten-Beuning**,  
owner of Top Dog Country Club and founder of Top Dog Foundation

# Dogs & Angels



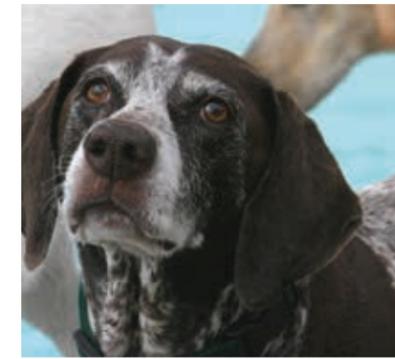
Top Dog Foundation Sanctuary Floor Plan



Top Dog Foundation Sanctuary Elevation



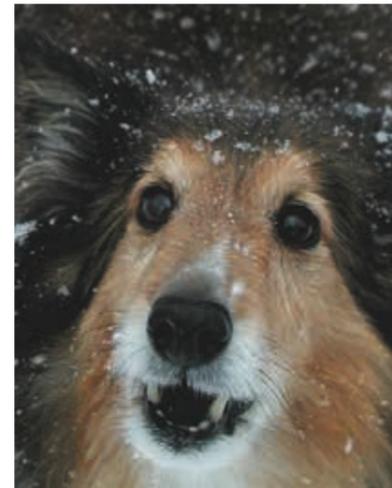
Andy & Ruby



Steffi



Stover



Bentley



Tucker

A local business and non-profit team up with a plan designed to provide you the security of knowing that your dog(s) will be cared for should you precede them in death. Top Dog Foundation ... Bentley's Place, and Top Dog Country Club, a world-renowned vacation club for dogs with a 17-year history, have collaborated on a program, "Dogs & Angels", addressing this desire for people to plan for the care of their dogs, in the event of an untimely death.

"Dogs & Angels" was created at the request of several of my clients that wanted to continue to enjoy the company of dogs in their later years, but wanted to ensure a great life if their dogs outlive them", says Jean Stelten-Beuning, owner of Top Dog Country Club and founder of Top Dog Foundation.

The plan involves the collaboration of both facilities. Young, active and healthy dogs can live out their lives at Top Dog Country Club with a financial plan from your estate. For those senior dogs that meet the age and health criteria to live their lives at Bentley's Place, all monies designated in your estate will be a bequest to care for your senior dog and other canine residents.

Top Dog Foundation provides a loving and permanent home for dogs that are deemed "un-adoptable"

because of age and health; that would otherwise be unnecessarily euthanized. It is not a shelter but a "Top Dog Country Club-style" home for approximately 100-120 senior dogs that have no other options. "Some come to us when owners pass away or move to assisted living; others from shelters and rescue groups; and still others have been abandoned", says Jean.

Bentley's Place, a 15,000 sq. ft. facility will include a veterinary clinic, hydrotherapy, ultra-sound therapy, outdoor / indoor parks, a training center and crematory. These services, for both residents and the general public, will provide ongoing operating revenue to care for these senior dogs.

Top Dog Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization funded completely through private donations. We are seeking angel donors, corporate sponsorship, and estate plans to make Bentley's Place a reality. "We have the property use donated. We have the construction plans and zoning approved. Now we just need the capital to make this first-ever facility a reality", says Jean.

Better late than never; Minnesota recently became the last state in the union to adopt an animal trust

law; statute 501C.0408. It's passing, considered long overdue by many, allows for the creation of a trust to provide for the care of an animal or a group of animals that may outlive their person. So now, the estate plan that allows you to rest easy, knowing that family members are protected, can also include an enforceable, legal trust to provide for the care of the pets that are included in your list of loved ones.

While Minnesotans have always been able to leave money in their wills with instructions for the care of pets until now those instructions have been unenforceable. With this law's passing, pet parents can rest in peace, knowing that their "fur kids" will be cared for according to their specific wishes.

"I advise my clients to make provisions for their pets in their estate plans. Without a plan, too many animals end up in shelters and it is just heart breaking", says Sharon Bloodworth, President and Partner with White Oaks Wealth Advisors.

"This issue is near and dear to the hearts of many of my clients, to whom their pets have become loving and vital members of the family", says Clayton Chan, Estate Planning Attorney with Stoel Rives.

*For more information on "Dogs & Angels", Top Dog Foundation and Top Dog Country Club, contact Jean@topdogfoundation.org, www.topdogfoundation.org, jean@topdogcountryclub.com, www.topdogcountryclub.com.*

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