



## RESOURCES FOR CREATING EFFECTIVE PET TRUSTS

### Planning Forms, Questions to Ask, and How to Find Caregivers for Pets

Presented at the Probate and Trust Law Conference  
St. Paul MN, June 10, 2019



In 2016, Minnesota became the last state in the union to adopt an animal trust law, statute **501C.0408**. It allows for the creation of a trust to provide for the care of an animal(s) that may outlive their person. 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.

Top Dog Country Club and Top Dog Foundation-- a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization—have teamed up to provide dog parents the security of knowing their dog(s) will be cared for in the event of an untimely death. Top Dog Foundation's Sanctuary (Bentley's Place) and Top Dog Country Club—a world-renowned vacation club for dogs founded in 2000—have collaborated to establish *Dogs & Angels*, a program that addresses people's desire to plan for the care of their dogs after they are gone.

Young, active and healthy dogs can live out their lives at Top Dog Country Club with a financial plan from the estate. For those "elder pups" who meet the age and health criteria to live their lives at Bentley's Place, all monies designated in the estate will be a bequest to care for the "elder pup" and other canine residents. There is also a third option that places dogs in carefully screened adoptive homes.

**The following information was created in conjunction with Rebecca Bell of rb LEGAL, LLC, an estate planning attorney who is experienced in creating pet trusts and in equine law. Rebecca serves on an Advisory Council for Top Dog Foundation for its *Dogs & Angels* program.**

- Pet Trust Drafting Considerations
- Questions to Ask Potential Caregivers
- A Sample Trust Outlining Care Specifics
- A "Day in the Life" Chart for Pets that Helps Develop Care Specifics
- Top Dog Foundation Pet Trust Document
- Nonprofit Organizations: Options as Caregivers for Multiple Species of Pet

# PET TRUST DRAFTING CONSIDERATIONS

## Basics of Minnesota Statutes 501C.0408:

**Lasts until the last animal dies, enforceable up to 90 years**

**Covers any pet owned at the time of disability or death**

- **alive during settlor's lifetime**
- **includes multiple animals, multiple species**

**Cannot be used to avoid Medicaid responsibilities**

**Has enforcement provision, if Enforcer is not named, court may appoint Enforcer**

**Funds applied to intended use, "except to the extent a court determines that the value of the trust property exceeds the amount required for the intended use"**

**Remaining funds to named remainder beneficiary, if none, heirs-at-law under Minnesota statutes.**

## Drafting Considerations & Practical Tips

1. Know the law.
2. Transfer the pet to the pet trust.
3. Address short-term (surgery/hospitalization) and long-term disability (nursing home, memory care), as these are as likely as death. Consider a Power of Attorney for caretaker to cover disability or shorter-term issues, such as a vacation.
4. How much money should be set aside? What is reasonable for the of the pets. Over-funding: as in *Matter of Helmsley*, 930N.Y.S. 2d 177 (2009); 12 million for care of her dog Trouble, reduced in the discretion by the court to 2 million in favor of donating the balance to charities.  
To determine needed funds, take the costs over a year, multiply by life expectancy, add 10-20%.
  - a) Defined lifestyle
  - b) Anticipated life expectancy
  - c) Consider that care costs may increase as animals age.
5. Guide clients in selecting the key persons to be the Trustee, Animal Caretaker, Trust Enforcer. Have successors for all positions. Client needs to have a conversation with those parties regarding their expectations. (*Note: the kids probably have their pet and own lives. They may not really want the dog, what standard of care they are willing to give the pet.*)
6. Plan for flexibility in trustee's powers to deal with unexpected situations.

7. Determine where the animal will be cared for, can the location accommodate the pet, are there funds to adapt the location for the pet? Is there a residence or farm that you need to address with the appropriate documents?
8. Provide for caretaker and relief caretaker compensation.
9. Be aware of potential claims of undue influence from human beneficiaries, document your files carefully.
10. Determine who will be the remainder beneficiary after the pet has passed and the trust is terminated. We often use a pet-related charity, rather than a person. Sometimes this is safer for the pets. (See: *Disney's Aristocats, 1970.*)
11. Provisions if funds are depleted prior to pet's death.
12. Draft the document to clearly cover any pet that is owned by the settlor at the time of their incapacity or death whether or not named in the document.
13. Clearly identify the animals. We use an attached Schedule to clearly identify (consider including a photo) and provide specific information about the pet; this can be easily amended as years go by to address the transition of pets throughout the client's lifetime.
  - a) If it is microchipped, provide microchip number and microchip company.
  - b) Ask client to notify company of a trust.
  - c) Are the pets registered animals? Does the registry have reporting requirements that need to be followed?
  - d) If it was originally a rescue pet, it may be subject to an adoption contract; would that contract be likely to be enforced? Probably not.
14. Does not provide for the offspring of an animal unless the offspring is "alive" during the settlor's lifetime.
  - a) Gestation?
  - b) Genetic material?
15. Multiple animals, multiple species. What animals must stay together?
16. Animals in joint ownership would be included if all parties agree. Proof of ownership: bill of sale, registration papers, adoption contract, possibly a veterinary record to confirm ownership.
17. Have a standard of care that may include grooming, inoculations, indoor versus outdoor living, type of housing, dental care, special food or supplements, general transportation, air travel with the caretaker, trips to the dog park, regular walks, pet sleeping arrangements, etc. (See: *A Day in the Life of a Pet.*)
18. Address any specific fears of current pets, such as thunderstorms or young children. Address discipline for the pet. People treat their pets like family, they deal with their pet's emotional issues and special care needs; they will want that same standard after they are gone.
19. Provide information and access to veterinary records and other specialty provider's records.

20. Is the pet a show animal or a hunting animal, does the settlor want the animal to continue to be used in that manner? Most of these animals have professional trainers or handlers. Do they receive continued training? Are they working or field dogs and can they continue to be used in that manner? Are they breeding animals? Address this in your drafting.
21. Is the animal a working animal, such as Duke the “Spokes Dog” for Busch’s Beans? Does it have performance contracts that need to be fulfilled? Is there income from that contract? Where does that go now?
22. Pet transportation, safety concerns and if a large pet, truck/trailer.
23. Extraordinary and unexpected medical care. For example, surgeries, cancer treatment. Pet insurance can be critical to balance these costs.
  - a) What notification or documentation does the insurance company require if pet has insurance when ownership is transferred to the trust?
24. Consider establishing euthanasia criteria for the end of the pet’s life.
25. Address the issue of pet remains. This is a very sensitive subject.

## Questions to Ask When Selecting a Pet Trust Provider/Caregiver

What is the process to get my pet to a safe place should something happen to me?

What are the options for care – a permanent adoption placement, sanctuary, etc.?

What happens if you cannot find an adopter for my pet?

Does your organization follow-up with the adopter for the life of my pet?

What happens if the adopter can no longer care for my pet?

What happens if the money I have set aside in my trust runs out?

How will the decision to euthanize my pet be made?

## Sample Pet Trust Plan for Dogs

### Animal Care Trust for the dogs of .....

Month Day, Year

I currently have the following Pets:

Dog's Name –            Dog's Breed            Chip # 444AXXXXX

Dog's Name –            Dog's Breed            Chip # 4835XXXXX

Dog's Name –            Dog's Breed            Chip # 493CXXXXX

Upon my death or inability to care for my dogs (pets), my Trustee shall set aside \$250,000 in trust for the care of whatever dogs I own at the time of death or incapacitation.

All dogs are insured with Trupanion Pet Insurance Policy # TU000XXXXXX, which provides unlimited care for covered medical issues at 90%. The trust will continue to pay the annual premiums to continue this care.

If the money should run out before my dogs pass, other monies from my estate are to be reassigned to care for them.

My dogs will continue to live in my home with a caretaker designated by my trustee and the board of advisors designated in my will. That person may (but does not have to be) the same as the person hired to oversee the operation of (my home). My dogs are/will become the property of xxxxxxxxx.

The designated caretaker will be allowed to live in my home until such time as the last of my dogs pass. My trustee will make quarterly inspections of the premises and the dogs. My dogs are my children and my passion. It is not enough for them just to be cared for. My trustee/board of advisors must ensure that whoever is chosen for this role is loving and nurturing with them. They must never be struck by anyone. Positive reinforcement training will be used to deal with any concerns.

After the last dog passes my is to be (states disposition of home).

No toxic chemicals may be used in my home, natural products only for cleaning as to reduce toxic exposure for the dogs.

My rule is that there must be someone on the property XXXX Avenue 24 hours per day. The property must never be unattended. My dogs will be with people 24 hours per day, so if their

caregiver leaves for any amount of time and for any reason, the dogs will be taken over to (named location) so that they may be supervised.

My dogs will interact with other dogs daily in group play at Top Dog Country Club as the staff deems appropriate based on their age / health. They will receive regular grooming as needed (every 6-8 weeks).

They will be fed a quality raw diet. Stella & Chewy's is preferred or a brand of like quality. Organic pureed vegetables (green beans, broccoli) will be added along with whatever supplements they take at the time their care is transferred, or as deemed appropriate by their vet / holistic veterinary sources.

My dogs will remain within the fenced acreage areas of my estate to keep them safe. They must be on a secure leash any time they are outside of a fenced area and should be transported safely in crates when traveling in an automobile.

My dogs have received their veterinary care from (named animal hospital), (named location) with Dr. (named veterinarian) and Dr. (named veterinarian). They will be on a limited vaccination schedule receiving only puppy vaccines for distemper and rabies, and then titers thereafter for distemper and rabies. Other vaccines will be waived. They will not, under any circumstances, be given Frontline. They will take heartworm preventative (basic not plus) from June through September only. Natural products will be used like Wondercide for tick/flea control, shampoos, ear cleaners, etc. My dogs will have an annual wellness check including full blood work until age 8 and then twice annually thereafter.

No expense will be spared to give them the medical care that they need, including and preferably holistic veterinary care; (named) veterinary specialty, and (named) Veterinary Hospitals, for emergency and specialty care. Their diagnosis and treatments should be completed by board certified specialists whenever possible.

The decision to euthanize, if necessary, should be made by their caregiver and treating veterinarian. I do not wish for them to receive chemotherapy or radiation for any cancer diagnosis that may occur, but rather receive holistic nutrition and veterinary palliative care until such time that it is determined they no longer have quality of life and are in significant pain. When it is time, they should be euthanized in the arms of the caregiver and preferably at home through a service like MN Pets ([mnpets.com](http://mnpets.com)) or other hospice veterinarian. I do not want their bodies to be frozen until cremation but rather taken to or picked up by Pet Cremation MN in Edina, MN ([petcremationmn.com](http://petcremationmn.com)) for private/individual cremation only (no group cremation). Their ashes should be (states request for action).

The remainder of my entire estate is donated to Top Dog Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non profit organization for the rescue of senior dogs.

Name of Pet Parent

## A Day in the Life of a Pet

*How do your client's pets spend their days and nights?  
What is the specific standard of care the owner wants for the animals they love?  
How much money will they need to provide that level of care for  
the life of this or subsequent pets?*

<b>Phydeaux The Dog Age 15</b>	<b>Romeow The Cat Age 5</b>	<b>Hawkeye The Bird Age 30</b>
Phydeaux gets up in the morning after lying on his <b>orthopedic pet bed</b> . He takes a drink from the <b>water dish</b> , then enjoys a morning <b>treat</b> before his human grabs a <b>leash</b> , hooks it to Phydeaux's <b>matching collar</b> , and they go for a walk.	Romeow awakes on his <b>pet bed</b> . He first stops at the <b>litter box</b> , in which his human has just changed out with <b>fresh litter (specially formulated dust-free)</b> , then grabs a small bite and drink of water from the <b>food and water dishes</b> .	Hawkeye wakes up on one of several <b>perches</b> made from various materials in various widths in a <b>size-appropriate cage</b> where he can fully extend and stretch his wings. His human changes out the food and water in his <b>food and water dishes</b> .
Phydeaux's human goes to work. Phydeaux is lucky; his human hired a dog walker, who charges a <b>per-walk fee for five walks/week</b> , to show up in the early afternoon to exercise him. Phydeaux does not get along with other dogs, otherwise he would go to <b>doggy daycare</b> .	Romeow climbs up the <b>mini cat condo</b> set up by a sunny window to nap and watch the outside world.	It is time to work on that beak with several <b>chewing sticks or blocks</b> , or some bird friendly <b>chewing ropes</b> . Hawkeyes chews through many blocks, ropes, and various toys in a year.
When Phydeaux is not napping or out on a walk, he plays with one of his <b>toys</b> or gnaws on a <b>natural pig's ear or another similar natural chewable option</b> .	When Romeow has napped sufficiently, he plays with a couple <b>toys</b> left out for him, including a <b>special toy that is motion-activated</b> .	Now it's time for enrichment with a <b>puzzle or noise-maker</b> . He also spends his days listening to the <b>radio or watching PBS kids on TV</b> .
Phydeaux's human comes home from work much earlier than usual. He loads Phydeaux into a <b>special car safety pet carrier</b> for a trip in the car.	Romeow's human comes home from work much earlier than usual. She loads Romeow into a <b>pet carrier</b> for a trip in the car.	Hawkeye's human comes home from work much earlier than usual. She loads Hawkeye into a <b>pet carrier</b> for a trip in the car.
Oh, no! The car is turning into the <b>veterinarian's</b> parking lot! Phydeaux's human remarks that he is glad that he	Oh, no! The car is turning into the <b>veterinarian's</b> parking lot! Romeow's human remarks that she is glad that	Oh, no! The car is turning into the <b>avian veterinarian's</b> parking lot! Hawkeye's human will pay for a check-up

<p>bought <b>pet insurance</b>. If he did not, he would have to budget for an <b>annual veterinary care allowance and the arthritis meds</b>.</p>	<p>she bought <b>pet insurance</b>. If she did not, she would have to budget for an <b>annual veterinary care allowance</b>.</p>	<p>out of <b>money budgeted toward veterinary care</b>. (<b>Insurance for birds and exotics</b> is not as common as it is for dogs and cats.)</p>
<p>The vet also offers <b>grooming services</b>, so Phydeaux is shampooed and trimmed before the trip home.</p>	<p>The vet recommends a <b>teeth cleaning</b> later this year. A trip to the <b>animal chiropractor</b> is also scheduled.</p>	<p>The vet also offers <b>grooming services</b>, so Hawkeye’s nails are trimmed before the trip home.</p>
<p>Phydeaux and his human arrive home, and Phydeaux is rewarded with a <b>treat</b> while Phydeaux’s human prepares Phydeaux’s <b>organic, raw diet</b>. The two settle down to eat their suppers.</p>	<p>Romeow and his human arrive home, and Romeow is rewarded with a <b>treat</b> while he waits for his human to replace the <b>kibble</b> in his food dish with the <b>fresh salmon</b> that his owner prepares for them both every Tuesday. The two proceed to eat.</p>	<p>Hawkeye and his human arrive home, and Hawkeye is rewarded with a <b>treat</b> while his human changes out the food and provides fresh water. His human supplements the <b>food pellets with fruits, veggies, and nuts</b>. The two proceed to eat their suppers.</p>
<p>Phydeaux’s human is going on a trip in a month, so he calls the <b>airline to make travel arrangements for Phydeaux to go with him</b>, after all, it is a family vacation.</p>	<p>Romeow’s human is going on a business trip in a month, so she calls a <b>pet-sitting service that does background checks on all providers</b> to come in and feed Romeow and change the litter box while she’s gone.</p>	<p>Hawkeye’s human is going on a business trip in a month, so she calls the <b>avian boarding service</b> to make a reservation.</p>
<p>Hooray! Phydeaux’s human has grabbed a ball. It is time to play in the <b>fenced-in yard</b>. Phydeaux’s owner does not use chemicals on his yard, since he feels it is bad for his pet.</p>	<p>Romeow and his human curl up on the couch. The human notices that the couch is covered in cat hair – maybe it’s time to <b>hire a cleaner</b>.</p>	<p>Hawkeye preens on his <b>portable perch</b> in the family room and sends out a cloud of dust. Hawkeye generates a great amount of bird-dander. His human remarks that she goes through several <b>air filters</b> each year, but his companionship is worth it.</p>
<p>With both Phydeaux and human all tired out after a long, eventful day, it is time for bed. Phydeaux sleeps on a <b>heated orthopedic dog bed</b>, which makes him more comfortable. Good night!</p>	<p>Romeow’s human is tired out after a long, eventful day and goes to bed. Romeow, who is often nocturnal, explores the rooms and hallways a couple more times before he finds a comfy spot on <b>the bed he lets his owner share</b>. Good night!</p>	<p>After finishing the evening watching television with his human and a final coy swoop around the house, Hawkeye agrees to bed. It’s been a long, eventful day; it is time to go back in the <b>cage with the special black-out cover</b>. Good night!</p>

©rb LEGAL, LLC, 2019



## Dogs & Angels Pet Trust Plan

In the event of illness, injury, death, or other circumstances that prohibit my ability to care for my dog(s), Top Dog Foundation is to be immediately notified. Representatives of Top Dog Foundation are authorized to take custody and possession of my dog(s) for the purpose of carrying out the provisions for his/her/their care as provided in my Pet Trust or Will.

### TOP DOG FOUNDATION

952-353-2122 / 612-276-2334 [admin@topdogfoundation.org](mailto:admin@topdogfoundation.org)  
5120 Vega Avenue  
New Germany MN 55367

Owner Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Second Owner Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian's Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Executor/Trustee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Executor/Trustee's Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney's Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR DOG (Please fill out this information for each dog)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Breed \_\_\_\_\_

Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Coat Color \_\_\_\_\_

Microchip ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Registry \_\_\_\_\_ Tattoo \_\_\_\_\_

and/or Identification Marks \_\_\_\_\_ **HISTORY**

Spayed or Neutered? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Housebroken Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Indoor \_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor \_\_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_\_

Can the dog be trusted to stay by itself in the house for extended periods of time? (If not, why?)

\_\_\_\_\_

Does the dog jump fences? If so, how high? \_\_\_\_\_

Where does the dog sleep? \_\_\_\_\_

What food, amount, and time of day is the dog normally fed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe any reaction to grooming, such as brushing, combing, toe nail clipping, bathing, brushing teeth

\_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL INFORMATION**

We will contact the veterinarian listed on page one for the most recent medical records. Please describe here any physical impairments, medical issues, or injuries for which this dog has received treatment. Include any medications to date and describe special needs.

\_\_\_\_\_

**BEHAVIOR AND TEMPERAMENT**

The Owner hereby states that this dog has not bitten a human or shown unprovoked aggression towards another domestic animal \_\_\_\_\_ (Owner's Initials)

OR

Describe in detail any situation where this dog has bitten a human or shown aggression towards another domestic animal (attach additional pages if necessary).

\_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY:

**BEHAVIORS**

Barks/Howls/Whines  
Dumps Trash  
Digs  
Jumps on people  
Marks territory  
Roams  
Tears furniture/carpet

**ACCEPTANCE**

Handles steps  
Walks on leash  
Crate trained  
Rides well in car

**FEARS or NEGATIVE REACTIONS (DESCRIBE)**

Cats \_\_\_\_\_  
Children \_\_\_\_\_  
Bicycles \_\_\_\_\_  
Fireworks \_\_\_\_\_  
Storms \_\_\_\_\_  
Loud Noises \_\_\_\_\_  
Motor vehicles \_\_\_\_\_  
Passing cars \_\_\_\_\_  
Reacts to uniforms \_\_\_\_\_  
Strangers \_\_\_\_\_  
Vacuums \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THIS DOG?**

Active	One-person dog
Aggressive	Protective
Destructive	Quiet
Easy Going	Reserved
Playful	Nervous
Friendly	Neurotic
Shy	Stubborn
Obedient	Noisy

What ages of children has this dog regularly been exposed to and what is the dog's reaction?

Baby to 5 years \_\_\_\_\_  
5+ to 9+ years \_\_\_\_\_ 10 to 13  
years \_\_\_\_\_  
Older \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR PREFERENCES FOR CARE OF YOUR DOG THAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR PET TRUST PROVISIONS (attach additional pages if you wish).**

By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to each of these following statements:

**I understand that Top Dog Foundation will work to carry out my preferences for my dog's care, including adoption into a vetted home or care at Top Dog Country Club or Top Dog Sanctuary, as specified in my Pet Trust or Will.**

**In surrendering this dog to Top Dog Foundation, I, my family, and my legal representatives waive any rights, privileges, or information and identity concerning choice of foster or adoptive persons/families which will be the exclusive responsibility of Top Dog Foundation.**

**To the best of my knowledge, all questions are answered accurately and as completely as possible and do not willfully misrepresent either the health or temperament of the relinquished dog/dogs.**

**Top Dog Foundation has my permission to contact my veterinarian to discuss any questions related to this dog's health history or care. Should any dog described in this document experience great intractable suffering or a very poor quality of life as judged by Top Dog Foundation and its veterinarians, I agree the dog will be humanely euthanized.**

**I relieve Top Dog Foundation of all liability.**

**I have the authority to enter into this agreement as owner(s) or keeper(s) of this animal.**

Owner's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this completed document to Top Dog Foundation, 5120 Vega Avenue, New Germany MN 55367. You may contact us at admin @topdogfoundation.org or 612-276-2334.**

## [Nonprofit Organizations as Pet Trust Providers / Caregivers](#)

If family and friends are not able or are unwilling to provide the requested care for a pet, some nonprofit organizations can be a good choice. We offer some information on these below:

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOU MUST CONTACT THE ORGANIZATION PRIOR TO INCLUDING THEM AS A CAREGIVER WITHIN A TRUST.** Some have space limitations constraining their ability to accept the pet.

### Definitions

#### **Animal Rescue**

An animal rescue is typically a private organization taking in certain animals (mostly pet / companion animals) surrendered by their owners, taken from abusive homes, or homeless situations. An animal rescue provides a temporary home through a network of fosters who care for them until they are adopted. This is can be for the duration of rehabilitation if the animal has health or behavior problems, or for the duration of treatment if the animal is ill or in need of veterinary help.

An animal rescue often focuses on a particular type of animal. Some are breed and age specific. Generally speaking, animal rescues operate completely on donation and the goodwill of animal lovers. Rarely do they receive help or funding from the government.

#### **Animal Shelter**

Generally speaking, an animal shelter is a place where stray, lost, abandoned or neglected animals are surrendered or brought to. Shelters are almost always full and the demand is high so this often ends with the shelter having to euthanize animals. Some shelters have no-kill policies in place but then have to turn away animals in need when they are full. Some are government / tax payer funded.

#### **Animal Sanctuary**

An *animal sanctuary* is a facility where animals are brought to live and be protected for the rest of their lives. Unlike *animal shelters*, *sanctuaries* typically do not seek to place animals with individuals, but instead care for the animal until its natural death.

[Top Dog Foundation](#) is a rescue organization and will also provide a sanctuary for those dogs that cannot be re-homed due to the demands of their care.

## Options for dogs

- 1) Humane Society
  - i. For legacy donors only
  - ii. Limited follow through with adopter (for a few months)
  - iii. May be returned to facility but no guarantee of future adoption
  
- 2) Breed specific rescue groups
  - i. No pet trust program
  - ii. Has specific expertise on the breed
  - iii. Limited availability of foster homes
  - iv. Often have to turn dogs away
  
- 3) Multi-breed rescue organizations
  - i. No pet trust program
  - ii. High demand
  - iii. Often have to turn dogs away
  
- 4) Shelters
  - i. No pet trust program
  - ii. High demand
  - iii. Often have to turn dogs away
  - iv. High likelihood of euthanasia (unless no-kill)
  
- 5) Home For Life Sanctuary (Star Prairie, WI)
  - i. No pet trust program
  - ii. A sanctuary for unadoptable dogs (behavior, health, age)
  - iii. No adoption option
  
- 6) Top Dog Foundation / Top Dog Country Club (New Germany, MN)

The only pet trust fulfillment organization that can provide three care options and any combination thereof along with life-long follow through and funding of dog's care

  - i. Has a specific pet trust program
  - ii. Focus is on dogs but will collaborate with other species rescues
  - iii. Adoption with life-long follow through (if needed dog must return to Top Dog Foundation for re-adoption or options iv or v)
  - iv. Live at Top Dog Country Club
  - v. Live at Top Dog Foundation . . . the Sanctuary
  - vi. Hoover's Taxi Network to visit previous owner in assisted living
  - vii. Not a shelter but a Top Dog Country Club style permanent home
  - viii. Tours available for planning meetings with dog parents

## Options for Cats

- 1) The Cat House on the Kings (Parlier, CA)
  - a. Sanctuary and Adoption
  - b. Established pet trust program
  - c. <https://www.cathouseontheKings.com/>
- 2) Safe Haven for Cats (Raleigh, NC)
  - a. Rescue and Adoption
  - b. Established pet trust program
  - c. <https://www.safehavenforcats.org/>
- 3) Feline Rescue (St. Paul, MN)
  - a. Rescue and Adoption
  - b. Intake on space available basis: Contact as create pet trust
  - c. <https://felinerescue.org/>

## Options for Horses

- 1) Midwest Horse Welfare Foundation (Pittsville, WI)
  - a. Rescue and Sanctuary
  - b. Has pet trust program
  - c. <http://www.equineadoption.com/>
- 2) Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation (Zimmerman, MN)
  - a. Rescue and Adoption
  - b. <https://mnhoovedanimalrescue.org/>

## Options for Parrots, Birds

- 1) The Gabriel Foundation (Elizabeth, CO)
  - a. Rescue and Sanctuary
  - b. Has pet trust program
  - c. <https://thegabrielfoundation.org/>
- 2) The Oasis Sanctuary (Benson, AZ)
  - a. Rescue and Sanctuary
  - b. Has pet trust program
  - c. <https://the-oasis.org/>

**Option for Dogs, Cats, Birds:** Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center at Texas A & M University is a Sanctuary with an established pet trust program. They accept all companion animals except they have suspended acceptance of horses and donkeys due to space limits.