



## ***If something happened to me, what would happen to my pet?***

We often assume that we will outlive our pets but that is not always the case. Unfortunately, a lack of planning results in up to 500,000 pets surrendered to U.S. shelters each year after an owner becomes incapacitated or passes away.

**If a health issue, a change in housing, or other unexpected situations were to arise, advance planning will help your pets in time of need. Get started by:**

### **1. Identifying Caregivers**

Talk with friends, family members, and neighbors about becoming your pet's designated caregiver. Identify at least 2 people (a primary caregiver and one back-up) to care for your pet on a temporary or permanent basis or who will make arrangements for your pets. Make sure to get commitments in writing from all parties.

### **2. Documenting Important Information**

Prepare information detailing the daily care needs and medical history of your pet. Make sure there are copies with your will and places where it can be easily found like on your refrigerator!

### **3. Formalizing Your Wishes**

- Document your wishes and identified caregivers in your will
- Set aside funds to cover your pets future expenses
- Make sure copies of your wishes are documented with your own advance planning health documents