

Sample language for your Pet(s) Living Will

Here is a sample, which you can use in your will to provide your executor, with guidance in arranging for your pet's care:

{Article Number} A.

As a matter of high priority and importance, I direct my Personal Representative to place any and all animals I may own at the time of my death with another individual or family (that is, in a private, non-institutionalized setting) where such animals will be cared for in a manner that any responsible, devoted pet owner would afford to his or her pets. Prior to initiating such efforts to place my animals, I direct my Personal Representative to consult

_____, D.V.M., (currently at the hospital _____), or, in the event of Dr. _____'s unavailability, a veterinarian chosen by my Personal Representative, to ensure that each animal is in generally good health and is not suffering physically. In addition, I direct my Personal Representative to provide any needed, reasonable veterinary care that my animal(s) may need at that time to restore the animal(s) to generally good health and to alleviate suffering, if possible. Any animal(s) not in generally good health or who is so suffering—and whose care is beyond the capabilities of veterinary medicine, reasonably employed, to restore to generally good health or to alleviate suffering—shall be euthanized, cremated, and the ashes disposed of at the discretion of my Personal Representative. Any expenses incurred for the care (including the costs of veterinary services), placement, or transportation of my animals, or to otherwise affect the purposes of this Article _____ up to the time of placement, shall be charged against the principal of my residuary estate. Decisions my Personal Representative makes under this Article _____, for example, with respect to the veterinary care to be afforded to my animal(s) and the costs of such care — shall be final. My intention is that my Personal Representative has the broadest possible discretion to carry out the purposes of this paragraph.