



GOOD MEWS ANIMAL FOUNDATION
3805 Robinson Road NE
Marietta, GA 30068
770-499-2287
info@goodmews.org

GUIDELINES ON BEQUEATHING PETS

Many volunteers and supporters of Good Mews Animal Foundation who choose to make charitable contributions by bequest to the shelter also ask about the possibility of entrusting their pet(s) to the care of Good Mews after their death.

While Good Mews' first recommendation is to identify a trusted and willing family member or friend to care for your pet after death, we recognize that this is not always a possibility. Therefore, the board and management of Good Mews have adopted the following guidelines to help pet owners as they prepare their wills and consider charitable giving.

INTRODUCTION

From the time Good Mews Animal Foundation opened its doors in 1988, the quality of care received by the animals in our custody has been unrivaled. Gloria Skeen Cornell, our founder, has always had a keen interest in the welfare of the cats in our care, and the joy they bring to their human families. Good Mews has always had the philosophy that no cat is ever euthanized for space or time.

The mission and philosophy of Good Mews reflect the belief that perpetual sheltering is not a suitable fate for a cat that has been living in a home. Pets are accepted by Good Mews with the understanding that every effort will be made to place the cat into a new home as quickly as possible. Good Mews' model adoption program is known for its commitment to do everything possible to match a pet's personality and activity requirements with an adoptive family's lifestyle, needs, and space.

POLICY

Because Good Mews is continually faced with an inexhaustible supply of orphaned animals needing new homes through its adoption program, owners wishing to surrender their pets generally must wait a few months before space is available. In recognition of donors who make charitable bequests or provide irrevocable trusts to the Foundation, we will make every effort to take in the cat(s) as quickly as possible after your death. **PLEASE NOTE: There is a maximum of six (6) cats per family.**

For the benefit of all cats taken into the adoption program it is important that charitable bequest donors who wish to leave their pets to Good Mews follow a few essential guidelines:

- 1) Good Mews is a feline-only facility. If you have a dog, bird, or other pet that also needs placement, Good Mews will not be able to assist those other animals.



- 2) Be sure your cat(s) is current on all of its required vaccinations and have veterinary records kept with you other important papers.
- 3) Good Mews provides physical examinations, vaccinations and neutering/spaying for its adoptable cats, but to keep costs down for both the shelter and the adoptive family, you are urged to take care of these requirements before it is time for your cat to come to Good Mews.
- 4) For more expedient adoptions, it is recommended that you provide as much detail as possible on the cat surrender questionnaire and update that form as needed.

It is Good Mews' belief that cats belong in a loving home and not in a shelter. Therefore, all animals bequeathed to the Foundation will be put up for adoption. The adoption program at Good Mews goes the extra distance to match a pet's temperament and requirements with an adoptive family's lifestyle. Cats who are taken from their homes after the death of their human family may suffer from stress and anxiety. Good Mews staff and volunteers make every effort to alleviate these problems through personal attention, including programs such as Kitty Buddy.

In every instance, Good Mews will consider what is best for the cat. For this reason, Good Mews will care for cats as long as they are physically healthy or until they are adopted. However, if the cat develops a medical condition which makes it impossible for the cat to be kept comfortable with an acceptable quality of life, then euthanasia may be necessary. This does not happen often at Good Mews—in an average year we adopt over 450 cats into permanent, loving homes. The decision to euthanize will be made by the veterinarian and staff at Good Mews.

BEQUEST COMMITMENT

As a non-profit organization, Good Mews Animal Foundation must continually seek donations to fund its current humane 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 a \$7500 provision PER CAT.** This provision can be made through cash donation, irrevocable trust, insurance policy, land, securities, etc.

If you have questions or would like additional information on charitable giving by bequest, please contact Good Mews Animal Foundation at 770-499-2287 or info@goodmews.org.

PROCEDURE:

If you wish to bequest your cat to Good Mews please complete the following steps to ensure your pet's transition into their new situation.

- 1) Ask your attorney to state specifically in your will that you wish to entrust your cat(s) to Good Mews Animal Foundation. PLEASE NOTE: Good Mews will make every attempt to find a permanent, loving home for your pet through our adoption program. In the meantime, your pet will have a home with us. Good Mews cannot accept cats with a stipulation they are not to be adopted.
- 2) Have your attorney incorporate into your will the following suggested language for making a charitable contribution to the center:



I give to Good Mews Animal Foundation, a non-profit, Georgia corporation, currently located at 3805 Robinson Road, Marietta, GA the sum of _____ dollars (or, if insurance policies, land, or other property, please describe). This gift is unrestricted, and may be designated at the discretion of the board of directors.

- 3) Inform the executor of your estate, family members, and/or friends that you wish to have your pet transferred to Good Mews so that the transfer of your pet can be accomplished as soon as possible.
- 4) Complete the Surrender Questionnaire form (one form for each cat you wish to place with Good Mews). Place a copy of this form with your will. Update this form as necessary with your will and with your file at Good Mews.
- 5) Provide Good Mews with a signed copy of this agreement and the Surrender Questionnaire (Good Mews Animal Foundation, 3805 Robinson Road, Marietta, GA 30068, Attn: Bequest). If you wish to replace an animal on file with us, please complete a new copy of this form and send it to us, along with instructions on which pet you would like to replace in your will.
- 6) Good Mews will send a Confirmation of Bequest form upon receiving your written request. Keep a copy of the Confirmation of Bequest form with your will.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____



CONFIRMATION OF BEQUEST

(Keep a copy of this form with your will)

Good Mews Animal Foundation agrees to accept the bequest of _____ cats from the estate of

(number)

_____. The Executor of the estate will contact

(name of estate)

Good Mews at 770-499-2287 or sheltermanager@goodmews.org and arrange for transport of the cats from the estate to the Organization. The Executor will also arrange for all veterinary records to be transferred from the veterinarian of record to the Organization.

Representative for Good Mews

Date

.....
For Organization Use Only:

Date request received: _____

Date confirmation sent: _____

Good Mews Representative processing request: _____



BEQUEST PROGRAM
CAT SURRENDER QUESTIONNAIRE
(Please complete one form per animal)

Pet Owner Information

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Mobile Phone:** _____

Executor of Estate:

Contact Information for Executor: _____

Estate Attorney: _____

Contact Information for Attorney:

.....



Pet Information

(Please attach a photo of your pet if possible)

Name of cat: _____

Age (approximate): _____ **Breed:** _____

Color: _____

Microchipped: Yes No

If yes, Vendor of Chip: _____ **Chip Number:** _____

Up to date on vaccinations: Yes No **Spay/Neutered:** Yes No

Gender: Male Female **Declawed:** Yes No

Name and Phone Number for Veterinarian: _____

When and where did you acquire this cat? _____

How long has this cat lived with you? _____ Indoor___ Outdoor___ Both___

How would you describe your household?

Active ___ Noisy ___ Quiet ___ Average ___

How would you describe the cat's behavior around children?

Friendly___ Playful ___ Tolerant ___ Afraid/Shy ___ Not Good ___
N/A___

Approximately how many hours a day did the cat spend alone? _____

How does this cat react to visitors? _____

Does this cat use a litter box? Yes___ No___

If no, please explain

If "No" has the cat been examined to rule out physical problems? Yes___ No ___

Has this cat ever bitten anyone? Yes___ No___

If yes, please describe _____

Where does the cat dislike being petted? _____



Does this cat have any bad habits the new owners should be aware of? Yes____ No_____

If yes, please describe _____

Which words describe this cat: Playful____ Vocal ____ Aloof ____
Rambunctious ____ Affectionate ____ Lazy____ Shy ____

What other animals has this cat lived with and did they get along? _____

Does this cat have any favorite toys? _____

Does this cat have any old injuries or health problems? Yes____ No ____

If yes, please describe _____

Does the cat need any medication or special diet? Yes____ No ____

If yes, please describe _____

What type of food does the cat eat? _____ Canned or Dry_____

Is there anything else we should know about this cat? _____

Date Completed: _____

Signature: _____