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Perpetual Care Program – Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do I enroll my dog in the Perpetual Care Program?**

Contact POMDR and talk with a board member to determine if your dog is appropriate for our program. Once it is determined that your dog can enroll in our program, we will give you a Pet Profile form to fill out so we know your dog's likes, dislikes, habits, routines, health history, what vet clinic has his records, and anything else you would like us to know about your dog. You will then need to set up a pet trust with an attorney to provide the funds to care for your dog for the rest of his life.

- **What if my dog is old or in poor health?**

If you enroll your dog in the Perpetual Care Program, POMDR will accept your dog regardless of his or her physical condition. Although older and ailing animals are sometimes difficult to place in permanent homes, POMDR will provide foster care for your dog as long as needed. You will want to take your dog's age and health into account when funding his pet trust.

- **What services will the Perpetual Care Program provide for my dog if I die or can no longer care for him?**

POMDR will become your dog's legal guardian, and will start caring for your pet as soon as we receive notice of your death or incapacitation. We will then place your pet up for adoption to a suitable, loving home consistent with the information in his or her Pet Profile. Enrollment in our Perpetual Care Program ensures that your dog will receive compassionate care for the rest of his or her life.

- **Do I need to pay anything up front?**

No. The Perpetual Care Program is funded through a pet trust that you set up with your attorney. There is no membership fee or cost to you during your lifetime, but a donation at the time of setting up your trust or leaving a donation to POMDR in your estate planning will help support POMDR's mission of caring for dogs left behind.

- **I don't have much money, but I have a life insurance policy and some physical assets. Can I still participate in the Perpetual Care Program?**

You will want to talk with your attorney about funding your dog's Pet Trust with non-liquid assets to determine if this option will work for you and your dog.

- **Will my pet be adopted through the Perpetual Care Program?**

POMDR will make every effort to find your dog a new, permanent home. We will post his or her photograph and life story on our website, and bring him or her to our adoption events. Although we cannot absolutely guarantee that your dog will be adopted, the great majority of our dogs find new homes with our help. We will have a lifetime commitment to your dog whether he is in a foster home or a permanent home.

- **Where will my dog live while he or she is awaiting a new home?**

While we work to find a permanent home for your dog, he or she will live in a qualified foster home with a POMDR volunteer. Our foster volunteers are sensitive to the special needs of surviving pets, and will provide love and attention as well as physical care. In the event that we do not have a foster home available for your dog, we will board him or her in a comfortable boarding facility with regular walks and outings provided by our volunteers until he or she is adopted or placed in a foster home.

- **What if I have additional dogs at the time of my death? Will the Perpetual Care Program cover them, too?**

The Perpetual Care Program enrollment is done per dog, so if you add a new dog to your family, you should notify POMDR and enroll your new dog separately. We will do our best to help other dogs but cannot guarantee coverage unless we know about them in advance and a pet trust is set up for them and a Pet Profile is on file with our office.

- **What if my animal is difficult to place?**

POMDR specializes in adopting out elderly and special needs dogs and is highly successful at doing it. We can handle shy dogs and dogs with medical needs. We cannot place dogs that are human aggressive or highly dog aggressive. Dogs are evaluated before they enter the program.

- **If I have more than one dog enrolled in the Perpetual Care Program, can they be adopted together?**

POMDR will honor your wishes to place multiple dogs in the same adoptive home. Be sure to specify your preference in their Pet Profile forms, so that we know you want them to stay together. This may mean it will take longer for your dogs to find their forever home so you will want to fund their pet trust accordingly.

- **If my dog dies while I am still alive, can I transfer his or her Perpetual Care enrollment to another dog?**

Yes. Just be sure to notify POMDR of the changes so we can meet and assess the new dog. You will also want to be sure to change your pet trust to specifically cover your new dog. We will also ask you to complete a new Pet Profile form for each new dog, so that we can find the best possible home for him or her. If your pet died and you replaced it with a similar type of dog but forgot to change the name, we would take the dog as long as he/she was not aggressive and his/her needs were provided for in the pet trust.

- **Why should I enroll my dog in the Perpetual Care Program? Can't I just have a friend or relative take care of my dog if necessary?**

Although designating a friend or relative to care for your dog is an option, Perpetual Care enrollment will give you greater security and long-term peace of mind. When the time comes, your trusted friend or relative may be unable to take your pets due to financial, health, family, or housing constraints. If your friend/relative chooses to place the dog, he/she may not know what to look for in a permanent home. Your dog could end up at risk or in a shelter if that home falls through. POMDR has signed paperwork with all adopters and will take your dog back for the life of your dog if something happens to the new guardian. One option if there is a friend or relative you trust with your dog is to name POMDR as an alternative caregiver should your first choice be unable to accept the responsibility at the time the help is needed.

- **Is POMDR able to be a back-up for placement with a friend or relative?**

We can act as a back-up but dogs still need to be enrolled in the program and we need to be aware of the circumstances.

- **What if I want to leave an additional gift to POMDR?**

We welcome planned gifts as these legacies help dogs for years to come. There are many ways that this can be done and you should speak with your estate planning attorney about this.

- **What makes the POMDR program so special?**

We can come to your home and pick up your dog when the need arises. We can also take your dog into our program before your death. If you are in a nursing home or hospice situation we can still take your dog and even bring your dog to visit you if it is feasible. Another key difference between our program and other facilities based programs is that our animals will live in foster homes rather than in a shelter setting, which reduces the trauma of a major life transition. The board members of POMDR are highly respected in the community with a proven track record for animal welfare and adoption. We specialize in matching dogs with quality permanent homes. We can provide a comfortable place for your dog, loving attention, and excellent veterinary care.