



FROM THE DESK OF VICTORIA L. COLLIER, CELA

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

From the moment an enterprising caveman brought a wolf inside of the tribe's ring of trust as protection against the dark nights, pets have been our most loyal and beloved companions.

Yes, Snoopy may get into the garbage or Garfield turn the ottoman into a scratching post, but that doesn't stop our four-legged friends from being full-fledged, irresistibly lovable

members of the family.

And if you consider Fido to be another one of your children, you are not alone, **68% of American households own a pet.** This trend is set to continue as Millennials become first time home-buyers.

Discover more about how you can ensure that your furry family members are taken care of by including them in your estate

plan in the following pages, and to learn more about protecting your finances and planning your estate give us a call today at **470-235-7868.**

To Your Health And Happiness,

Victoria L. Collier

Victoria L. Collier, CELA*

The Estate & Asset Protection Law Firm

***Certified Elder Law Attorney**

THE CONTENT IN THIS NEWSLETTER SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS LEGAL ADVICE AND DOES NOT CREATE A LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP.

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LEARN MORE BY CALLING 470-235-7868.

We have two concierge attorney events coming up in the month of August.

- August 14 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at The Renaissance on Peachtree
- August 28 @ 9:00 am - 3:00 pm at The Parc at Duluth

Victoria dedicates a day every other month at both locations listed above to provide concierge estate planning services.

DID YOU KNOW?

PROTECTING FURRY FAMILY MEMBERS: INCLUDING PETS IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN

A recent study found that 1/3 of Millennial home buyers placed space for pet-ownership as the primary reason for the purchase. While the trend of pet ownership has grown, so too have the costs. Over the course of a pet's life, the average American pet-owner will now spend between \$27,000 - \$42,000 on a dog and \$21,000 - \$30,000 on a cat. Yet despite the costs, almost everyone agrees that the happiness that comes from owning a pet is worth the investment.

However, for all the attention paid to pets' health, grooming, and happiness, **too few pet owners include their furry family member in their estate plans.** There are many reasons for this, but one of the largest comes from confusion over whether the law allows pet planning. Many people, including lawyers, are unaware that the law in America has evolved from almost no states allowing Pet Trusts just a few decades ago to **49 states now recognizing the validity of a trust to care for a pet.** This recognition is a big victory for pets and pet owners alike, who no longer have to worry about what will happen to Fido not just

after the pet owner's death, but during a period of disability as well.

Luckily, a trust for the benefit of a pet or pets is *valid in Georgia.* These trusts are designed to be easy to administer but can be scaled up to provide stringent protections for the animal beneficiaries. A good Pet Trust covers who will care for the pets during a period of disability or after death of their owner, details how the pets are to be cared for, provides funding to care for the pets, and provides checks-and-balances to ensure proper administration of the trust.

For example, **a pet trust can make sure that if you have to enter an assisted living facility that does not allow pets, you still will be able to see your pets as much as possible.** This can provide a major boost to a sick family member's happiness and health, encouraging recovery. These are just some of the benefits that a pet trust can provide.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS INTERESTED IN INCLUDING THEIR PETS IN THEIR ESTATE PLAN, CALL US TODAY AT [470-235-7868](tel:470-235-7868)



CONGRATULATIONS TO BARRY PATRICK, WINNER OF OUR CLIENT RAFFLE FOR A WEEK'S STAY AT THE WYNDHAM RESORT NORTH MYRTLE BEACH.

WE ARE *GRATEFUL* TO HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR FAMILY AND THE MULTIPLE FAMILIES YOU HAVE REFERRED TO OUR LAW FIRM.

ENJOY YOUR VACATION, BARRY!



ESCAPING THE DOG DAYS OF



WHEN CAREGIVERS GO ON VACATION: TIPS FOR RESPITE CARE PLANNING

Everyone needs a break, and for primary caregivers of an aging, ill, or disabled loved one; taking a break permits time to de-stress and refuel physical and emotional energies. This rest leads to better care for your loved one upon returning to normal caregiving duties and routines. Respite Care provides the services and support a loved one requires during a primary caregiver's temporary break.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FOR SUCCESSFULLY PLANNING RESPITE CARE FOR A LOVED ONE:

1. Respite care can be provided at home or in a facility like an Assisted Living Community or an Inpatient Hospice Unit.
2. Respite services can be provided by professionals or by friends or family members

of the primary caregiver or care receiver.

3. Develop a written plan with information about a loved one's medications, nutrition needs, daily routines, specialized medical equipment, and emergency contact information. Using a free online scheduler like **Lotsa Helping Hands** or **CareCalendar** can be helpful for coordinating care and communicating with friends and family member respite care providers.
4. For family caregivers of Veterans, resources and financial assistance for Respite Care services can be found through the VA's Caregiver Support Program, <https://www.caregiver.va.gov/>
5. Local Area Agencies on Aging and non-profits like **Well Spouse Association** and **Alzheimer's Association** can also support caregivers in finding and helping to pay for respite care services.

INTRODUCING...



I am writing to share some very exciting news with you. I am launching **The Rainbow Family Law Group**. The reason I am reaching out to you is because you are a valuable friend of my estate planning firm and at least two estate planning clients recently expressed, *"I wish you did family law, there aren't any other firms out there as*

dedicated to taking care of their clients as yours does." Also, the majority of our clients are referred to us from our prior or current clients and friends of the firm - just like you.

The Rainbow Family Law Group helps create families through adoption, fertility, and surrogacy, as well as traditional family law matters such as divorce.

If you or anyone you know is in need of a family law attorney, I would *personally* appreciate it if you referred them to [The Rainbow Family Law Group](#), where we have an *excellent* team of *experienced* attorneys.

CALL 470-235-7868 TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT.

THE PETS OF THE ESTATE & ASSET PROTECTION LAW FIRM

