# Creating a Pet Trust

This playbook outlines the steps to create a pet trust, a legal arrangement that ensures your pets are cared for according to your wishes after you pass away.

### Step 1: Research

Investigate the laws in your state regarding pet trusts as they can vary, and determine what limitations or requirements may apply.

### Step 2: Select Caretaker

Choose a trusted person or organization who will act as the caretaker for your pets. Consider their ability and willingness to take on this responsibility.

### Step 3: Set Terms

Decide on the terms of the trust, including the type of care your pets will receive, how funds should be used, and for how long the trust should operate.

### Step 4: Fund Trust

Establish how you will fund the trust, which may include cash, property, or a portion of your estate, to ensure there are adequate resources for your pets' care.

### Step 5: Draft Document

Work with an attorney to draft the pet trust document, outlining all the terms, the caretaker responsibilities, and the management of the trust funds.

### Step 6: Sign & Notarize

Sign the trust document in the presence of a notary public to make it legally binding.

### Step 7: Store Safely

Store the trust document in a secure location and make sure that the caretaker and any involved parties, like your attorney or executor, know where it is and can access it.

## General Notes

### Legal Consultation

It's strongly advised to consult with a lawyer who specializes in estate planning or animal law to ensure that the trust is valid and enforceable.

### Alternate Caretaker

Consider naming an alternate caretaker in case the primary individual is unable or unwilling to fulfill their role when needed.