

# 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.