How can I become a member of the CAP Codicil Club?

If you want to continue to help defenseless animals beyond your lifetime, one of the easiest ways to accomplish this goal is to make a bequest to CAP in your Will. The proper wording is “I give, devise and bequeath to Citizens for Animal Protection, Inc. the sum of ____ or ____ % of the residue of my estate in support of its general purposes.” Please notify CAP in writing of your commitment and you will automatically be enrolled in the CAP Codicil Club. Any planned gift will also qualify you for the Codicil Club.

What benefits are there in making a bequest or other planned gift and belonging to CAP’s Codicil Club?

Making a bequest to CAP is a signal of your compassion for animals and your desire to care for them in perpetuity. You will gain immortality that would be difficult to achieve in any other way. In addition, your estate will receive an estate tax charitable deduction for the amount of your gift.

CAP Codicil Club members meet once a year at a luncheon to share their concern for all animals. Each member receives an attractive codicil club pin recognizing his or her commitment.

CAP has received numerous local and national awards including:

- The Humane Award of Excellence - PetsMart Charities
- Humane Education Achievement Award – Humane Society of the U.S.
- Exceptional Adoption Placement Program – New York ASPCA
- Best Non-Profit Organization in Houston – H Texas Magazine.
- Highest Rating of 4-Stars – CharityNavigator.org.

Our Mission: CAP is committed to sheltering, rescuing and placing homeless animals in loving homes. CAP advocates respect and compassion for all animal life – speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves. CAP also provides humane education to prevent animal cruelty and raise awareness in the community of the needs of animals.

“I expect to pass through this world but once . . . Any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now . . . For I shall not pass this way again”.

—Etienne de Grellet
What options are available for bequests and other gifts to ensure the future care of helpless animals?

1. Direct bequest: You can leave a specific sum of money to CAP in your Will or Trust as an unrestricted gift.

2. Percentage of an estate or residual: You may choose to leave a percentage of your estate in your Will or Trust after your beneficiaries, taxes and debts have been satisfied. Choosing this method allows you to plan for fluctuations in the value of your estate.

3. Named or memorial fund: If you so choose, you can have a fund in your name or the name of a beloved (could also be in the name of a pet or pets) that supports a specific area of the shelter, such as the Dog or Cat adoption rooms, or a specific program, such as rescue or adoption. A minimum gift of $10,000 is required to establish this fund.

4. Bequest of specific assets: Retirement plans and Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA’s) are particularly good candidates because of the potential to avoid the income tax that is associated with these kinds of assets even after death.

5. Life income plans: A gift in trust where CAP receives the income for the rest of your life, with the principal going to your beneficiaries at your death. Or the establishment of a trust where you receive income from the trust for life, with the remainder going to CAP.

6. Life insurance policies: You can purchase a life insurance policy denoting CAP as either the owner or the beneficiary.

7. Deeding a home: You can deed your personal residence to CAP for your use during your lifetime with the home going to CAP after you are gone. This kind of arrangement can be very beneficial to your taxes in the year that you deed your home.

8. Appreciated stock or bonds: By using securities to fund a planned gift arrangement, you can avoid capital gains tax, take a charitable tax deduction, and receive annual income for life. Securities left in your will or in trust to CAP may help reduce your estate taxes.

Estate planning can be complex. We recommend that you seek the assistance of an attorney, CPA or Certified Financial Planner to help plan your estate and/or devise your will.

“The ethics of respect for life makes us keep on the lookout together for opportunities of bringing some sort of help to animals, to make up for the great miseries men inflict upon them.”

—Dr. Albert Schweitzer