



## **HOPALONG & SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL RESCUE**

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### **The Pet Survivor Program – Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **How do I enroll my pet in the Pet Survivor program?**

In your will or trust, you should bequeath your pet, along with a charitable gift, to Hopalong Animal Rescue. The minimum donation amount varies depending on the type and number of pets that you leave to Hopalong. When you contact Hopalong or Second Chance Rescue for information, we will help you determine the minimum amount of your donation.

#### **What if my pet is old or in poor health?**

If you enroll your pet in the Pet Survivor Program, Hopalong will accept your pet regardless of his or her physical condition. Although older and ailing animals are sometimes difficult to place in permanent homes, Hopalong will provide foster care for your pet as long as needed.

#### **What services will the Pet Survivor Program provide for my pet if I die?**

Hopalong will become your pet's legal owner and guardian, and will start caring for your pet as soon as we receive notice of your death. 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 the Pet Survivor Program ensures that your pet will receive compassionate care for the rest of his or her life.

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

No. The Pet Survivor Program is funded through planned giving in wills and trusts that take effect upon a person's death. There is no membership fee or cost to you during your lifetime.

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

Absolutely. Hopalong accepts planned gifts in the form of real estate, stock or other assets, which can be partially or fully donated to us in your will or trust. You can also designate Hopalong as your life insurance beneficiary. Hopalong can work with you to create a special plan that suits your individual needs and ensures lifelong care for your pet.

#### **Will my pet be adopted through the Pet Survivor Program?**

Hopalong will make every effort to find your pet a new, permanent home. We will post his or her photograph and life story on our website, and bring him or her to adoption sites in the Bay Area. Although we cannot absolutely guarantee that your pet will be adopted, the great majority of our animals find new homes with our help.

#### **Where will my pet live while he or she is awaiting a new home?**

While we work to find a permanent home for your pet, he or she will live in a qualified foster home with a Hopalong volunteer. Our foster volunteers are sensitive to the special needs of surviving pets, and will provide love and attention as well as physical care.

#### **What if I have additional pets at the time of my death? Will the Pet Survivor Program cover them, too?**

Pet Survivor enrollment is done per pet, so if you add a new pet to your family, you should notify Hopalong and enroll your new pet separately. We will do our best to help other pets but cannot

guarantee coverage unless we know about them prior to your death and there needs are provided for in your will or trust.

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

Hopalong specializes in adopting out elderly and special needs animals and is highly successful at doing it. We can handle shy animals and feral cats. We cannot place dogs that are human aggressive or highly dog aggressive. Animals are evaluated when they enter the program. Every effort will be made to rehabilitate an animal and if that fails, to place it in a sanctuary as long as it can be safely handled.

### **If I have more than one pet enrolled in the Pet Survivor Program, can they be adopted together?**

Hopalong will try its best to place multiple pets 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.

### **If my pet dies while I am still alive, can I transfer his or her Pet Survivor enrollment to another pet?**

Yes. You can change your will or trust at any time during your life. Just be sure to notify Hopalong of the changes, and send us copies of your revised will or trust. It may be necessary to change the amount of your planned charitable gift, depending on the type of pet you enroll. Hopalong will work with you to make sure your planned gift covers all of your enrolled pets. We will also ask you to complete a Pet Profile form for each animal, 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 pet but forgot to change the name, we would take the pet as long as he/she was not aggressive and his/her needs were provided for.

### **Why should I enroll my pet in the Pet Survivor Program? Can't I just have a friend or relative take care of my pets if necessary?**

Although designating a friend or relative to care for your pet is an option, Pet Survivor 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 animal, he/she may not know what to look for in a permanent home. Your animal could end up at risk or in a shelter if that home falls through. Hopalong has signed paperwork with all adopters and will take your animal back for the life of your pet if something happens to the new guardian.

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

We can act as a back-up but animals need to be signed up for the program and we need to be aware of the circumstances. It complicates the situation and can leave your animal in limbo while the executor figures out if the other person can take the animal. In some cases, an animal could end up in the shelter while this is being figured out.

### **What if I want to leave an addition gift to Hopalong?**

We welcome planned gifts as these legacies help animals for years to come. There are many ways that this can be done and we will be happy to talk to you about what works best for you.

### **What makes the Hopalong program so special?**

While most programs don't offer to pick up the animal, we can come to your home and pick up your animal. 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. Hopalong is a well-established organization with a proven track record. We specialize in matching pets with quality permanent homes. We can provide a comfortable place for your pet, loving attention, and excellent veterinary care. Also, by enrolling in the Pet Survivor Program, you can leave a legacy that will aid us in our ongoing mission to help all animals in need.