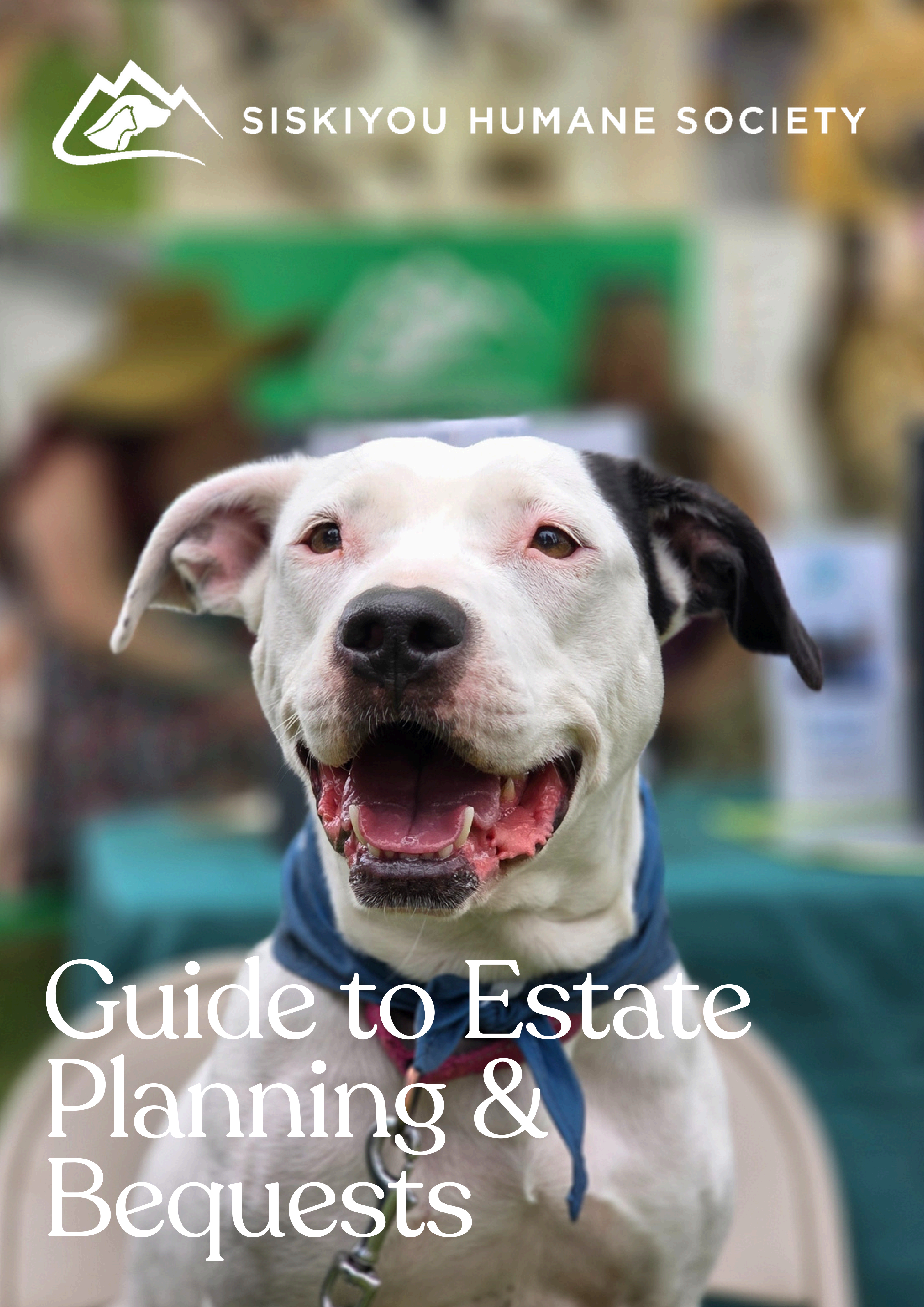


SISKIYOU HUMANE SOCIETY

Guide to Estate Planning & Bequests

Creating Your Estate Plan

Your estate plan is not just a practical tool for distributing your assets; it’s also an important part of leaving your legacy. Guidance from professional advisors can help ensure that it includes the right provisions and protections for you and your beneficiaries while managing and minimizing tax impacts. The Siskiyou Humane Society offers many options for fulfilling any charitable plans through your estate.

This guide is designed to help you learn more about the process and share tips, tools, and resources to make a plan that gives you peace of mind.

Let’s get started.

Planning Checklist

- ✓ Make an inventory of your assets
- ✓ Work with professional advisors
- ✓ Create a trust or will
- ✓ Decide your beneficiaries
- ✓ Establish your directives
- ✓ Reassess periodically

Tip: Learn more about tyoes of bequests, charitable funds, and gift options on pages 7-10.

Make an Inventory

Start by making a list of all your tangible and intangible assets.

Tangible Assets May Include:	**Intangible Assets May Include:**
Homes, land, or other rel estate inlcuding water or mineral rights, orchards and timber	Checking and savings accounts and certificates of deposit
Vehicles and vessels, including cars, trucks, RVs, mobile homes, motorcycle, or boats	Stocks, bonds, and mutual funds
Collectibles such as coins, art, antiques, or trading cards	Life insurance and other policies
Jewelry, heirlooms, musical instruments, and other personal possessions	Retirement plans and other tax deferred assets
Firearms, tools and equipment, sporting goods, personal computer equipment	Health savings plans and 529 accounts
Livestock	Ownership in a business, such as,a sole proprietorship, corporation, or LLC; intellectual propert

Tip: You'll also want to list any debt or loans, including mortgages and lines of credit. Keepig a list will make it easier for youur representative to notify creditors in the event of your death.

Work with Professional Advisors

Expertise

An estate attorney, financial advisor, and tax professional play significant roles in helping you create an estate plan that truly reflects your resources, goals, values, and legacy. Professional advisors can also help you identify risks, prioritize action items, and minimize estate, inheritance, and gift taxes, as well as avoid a conservatorship and probate.

Complexities & Special Circumstances

If you have business interests, children with special needs, chronic health concerns or nonfamilial benficiaries, an estate attorney can help you navigate the sometimes complicated implications.

Handling Personal Property

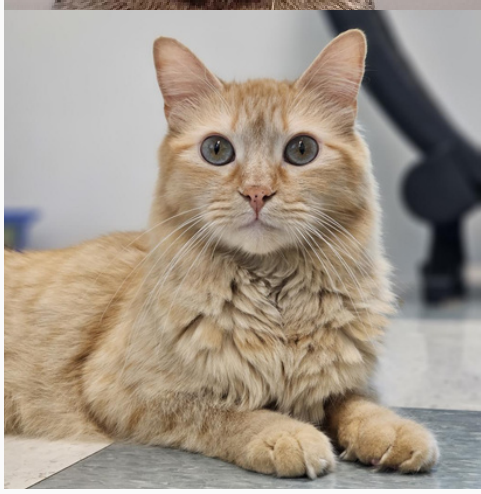
While your will or trust is designed to transfer your assets to your beneficiaries, many states permit you to create and maintain a list of beneficiaries foryour personal items. Check with your attorney on the best way to accomplish this.

Personal iems include jewelry, furniture, household items, collections, heirlooms, etc. If you keep a safe deposit box, be sure to note how to access it. If some items are very valuabel (especially art and other collections,) it is important to discuss transfer with your professional advisor.

Tip: if you already have an estate plan, it is easy to make a change or two (such as adding a charitabel beneficiary) by having your attorney prepare an amendment, called a codicil.

Create a Trust or Will

Without a trust or will in place, state laws will determine the beneficiaries of your estate



Determine your bequests

A bequest is a gift to another person, charity, or institution according to the terms of your will, trust, or beneficiary designation. Learn about the five typesof bequests on page seven.

Establish a revocable living trust

Transfer your assets into the trut to be managed by you or your selected trustee. If you become incapacitated, your selected trustee can manage your assets on your behalf. Upon death, the trust assets transfer to your designated beneficiaries, bypassing probate.

Create a will

As an alternative to a revocable living trust, you can draft a will. Work with an attorney to determine whether a will is the best option for you, as wills usually require probate.

Consider life insurance

Life insurance is especially important for those who have dependent children or other dependnets you wish to provide for.

Name a guardian for your dependent(s)

...and a backup guardian, just in case. And don't forget to determine who will care for your pets, too.

Tip: You can benefit SHS directly with a charitable bequest, or name us amongst all your favorite charities and causes within a charitable bequest. We will work with you to fulfill your wishes. Contact us to learn more.

Decide Your Beneficiaries

Assets can be transformed by will, trust, beneficiary designation, or other form. Your professional advisors can help determine the best options for your situation. For example, IRAs require you to complete a beneficiary form; check with your account custodian, or financial advisor, to be sure you've completed the correct forms.

Retirement & Insurance Accounts

Retirement plans and insurance products usually have beneficiary designations that you fill out and update as needed,

Contingent Beneficiaries

Backup beneficiaries are critical if your primary beneficiary passes away before you. Charities are often named as contingent beneficiaries.

"Stretching" inherited IRA payments beyond the 10-year rule

IRA riles require most non-spousal beneficiaries to withdraw all funds from an inherited IRA within 10 yeas of the original owner's death. If your beneficiary falls under this 10-year rule, consider setting up a testamentary Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) funded by your IRV. The IRA will be transferred to your CRT upon your death which then invests the assets and makes payments to your designated beenficiary for a lifetime, thus "streatching" the IRA income (and the related taxes) beyond the 10-year rule. Upon the death of your designated beneficiary, the remainder benefits the cause(s) of your choice. Contact us to learn more about CRTs and other options for your IRA.

Tip: Make sure primary and contingent beneficiaries are up-to-date, especially if you established them long ago.

Establish Your Directives

A comprehensive estate plan includes important legal directives.

1 A medical care directive

Designate an agent to make medical decisions on your behalf if you are unable to do so. Provide your agent with directions regarding your wishes for medical care if you become unable to make those decisions yourself. You can also name a medical power of attorney. These two documents are sometimes combined into one, known as an advance health care directive.

2 A durable power of attorney

Name a designee authorized to act on your behalf in legal and financial situations if you are no longer able. This includes payign your bills and taxes, as well as acessing and maanging your assets for your ebnefit. You can also choose to limit those powers to specify assets, known as a limited power of attorney.

Tip: Consider nominating an alternate agent for medical and legal representation in case your primary choice is unavailable when needed. you could also utilize a professional local fiduciary.

Reassess Periodically

Review your estate plann every three to five years

Circumstances change

When life changes, consult with your estate planning attorney regarding whether you need to update your plan. This may include a marriage or divorce, the birth of a child or grandchild, the loss of a loved one, or changes to your assets.

Laws change

Even if your circumstances don't change, laws may hvae; check with your professional advisors on any changes that may have implications for your estate or your beenficiaries.

Tip: One less hassle? Yes, please! SHS offers a flexible, free process for updating your charitable instructions without having to amend your will or trsut. Contact us to learn more.

Types of Bequests

A bequest is a gift to another person, charity, or institution as written in your estate plan. there are five types of bequests:

General bequests

Designate a specific amount or percentage of assets from the estate's pool of assets rather than from one specific account. For example, it might say something like, "I bequeath $20,000 to each of my tow grandchildren, John Doe and Jane Doe."

Demonstrative bequests

Gift a specific amount or percentage of assets from a specified account, (rather than the estate's pool of assets.) For example, "I bequeath 100 shares of ABC stock to my brother, Abraham Lincoln."

Specific bequests

Are generally for specific property items; for example, "I gift my home at 789 Wonder Ave to my daughter, Jessie Sweet."

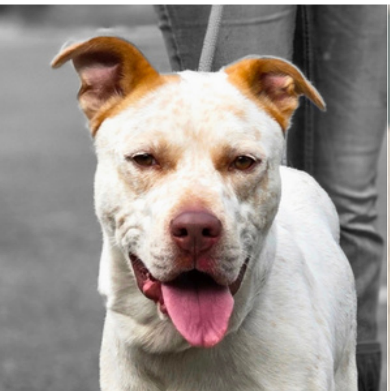
Contingency bequests

Give assets to a beneficiary only if specific conditions are met. For example, "I bequeath $50,000 from my estate to my son, William Turner, on the condition that he graduates from an accredited college or trade school by age 30."

Residuary bequests

Are typically whatever is left in the estate after all other bequests. debts, and expenses are paid. For example, a will might say, "I bequeath the remainder of my estate to my Donor Advised Fund at SHS." In this case, the fund would receive whatever assests are left in the estate.

Tip: Considering a bequest to charity or a fund at SHS? We can help you draft charitable bequest language along with customized instructions to ensure your intentions are carefully fulfilled. Contact our team to learn more.




Charitable Gift Options

Gift options can be customized to fulfill your charitable goals

Charitable Gift Annuity	A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is a simple contract between you and SHS, whereby you transfer cash or stock to SHS in exchange for guaranteed llifetime payments. Donors age 65 and above find CGAs are a tax-savvy way to diversify their retirement income, especially since a portion of the payments may be tax-free. For a married couple, the fixed payments will last until both spouses have passed away. the remainder then benefits the fund of your choice. CGAs can also be set up as a testamentary gift to benefit a loved one through your estate.
Charitable Remainder Trust	A Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) is a qualified trsut that pays you or your designated beenficiary based on the assets donated to the trust, which can range from cash, stock, real estate, business interests and more. Donors choose the payout rate, payout ter, beneficiary/ies, and the charitabel cause or fund to receive the remainder at the end of the term. A CRT may be right for you if you need to reduce capital gains tax, receive income, and create a substantial income tax deduction. CRTs can also be set up as a testamentary gift to ebnefit a loved one through your estate.
Donor Advised Fund	A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is a simple and efficent way to support the causes you care about. You can establish a DAF during your lifetime or through your estate. The fund makes grant distributions according to your recommendations (or testamentary instructions.) You can also appoint a successor advisor to the fund.

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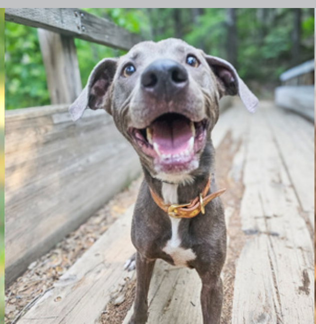
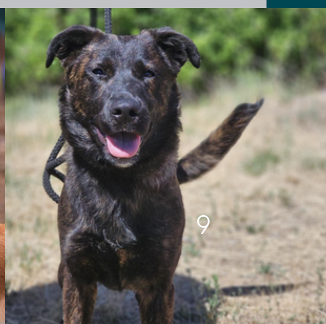
Types of Giftable Assets

SHS accepts a wide variety of assets to maximize tax benefits and create the best gift structure for donors. Learn more at siskiyouhumane.org/support or contact us to discuss customized gift models.

Cash	**Real Estate**	**Life Insurance**
Stocks & Mutual Funds	**Ranch/ Farmland**	**Tangible personal property**
IRAs & other retirement assests	**Closely held securities & business interests**	**Mineral, timber, distribution rights**

The Siskiyou Humane Society exists to improve the lives of companion animals by sheltering, rehabilitating, reducing pet overpopulation and finding permanent homes. We promote responsible pet ownership, kindness to animals and enhancement of human-animal relationships through education and outreach.

This guide is meant to provide information and should not be consdiered legal, tax, or financial advice.

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