



General Meeting Agenda
May 10, 2023

Time: 7 pm

Location: Zoom

WELCOME: Jenny Ford called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and welcome all members to the May general meeting and introduced the guest speaker Charlotte Mitchell.

Speaker:

Estate Planning – Charlotte Mitchell

- Charlotte provided information on the options for taking care of pets if something happens to you and you are unable to speak or have passed away to ensure your pets are taken care of. Information she shared will be added to the end of the notes.

REPORTS:

Secretary – Jenny Ford stated that the minutes from the April 21st meeting are posted on the website.

Michele Panetta made a motion to approve the minutes from April

Second was made by Pat Kopco

All approved

Treasurer – No Treasurer report, if you have questions, please contact Robin Bowen and she can share details of the finances.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Vote in new members (Christine)

- New members voted in were John & Ashley Tegg, Mike & Shawn Bond, Samantha Hajas / Taylor Desmond, and Terri Andrews

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Field Training Day 5/21 (Kristin/Brian)

- There will be a photographer there on Sunday to take photos

NEW BUSINESS:

July Specialty – (Michele Panetta)

- Premium for the July specialty should be posted in the new week, entry is limited to 100.
- Trophy sponsors are needed for the Specialty

Braggs need information sent in for Newsletter e-mail will be sent out and all items are needed by 6/1/2023.

Braggs from club members – Congratulations to all!

- Julie Wangelin and Ditto went to Pinehurst and were Select Dog on Sunday and then Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed at Westminster Kennel Club on Tuesday
- Jenny Ford and Gunnar went Best of Breed and Best of Breed Owner Handled in Franklin, TN and then went on to Regular Sporting Group 4
- Karen Angel and Cody qualified for GRCA Preferred Agility Hall of Fame
- Michele Panetta Rosie, Tucker and Gator got international titles, Rosie and Tucker got heart clearances.

Michele Panetta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46.

Next board meeting is June 4th at 6:00 pm on Zoom

Next General Meeting is June 14th at 7:00 pm on Zoom

Information from Charlotte Mitchell

GOING TO THE DOGS

We love our dogs, cats, horses, and all the animals that enrich our lives. We want the best for them, and agonize over food, supplements, vet recommendations for treatment and care, training, where they sleep and whether they are happy and healthy. We know, and hard as it is to accept, that we will probably outlive them, yet we wouldn't trade the joy they bring, and the way they enrich our lives for the pain of losing them.

But what happens if we can't take care of them? An accident, unexpected illness, or death may mean we're not there for them. So it's best to think ahead and consider the what-ifs.

BASIC PLANNING

WILL: If directing what happens to your property (investments, house, stuff, checking accounts, savings) is important for you, then a will is a good idea. It allows you to name the person or persons (or a professional such as a bank) who will take care of the distribution of your stuff upon your death. A will also gives you the ability to decide who gets what. Perhaps your children have different needs (one is very well off, the other is not, a trust is a better option for a third, one is disabled). Perhaps you want your property to go to your children, grandchildren, friends. Or you might want to add a charitable bequest. A will makes it possible for you to accomplish your goals, and provide for those you want to benefit.

DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY: You can name someone else, or more than one individual, to act in your place if you're incapacitated. Perhaps you've broken your right wrist, and you're right handed. You're in the hospital. You've had an accident, and can't get home immediately. Having a power of attorney in place means the person you name can manage your finances, pay your bills, do anything you can do.

HEALTH CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY: This document allows someone else to make decisions about your health care, if you can't communicate them (you're unconscious, you've had a stroke and can't speak, you're playing in traffic). The HPOA sets out guidelines for your care, and you can specify what you do and do not want to happen.

PLANNING FOR YOUR PETS

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE NOT ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR FURRIES: Imagine you're traveling,

on vacation, for business, or family needs. Maybe you're in the hospital, or must be in rehab after an operation, you're stranded and can't get home, or something prevents you from being able to arrange for your furries. It's a good idea to:

- Find at least two responsible individuals who can be there for your pets if you can't.
- Give someone(s) a key to your house, instructions for care and feeding, the name of your vet, and write out your arrangements for temporary or permanent care of your dogs, if you're not there.
- Carry a wallet card that lists the names and phone numbers of your emergency caregivers and your vet(s).
- Keep copies of rabies certificates, microchip numbers, and the name(s) of your veterinarian with you when you travel.
- Make up a fact sheet that lists the names of your pets, some way of identifying each one, ages, diet, medication, special quirks, likes and dislikes, anything that's important to you and to your pets.
- If you co-own one or more of your pets, make sure that you and your co-owner agree on arrangements for your pets if you can't provide for them.

PLAN FOR WHAT-IFS

Make arrangements for the care of your pets if you're seriously ill or die. You may want to include language in your will designating a friend or friends (backup is always a good idea) who will provide loving care for your pets if you can no longer do so.

- Think of friends, relatives, partners who have met your dogs, and whom you think would give them the care that you would, if you were still able. The new owners will have the same rights, and face the same issues that you do on a regular basis—food, veterinary care, living arrangements, euthanasia.
- Be sure the person or persons you choose are willing and able to take on the responsibility of additional pets. Also be sure that the person(s) you choose would make the same decisions you would.
- After you've identified the right caregivers, let them know what you think is important for your pets. Is it exercise? Training, and if so, for what activity? Walks? Sleeping on the couch? Food? Chasing a frisbee or a ball?

Information for the Caregiver: Identify any specific behavior or habits for your pets.

- Are your pets primarily an indoor or outdoor pets?
- What brand of food, and what likes and dislikes, work best for your pets?

- What are the usual feeding times, how many meals per day, amount of food for each meal?
- Any special medications, supplements, or other dietary needs?
- Any quirks, hot buttons, situations or routines that especially upset or delight?
- What's the daily routine, including sleeping spots, eating, baths, grooming, walks or exercise, interaction with other animals, special play, training
- Special likes and dislikes—ultimate rewards (ball, steak, frisbee?), afraid of thunder or fireworks, doesn't get along well with other dogs, loves cats and kids
- Training for a sport or particular activity?

Provide a fund for the care, transportation, and other needs. You may want to name a specific sum for each pet, or a lump sum for any pets you own. It's best not to list your pets by name, as presumably you will outlive your current furies. Instead, you (or your attorney) can use language such as "any pets I own at my death" or similar phrasing. Pets can't own property or inherit. Any funds you set aside for your pets will go to the person(s) you name, so be sure the person(s) will spend the funds in the same way, and for the same reasons, you would.

Talk with your attorney about the different ways you can legally provide for your pets, if you aren't able to. You can provide for your pets in your will, but you should be aware that a will takes effect only upon your death. Depending upon your state of residence at the time of your death, a will may not be probated or formally recognized by a court quickly. Until the will is recognized, there is no one (person or institution) with authority to act in your place. So your pets could be in limbo.

A trust for your pets might be an alternative to a will. In addition to a will, your attorney may recommend a trust for your pet. The trust can provide for your pet immediately and can be effective not only upon your death, but if you're incapacitated (mentally or physically). To fund the trust, you could set aside money for your pet's care, and name a trustee (with a backup) to control the funds. The trustee and the person(s) you name as caregivers don't necessarily have to be the same. If you and your attorney decide that a trust is the best approach for your situation, be sure that the trustee and the caregiver(s) will work together for the well-being of your pets.

- A trust can be expensive to administer and maintain, depending upon the amount of funding. There may be tax filings, statements, investment management, needed. You should outline in your trust provisions how the money should be spent.
- Do you want the caregiver to spend money only for food? Veterinary care? Should the caregiver be able to spend trust dollars on training classes? Entry fees? The caregiver's expenses if traveling with the pets? And what's a reasonable expense? Using the funds set aside for your pets to pay for luxury hotels, fine dining, buying a motorhome to travel in style? Or should the caregiver's discretion be unlimited?
- Should you consider an organization that will receive your pets, and offer them for adoption? Perhaps breed rescue, or a sanctuary?
- If after all of your pets no longer need the funds in the trust (they've died, been adopted, or placed in homes that can provide for their care), and there is still money left in the trust, what happens to the money? Does it go to an individual? An organization?

Caveat: You and your attorney should be sure a trust for your pets is valid and enforceable in

your state.

Be sure your durable power of attorney includes language for pet care. If you're unable to care for your pets, a durable power of attorney names someone else who can act in your place, and do everything you can do. If needed, your attorney-in-fact (the person or persons you name) can buy and sell your assets, make commitments on your behalf, and do everything you could do if you were able. So the person or persons you name should be individuals you trust implicitly. Including language for the care of your pets in your power of attorney means a vet can care for your pet, up to and including euthanasia, without any obstacles or delays.

Registration: If your caregiver wants to enter your pets in a show, test, trial, or transfer your pet to someone else, there may be forms and supporting documentation required by the AKC or UKC. To transfer ownership of a dog registered with the AKC, you will need the registration certificate. The AKC website includes a link to "Transfers Frequently Asked Questions" that includes information about transferring ownership in a variety of situations.

It's important to note that if you co-own a dog with someone else (or more than one someone) and a co-owner dies, to change the registration the AKC requires a copy of the court document naming an executor or administrator for the estate. Based on the AKC website, it doesn't appear as though a simple death certificate is acceptable. If there is no executor, then the next of kin may transfer registration.

To transfer registration for a dog registered with the UKC, you may need to contact the UKC registration department.

CMM 5/11/23