

## Leashes End Senior Pet Sanctuary & Rescue Perpetuity Care

### **Our Mission, Our Sanctuary, Our Home:**

Our mission is simple. We provide a retirement home for senior pets. Prior to coming to us, our seniors found themselves suddenly homeless or on the cusp of losing their homes & families. They had either already been surrendered to a public shelter, abandoned as strays, or re-homed directly to us. Sadly, because of their age and associated ailments, most people will not take in senior pets, even if they had belonged to a friend or relative. That's where Leashes End comes in ...

Leashes End operates out of a spacious, private home that sits on nearly three park-like acres of fenced-in land in the Avery Village subdivision of Rockville, MD. If our house looks like a home, it's because it is. We do not use crates. We do not use cages. Our senior cats and dogs are family and we treat them as such. They sleep with us in our beds at night. They lounge on dog beds, cat trees, and laps during the day. They roam freely about our property, roll around in the grass, and bask in the sunshine. They enjoy delicious meals prepared especially for them. They are groomed regularly in our in-house grooming salon. And they receive gold-standard veterinary care, to include from various board-certified specialists.

Leashes End relies on a combination of public donations, private gifts, and grants to operate. We pride ourselves on being excellent stewards of donated resources. Because Leashes End is staffed entirely by volunteers and because we perform most administrative functions in house, we maintain a very low overhead and are able to apply 100% of our donations to the direct care and feeding of our pets.

Leashes End is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, EIN 81-5295214, registered in the State of Maryland. Our full financial reports are available upon request and you can view our profile on GuideStar.

### **Perpetuity Care:**

Life can be unpredictable. None of us knows how long we have. None of us knows whether we may be incapacitated or unable to care for ourselves or our loved ones. One thing we do know is that we all want what's best for our pets. What will happen to *your* pets if something unexpected happens to you?

According to the ASPCA, two to three percent of all pets end up at shelters due to the death or disability of their owners. While shelters do all they can to care for these pets, the situation can be quite disorienting and traumatic for the animals involved, particularly if they're seniors. Making matters worse, some shelters routinely euthanize senior pets shortly after intake. The sad truth is that most adopters will not take these senior pets.



16-year-old Dori



14-year-old Molly

Having a perpetuity care plan for your pets can significantly improve their quality of life if and when you are no longer able to care for them. Please take the time to make arrangements for your pets. It is so critically important for their wellbeing, yet frequently overlooked.

Leashes End recommends that you first try to find a close friend or family member to care for your pet if you are unable to do so. Make sure they understand what you're asking of them and that they agree to care for your pet. Name them as your pet's caregiver in your estate planning. And provide them with the financial resources, veterinary records, and instructions

necessary for your pet's care.

If a friend or family member just isn't able or available to carry out this most important promise to your pet, there are other options. Leashes End is one of them. We have adopted the following policy for those who wish to entrust the care of their senior or special needs pets to us.

### **Perpetuity Care Policy:**

1. **Ability to Accommodate.** Leashes End is faced with an inexhaustible number of requests to take in senior cats and dogs in need. We are simply unable to take them all. Whether we have the space and resources to take in a new pet depends on timing more than anything else. Because we do not adopt our pets out, and because many of them live into their late teens and even early twenties, we do not always have vacancies.
2. **Prioritization.** When we do have accommodations for a new pet, we employ the following prioritization strategy for acceptance.
  - a. **First Priority:** Our longtime donors and supporters. We will prioritize taking care of your pet, just as you have helped us care for so many others. To learn how to become a Leashes End supporter or donor, please visit our website ([https://leashesend.org/how\\_to\\_help/](https://leashesend.org/how_to_help/)) or contact us directly.
  - b. **Second Priority:** Our rescue partners. Leashes End is partnered with a number of local rescues and shelters to include House with a Heart in Gaithersburg, Montgomery County Animal Services, Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, and others. When our partners need to place an especially senior or special needs pet in our care, we make every effort to take them in.
  - c. **Third Priority:** All others. To those with whom we have not yet had the opportunity of building a relationship, Leashes End will make every effort to find a place for your senior pet. If, we are unable to accommodate your pet here, we will assist you in any way we can to find another suitable rescue, sanctuary, or home for your pet.
3. **Pet Suitability.** For the benefit of all pets taken into Leashes End, it is important to adhere to a few essential guidelines:

- a. Leashes End only accepts cats and small dogs (under 25 pounds) who are spayed/neutered and senior or special needs.
- b. Pets must also be of appropriate temperament (non-aggressive) for living in a group environment with other cats and dogs.
- c. Pets must be current on all required vaccinations, and every effort should be made to provide us with the pet's veterinary records.

*The Leashes End Board of Directors must explicitly approve any exceptions to these guidelines.*

4. Pets' Future. Leashes End does not adopt pets out as a general rule. Once they come through our doors, we intend for all our pets to stay here forever. On rare occasion, however, a pet arrives at Leashes End who is not suitable for living in a group home such as ours. When these occasions arise, we reserve the right to seek a suitable adoptive home for your pet or place him or her with another sanctuary or rescue. Rest assured, we will spare no effort to find the best possible home for your pet, and make every attempt to minimize any stress or anxiety your pet may experience during the transition.
5. Donation Commitment. Costs to shelter, feed, groom, and provide veterinary care for the animals in our care are substantial. Moreover, our pets typically spend years with us! Therefore, it is necessary for us to request that the following charitable donation accompany your pet(s).
  - a. Dogs and cats 15 years of age or older - \$5,000 per pet
  - b. Dogs and cats under 15 years of age - \$6,000 per pet
  - c. Dogs and cats with extensive veterinary needs - \$7,000 per pet

*These amounts are current as of 2022 and will be re-evaluated & adjusted as necessary at least every two years.*

These donation amounts represent the absolute minimum required to support your pet, plus a \$1,000 contribution to care for other less fortunate cats and dogs in our care. In our experience, we will likely spend far more than this amount on your pet over the course of his or her lifetime. Therefore, we encourage you to donate more than the bare minimum if your financial circumstances permit. Our ability to help senior pets in need is frequently constrained only by our limited resources. Your additional support will alleviate that constraint. Conversely, if you are unable to donate the amounts indicated above, please contact us to discuss possible alternatives.



20-year-old Holly

6. Surrender Questionnaire. We ask that each pet be accompanied by a completed Pet Surrender Questionnaire and Authorization form. This form provides Leashes End with important information about your pet's medical history, lifestyle, preferences, and behavioral characteristics that will help us best care for your pet. Please also provide us with your

current (and any past) veterinarian contact info and veterinary records, in case we have additional questions.

7. Transportation. You are responsible for arranging the safe and comfortable transportation of your pet to Leashes End. If you are not local, please coordinate this transfer closely with Leashes End's **staff/team**, as there is no room for error when it comes to moving such precious cargo, especially in the heat of summer or the cold of winter.
8. More Information. If you would like additional information about Leashes End, about making a donation, or to set up a tour of our sanctuary, please contact us:

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**5622 Lake Christopher Drive, Rockville, MD 20855**

**Tel: (202) 596-6289**

**Email: [info@leashesend.org](mailto:info@leashesend.org)**

**[www.leashesend.org](http://www.leashesend.org)**



16-year-old Chancellor