The Good Mews Animal Foundation
3805 Robinson Road
Marietta, GA 30068

GUIDELINES ON BEQUEATHING PETS
AS AT July 15, 2026

Many volunteers and supporters of Good Mews Animal Foundation who choose to make charitable and legacy contributions by Bequest or Trust to the organization also ask about the possibility of entrusting their pet(s) to the care of Good Mews after their death or incapacitation.

While Good Mews' first recommendation is to identify a trusted and willing family member or friend to care for your pet after death, we recognize that this is not always a possibility. Therefore, the Board and management of Good Mews have adopted the following guidelines to help cat owners as they prepare their wills or trusts and consider charitable and legacy giving to Good Mews.

INTRODUCTION

From the time Good Mews Animal Foundation opened its doors in 1988, the quality of care received by the cats under our care has been paramount and unrivaled. Gloria Skeen Cornell, our founder, always had a keen interest in the welfare of the cats in our care, and the joy they bring to their human families. Good Mews has always had the philosophy that no cat is ever euthanized for space or time. Whether in a loving adoptive home, our No Kill/Cage Free Shelter, or in a Good Mews volunteer foster home, our cats are Good Mews cats for life.

The Mission and philosophy of Good Mews reflect the belief that perpetual sheltering is not a suitable fate for a cat that has been living in a home. Pets are accepted by Good Mews with the understanding that every effort will be made to place the cat into a loving new home as quickly as possible. Good Mews' model adoption program is known for its commitment to do everything possible to match a pet's personality, social, and health needs, and their activity requirements, with an adoptive family's lifestyle, needs, and space. In some cases, where appropriate for the cat's welfare and the wishes of their "parents" we will work to develop a unique "bespoke" arrangement. However it is Good Mew's firm belief, based on over 35 years of careful experience that the best option, a vast percentage of the time, is to place the cat(s) into a loving, kind, caring, and appropriate adoptive home!

POLICY:

Because Good Mews is continually faced with an inexhaustible supply of abandoned and orphaned animals needing new homes through its adoption program, owners wishing to surrender their felines may have wait up to a few months before space in our Shelter is available. In recognition of donors who make charitable bequests or provide irrevocable trusts to the Foundation, we will make every effort to take in the cat(s) as quickly as possible after you pass or place the cats in a foster home immediately. **PLEASE NOTE**: Generally, there is a maximum of six (6) cats per family we are able to take in. Exceptions to this maximum require further discussion and the approval of an Officer of the corporation

For the benefit of all cats taken into the adoption program it is important that charitable bequest donors who wish to leave their pets to Good Mews follow a few essential guidelines:

1) Good Mews is a feline-only facility. If you have a dog, bird, or other pet that also needs placement, Good Mews will not be able to assist those other animals.

2) Please be sure your cat(s) is/are current on all of its required vaccinations and you have their veterinary records kept with your other important papers.

3) Good Mews provides physical examinations, vaccinations, and neutering/spaying for Its adoptable cats, but to keep costs down for both the shelter, and the adoptive family, you are urged to take care of these requirements before it is time for your cat(s) to come to Good Mews.

4) For more expedient adoptions, it is recommended that you provide as much detail as possible on the cat(s) surrender questionnaire and update that form as needed.

It is Good Mews' belief that cats belong in a loving home and not in a shelter. Therefore, all animals bequeathed to the Foundation will be put up for adoption unless Good Mews makes a specific provision otherwise. The adoption program at Good Mews goes the extra distance to match a pet's temperament and requirements with an adoptive family's lifestyle. We also endeavor to place "bonded pairs together. Cats who are taken from their homes after the death of their human family may suffer from stress and anxiety. Good Mews staff and volunteers make every effort to alleviate these problems through personal attention, including programs such as Kitty Buddy and residence with a loving Good Mews Foster Family.

In every instance, Good Mews will consider what is best for the cat. For this reason, Good Mews will care for cats as long as they are physically healthy or until they are adopted. However, if the cat develops a medical condition which makes it impossible for the cat to be kept comfortable with an acceptable quality of life, then euthanasia may be necessary as a last resort. The decision to euthanize will be made by the veterinarian and medical staff at Good Mews only after every possible solution to the ailment has been explored. This does not happen often at Good Mews—in an average year we adopt over 600 cats into permanent, loving homes with a return rate of well under-five (5) percent. However our promise is,we are once a Good Mews cat… Always a Good Mews cat!

BEQUEST COMMITMENT:

As a non-profit organization, totally reliant on private donations. Good Mews Animal Foundation must continually seek donations to fund its current humane programs. Costs to shelter, feed, groom, and provide medical care for the orphaned animals in our care are substantial. Therefore, it is necessary that charitable bequest/trust donors, wishing to engage with Good Mews in our Cat Guardianship Program, make a **minimum** of a $7,500 provision PER CAT. This provision can be made through cash donation, irrevocable bequest or trust, insurance policy, land, securities, etc. If you have questions or would like additional information on charitable legacy giving by Bequest, please contact Good Mews Animal Foundation at 770-209-2838 or mdowis@goodmews.org. We of course encourage those who can afford, and wish to donate a greater amount in the Bequest, and to become current donors to do so but those choices are purely up to each individual participating.

PROCEDURE:

If you wish to bequeath your cat(s) to Good Mews please complete the following steps to ensure your pet's transition into their new situation.

1) Ask your attorney or financial advisor to state specifically in your will that you wish to entrust your cat(s) to Good Mews Animal Foundation. PLEASE NOTE: Good Mews will make every attempt to find a permanent, loving home for your pet through our adoption program. In the meantime, your pet will have a loving home for as long as needed with us. Good Mews will not accept cats with a stipulation they are not to be adopted except in very rare instances.

2) Have your attorney or financial adviser incorporate into your will the following suggested language for making a charitable contribution to the center:

I give to Good Mews Animal Foundation, a non-profit, Georgia corporation, EIN #: 58-1790828 currently located at 3805 Robinson Road, Marietta, GA the sum of $_____ dollars (or, if insurance policies, land, or other property, please describe). This gift is unrestricted, and will be designated at the discretion of the Good Mews Board of Directors.

3) Inform the executor of your estate, family members, and/or friends that you wish to have your pet transferred to Good Mews so that the transfer of your pet can be accomplished as soon as possible.

4) Complete the Surrender Questionnaire form (one form for each cat you wish to place with Good Mews). Place a copy of this form with your Will. Update this form as necessary with your will and with your file at Good Mews. **All Cat Guardianship Forms are available on the God Mews website at; www.goodmews.org.**

5) Provide Good Mews with a signed copy of this agreement, that portion of your Will or Trust document related to the Guardianship, and the Surrender Questionnaire (Good Mews Animal Foundation, 3805 Robinson Road, Marietta, GA 30068, Attn: Bequest). If you wish to replace an animal on file with us, please complete a new copy of the

Surrender Questionnaire form and send it to us, along with instructions on which pet you would like to replace in your Will.

6) Good Mews will send a Confirmation of Bequest form upon receiving your written request. Keep a copy of the Confirmation of Bequest form with your Will.

All required forms are available on the Good Mews Animal Foundation website at www.goodmews.org or please contact Mark Dowis, Good Mew's Director of Development at mdowis@goodmews.org should you have any questions.

THANK YOU for trusting Good Mews, Atlanta's original and premier No Kill/Cage Free cat shelter in continuous operation since 1988, as a guardian of your feline loved one(s). Our Mission is simple to put good cats in good homes and save as many cat lives as possible!