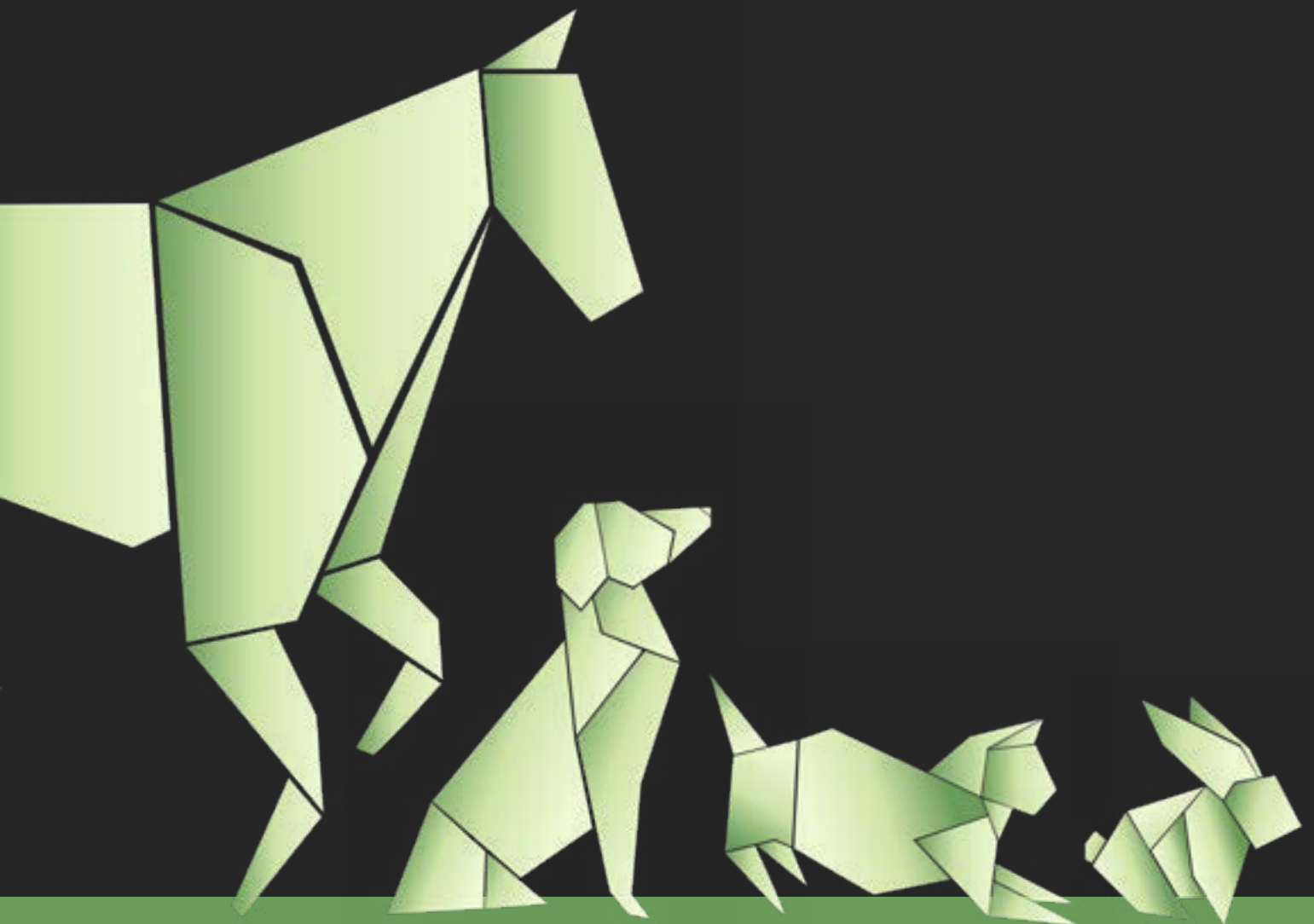


pet care directive





CONTENTS



SECTION 1: Personal Details.....	3
SECTION 2: Medical.....	4
SECTION 3: Training.....	4
SECTION 4: Feeding.....	5
SECTION 5: Exercise and Play.....	6
SECTION 6: Personality Details.....	6

PET CARE DIRECTIVE

SECTION 1 : PERSONAL DETAILS

Please complete a Pet Care Directive for each of your pets. Please keep a copy with your Advance Care Directive and Will. Please share with your preferred vet and kennel/cattery/ agistment/ temporary pet guardian.

My name is:

The name of my pet is:

Date of birth for my pet is:
(if not known state approximate age of pet)

The breed of my pet is:

The sex of my pet is:

Microchip number:

Council where registered:

Preferred vet:

Pet insurance provider:

Pet insurance policy number:

Contact person and number in South Australia when I cannot be contacted:

Name:

Number:

Name:

Number:

Have you checked with the person named above that they are willing to accept the responsibility of being a pet guardian: YES NO

SECTION 2 : MEDICAL

Date of last Vaccination:

Vaccination certificate attached: YES NO

The usual weight of my pet is:

Please state the medications your pet is currently taking:

Please state any known allergies your pet has:

Please name the brand of flea / wormer your pet usually takes and how often it is administered (for example: 'NextGuard, first of every calendar month' or 'not applicable'):

Brand: Monthly Quarterly

Brand: Monthly Quarterly

Past medical history:
(for example: prone to ear infections /has had three litters in four years /prolonged starvation by previous owner)

I agree the following (please tick what you agree to and cross out what you do not agree to:)

AGREE DISAGREE

If my preferred vet cannot be contacted or it is an after-hours emergency, please obtain veterinary assistance as appropriate.

If my pet displays any signs of discomfort, I would prefer vet assistance to be sought at the first opportunity including emergency vet treatment.

In the unlikely event my pet requires an operation or blood transfusion this is authorised up to the value of \$.....

My pet is to be offered all veterinary treatments available on the proviso the treatment will not prolong suffering either mental or physical where the diagnosis is hopeless

- In the unlikely event my pet has no chance of survival my pet is to be euthanized.
- I would prefer to be with my pet when they pass but understand this may not be possible.
- If my pet can be made comfortable for the time it takes for me to come home and be with them at their passing, please do so. If not let my pets pass quickly and without pain.
- My pet's remains are to be collected and cremated by (for example Paws to Reflect 08 8552 6356):.....
- In the event I pass away or I am no longer capable of caring for my pet and cannot communicate my wishes, if my pet guardian cannot care for my pet in the long term my pet is to be rehomed by (for example RSPCA or AWL):

Other instructions in the event of a pet medical emergency or my non return at the agreed time.

SECTION 3 : TRAINING

Preferred trainer and/or preferred method of training (for example: Force Free by Luke Tucker)

What training if any has your pet completed:

SECTION 4 : FEEDING

Meals – Please tick:

<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast What time?	<input type="checkbox"/> : <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mid-morning snack What time?	<input type="checkbox"/> : <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lunch What time?	<input type="checkbox"/> : <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon snack What time?	<input type="checkbox"/> : <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Dinner What time?	<input type="checkbox"/> : <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Supper What time?	<input type="checkbox"/> : <input type="checkbox"/>

Usual brand of food:

Known food allergies:

Food my pet dislikes:

Food used as a treat (for example: Cheese/ Chicken/ Fritz/ Steak):

SECTION 5 : EXERCISE, PLAY & SLEEP

Exercise requirements:

Preferred toys:

Where does your pet usually sleep:

(For example: outside on the veranda/ inside in the laundry / beside me on my bed)

Preferred bedding:

SECTION 6 : PERSONALITY

How does your pet react to strangers:

How does your pet react to other animals:

How does your pet react to children:

Is your pet toilet trained:

If applicable, which brand of cat litter does your pet prefer:

Is your pet under any kind of order if so what type, date order was made and by whom (for example: council cease barking order / dangerous dog order confirmed in Magistrates Court 1 June 2023):

Does your pet suffer from travel sickness: (For example: car or plane)

Please describe your pet's personality (for example: Shy at first then happy to play/ not food orientated/ loves being brushed and groomed/ good swimmer / scared of puddles):

Any fears or triggers:

Other important notes (for example: does not like clothing prefers blankets):

Signed:

Date:

There is no need to have this document witnessed.

PET CARE DIRECTIVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a pet?¹

Pet means —

- A. a domesticated animal; or
- B. an animal that is dependent on a person for the provision of food or shelter; but
- C. does not include an animal prescribed by regulation not to be a pet.

Why do I need a Pet Care Directive?

Boarding kennels, catteries, agistment facilities and animal day care facilities need to know your preferences if for any reason you fail to collect your companion on time or cannot be contacted in the event of a pet medical emergency.

It is common for facilities to request details of a SA based contact person when owners are travelling overseas or to more remote areas where phone service may be intermittent.

This document is to assist you to express your wishes for your companion animal in the event you cannot be contacted.

The document also aims to relieve the stress others may feel when trying to guess your wishes for your companion animal if for example you are detained under the Mental Health Act or by police.

Can I make provision in my Advance Care Directive?

Yes, however an Advance Care Directive is to express your wishes with regards to medical

treatment and lifestyle when you are no longer capable of communicating.

This includes end of life instructions.

You may not want to share such a personal document with a temporary pet guardian.

Being uncontactable whilst overseas or out of phone service would not invoke your Advance Care directive.

It is a good idea to store a copy of your Pet Care Directive with both your Advance Care Directive and Will in case of the unexpected.

Unclaimed Goods Act 1987

Animals continue to be considered property in SA.²

If you fail to collect your companion, under the current Unclaimed Goods Act the pet guardian has the option to sell or otherwise dispose of your companion.³

Currently the waiting period before selling or disposing of your companion is three months unless a court order is obtained to act sooner.

However, there is proposed legislation which would enable professional establishments such as kennels, catteries and day care to act after 14 to 21 days.⁴

They would also be able to demand the extra costs of caring for the companion prior to returning the animal or take those costs out of the proceeds of sale of the animal.

It remains a criminal offence to abandon an animal.⁵

Is a Pet Care Directive a legal document?

No, it is an expression of wishes.

You do however have the option to engage a private lawyer to draft a contract based on the Pet Care Directive if you plan to pay the pet guardian.

If you leave money with the pet guardian with specific written instructions to use the money for vet bills or pet food for example and the pet guardian disregards your wishes you may have legal recourse to recover the monies.

Please seek legal advice if this happens to you.

I want to leave money to make sure my pet is looked after if I lose capacity or die

This pet directive tells your chosen pet guardian all about your pet.

If you want to ensure your pet has funds for food, vet treatment, toys and bedding you may want to consider forming a testamentary trust.

Talk to your lawyer about the best way to do this.

I don't have anyone in the same State who is willing to be the contact person for my pet while I am away

Some law firms will agree to be the contact upon receipt of a comprehensive Pet Care Directive and fees. Please contact Serenity Legal Australia Pty Ltd on 08 8473 0733 for further details.

Can I bury my pet in my back garden?

Please check with your local council and environmental health authority for applicable bylaws and regulations.

Can my pet be buried with me?

Please check the cemetery rules. Many cemeteries are for humans only.

The Burial and Cremation Act 2013 (SA) does not specifically forbid, or allow, pets and humans to be buried together.

How much does it cost?

It is free.

You may want to make a donation to:

RSPCA

<https://www.rspca.org.au/support-us/donate/>

AWL

<https://awl.org.au/donate/support-awl>

Safe Pets Safe Families

<https://safepetssafefamilies.org.au/donate/#>

Zoo SA

<https://www.zoossa.com.au/donate-now/>

**Please contact
Serenity Legal Australia
08 0473 0733**

¹ SA does not have a definition; this is a combination from: RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AND ROOMING ACCOMMODATION ACT 2008 Qld s 184A; COMPANION ANIMALS ACT 1998 NSW s 5; RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT 1997 Vic s 3.

² Animals are sentient beings in ACT under the Animal Welfare Act 1992 (ACT) s 4A(1)(a); Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Vic) – sentience proposed in 2023 review but amendments yet to be passed.

³ Unclaimed Goods Act 1987 (SA).

⁴ Unclaimed Goods (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2025 S 7(2), 7(3), 8(1).

⁵ Animal Welfare Act 1985 (SA) s 13 (3)(b) (iii).