# Paul Reekie
## Orchestrating a Legacy for Animals

Anyone who knew Paul Reekie knew he loved animals. When Paul, a music director and arranger for many South Florida theater productions and cabaret performances, passed away unexpectedly in October 2020, he made his passion for animal welfare part of his legacy. Paul's trust continued his support of philanthropic causes that were close to him in life, including a large bequest to The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®(ASPCA®), as well as his local animal rescue, theaters in South Florida, and more.

Growing up in Michigan, Paul's family had dogs throughout his childhood. Shortly after moving to Florida as an adult, he adopted his Dalmatian, Ellie, from the Tri-County Animal Shelter in Boca Raton. One of Paul's close friends, Lisa Losier, recalls, "I was actually with him the day he found Ellie. Here was this strange little Dalmatian, and I thought to myself, 'Poor thing. Who's ever going to adopt her?' Paul came up to me so excited. 'I found the perfect dog!' he said. Guess which cage we went to." Ellie was like a child to Paul, and he was heartbroken when she passed away a few years ago.

When Paul's parents passed away in 2008, he also adopted their Boston Terrier, Buster, and while Buster may not have been as perfectly behaved as Ellie, Paul loved them both.

Paul will be missed by his friends, family and community. "I feel lucky and grateful to have had him in my life, and I will miss his laughter, his bickering, and most of all, his music. Paul affected hundreds of lives during his 48 years, and that is something to be celebrated," remembers Bruce Linser, one of Paul's closest friends and trustee. We are so grateful to Paul for entrusting the ASPCA with his legacy. His generous bequest will ensure that he continues to improve the lives of animals for many years to come.

# Three Tips for Creating a Plan So Your Pet Is Always Cared For

Keeping pets in loving homes is one of the ASPCA®'s key priorities. It's important that pet parents have a plan in place to prevent animals from entering shelters, whether in the event of inability to care for your pet, illness or even death.

**Below are three tips to make sure your pet is always cared for:**

**1.** Create formal or informal arrangements. Generally, informal arrangements include all arrangements for your pet that are not legally binding. These range between oral or written agreements with family, friends, veterinarians or others. They tend to not involve the assistance of an attorney. Formal arrangements can include will provisions, a pet trust, limited durable power of attorney or a letter of instruction, all of which are legally binding.

**2.** Decide if you want to leave funds for the care of your pet. Some people choose to leave a nominal amount as a gesture of appreciation to the person who commits to taking care of their pet. Others may choose to leave sufficient funds to cover their pet's basic needs for the rest of his or her natural life.

**3.** Sign up for our FREE Pet Planning Packet! The packet includes a pet alert card, emergency information sheet and a pet portfolio to help you create the best plan for your pet. Once you receive your packet, get started on filling out all three items!

Visit **aspca.org/petplanning** to learn more and request your FREE Pet Planning Packet today.

## Tell Your Story

To honor the people who make our work possible, the ASPCA is gathering stories from our community. We would love to hear how your life has been impacted by a special animal or animals, and why our mission means so much to you. Please visit **legacy.aspca.org/tell-your-story** to share your story with us.

## Legacy Society Support

**Nicole Nahas**, *Senior Director, Planned Giving*
(646) 706-4665
nicole.nahas@aspca.org

**Hannah Grune**, *Senior Manager, Donor Stewardship*
(646) 706-4743
hannah.grune@aspca.org

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THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS®

424 East 92nd Street, New York, NY 10128
Please visit our website: **aspca.org**