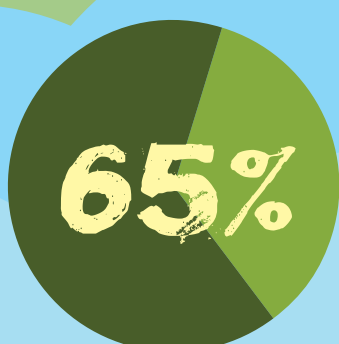


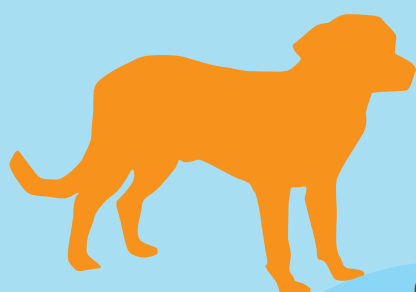
THE "FLUFFY" DIVORCE



65% of American households include at least one pet.

(Humane Society)

HOW ARE PETS HANDLED IN DIVORCE?



Pets are classified as personal property just like your coffee maker or television. Courts normally follow the same guidelines they use to determine who gets to keep personal property when dividing things due to a divorce. This is a difficult reality to face, but the courts are strict in their considerations when it comes to your fluffy canine or feline.



WAS THE PET BOUGHT BEFORE OR DURING MARRIAGE?

Was the pet owned by one spouse prior to the relationship beginning? If so, this can drastically affect the outcome of the pet's destination after the divorce.

WHO TAKES CARE OF IT?

The courts look at which party takes care of the animal's basic daily needs for such things as:

- Food, shelter
- Potty, walks or litter box maintenance
- Exercise, grooming and supervision
- Veterinarian visits
- Who has the best ability to financially care for the pet

CONSIDERATION OF SHARED CUSTODY BY SOME COURTS

Pets are becoming such a big part of our lives and some courts are beginning to change their assessments. To date, these changes are occurring primarily with dog owners. The courts tend to consider the best interest of the pet when determining custody.

Spouses now may have an option to choose to co-own the pet going forward and create a visitation schedule. These orders have worked well in the past. If the courts are unwilling to provide shared custody, a lot of owners have worked out a contract between themselves instead.

50/50



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