

A Note From the Issue Editor

BY ISSUE EDITOR M. SCOTT MCKENNA, ESQ.

“Love the animals: God has given them the rudiments of thought and joy untroubled.”
- Fyodor Dostoyevsky

The December 2011 issue of *Nevada Lawyer* focuses upon two separate themes: (1) animals (particularly pets) and their treatment within certain aspects of the law, as well as the roles animals play in the lives of members of the State Bar of Nevada; and (2) the adoption of children. This issue includes four main feature articles.

In the first, Kathy McCarthy and Jennifer Braster provide an overview of some of the more significant laws in the silver state pertaining to the interaction between humans and companion animals, including such issues as abandonment, cruelty, spaying and neutering, and tethering. This “Overview of Animal Law in Nevada” is accompanied by a 15-question quiz which, upon successful completion, submission and remittance of the required fee, earns the reader one hour of continuing legal education credit approved by the Nevada Board of Continuing Legal Education.

The second feature article, by Donna Stidham, discusses the manner in which the law relating to estate planning and trusts may be used by pet owners to ensure that their pets are cared for in accordance with their wishes, in the event of death or disability. In the third feature, compiled and edited by Melinda Catren, the *Nevada Lawyer* Coordinator, members of the State Bar of Nevada speak of the various important places that certain animals have occupied in their lives.

In the final feature article, the focus of the issue changes from animals and pets in order to address the highly important topic of the adoption of human children. In this article, Ronald G. Kirschenheiter, staff attorney with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (Children’s Attorneys Project), raises awareness of the great need for, and legal processes surrounding, the adoption of children in Nevada, many of whom are still waiting to find their “forever families.”

I would like to thank the staff of *Nevada Lawyer* and the contributing authors for their dedicated work in taking this issue of the magazine from concept to reality.

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”
- Mohandas Gandhi

“There are no unwanted children, just unfound families.”
- National Adoption Center ■



**D.B. Cooper,
McKenna's cat.**

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