

**This Weekly Newsletter  
is brought to you by**

**HOOK LAW CENTER**  
*Legal Power for Seniors*

Tel: 757-399-7506  
Fax: 757-397-1267

*Locations:*

*Virginia Beach*  
295 Bendix Road, Suite 170  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

*Suffolk*  
5806 Harbour View Blvd.,  
Suite 203  
Suffolk, VA 23435

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**Happy New Year...  
The Party's Over...  
A New Leaf...**

by Natalie A. Hale, CECC

However you frame it, we all make resolutions when the new year begins. It is never too early to develop an estate plan to make sure what is most precious to you is protected in the way that you wish, if you are incapacitated or not around to do it yourself. This includes making sure the person/people you want to care for you, your children or pets are clearly designated and have clear instructions. The attorneys and staff at the Hook Law Center are experts in all aspects of Estate Planning, which can include a variety of documents such as wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and advance medical directives.

We grow up thinking that "Estate Planning" is for the wealthy, involving only monetary value. Nothing could be further from the truth! This warrants taking a second look at how we define "value." YOU define what is valuable to you and in your life.

Estate and Disability Planning involves making sure you are cared for and your estate is passed on and maintained... according to YOUR wishes. Make Estate and Disability Planning part of your important "to do" list and enjoy the New Year!



## Truth about Animal Shelters – Part 2

**Hook Law Center:** Kit Kat, what are some other things we should know about animal shelters?

**Kit Kat:** Well, here are some other things you should know to set the record straight. First, some think there are no purebreds at animal shelters. This couldn't be further from the truth. About 1/4 of the dogs and/or cats found there are purebreds. Also, if you are interested in a particular breed, there are many rescue groups that specialize in a particular type of dog or cat. For example, there are rescues for Siamese cats and greyhounds. Just search on the internet, and you will probably find any type you are interested in. However, the mixed, domestic breed has much to recommend it.

Second, animals from shelters are dirty. Now this is a whopper that is completely false! They may come into the shelter unkempt, but once in a shelter's care, animals there are lavished with good grooming and lots of love. Not only staff, but also many volunteers, take superb care of their charges.

Third, fees to adopt from shelters are high. Fees do vary from city to city and state to state; however, when you consider that these pets have all their shots, are administered heartworm and/or flea prevention medications, the fees to adopt a dog or cat are really quite reasonable. They definitely are significantly less than those in pet stores or from breeders. So don't let those fees prevent you from adopting a homeless pet. They really are just covering the pet's stay, and enable the shelter to continue their very important work. To be continued.....

(<http://shine.yahoo.com/pets/busting-animal-shelter-myths-174700242.html>) (12-11-2013)

### Upcoming Events

- Shannon Laymon-Pecoraro, Esq. will speak at the Parkinson's and Caregivers Coffee Break on medical/legal issues concerning elders and those with significant health issues. The coffee break will take place at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 717 Tucson Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462 on **February 5, 2014** from 10AM-12:00PM.
- Hook Law Center is a sponsor of the American Heart Association Ball which will take place on **March 8, 2014** at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens. For event information, contact Stephanie Phipps at 757-628-2608

- Hook Law Center will be presenting a live webinar on POAs, AMDs and the Ethics of It All in Charlottesville, VA on **April 10, 2014**. This webinar will be hosted by Virginia Continuing Legal Education.
- Shannon Laymon-Pecoraro, an attorney at Hook Law Center, is a member of the advisory board of the Hampton Roads Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association. Please visit our website if you have any questions about this event on **April 12, 2014**.

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