

DAILY NEWS

Leona Helmsley's dog needs legal aid to get will money

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Time for Trouble to think about getting herself a pit bull lawyer.

Leona Helmsley's millionaire Maltese - who last week received \$12 million from the Queen of Mean's will - needs legal representation if she expects to maintain her five-star lifestyle, a pet trust specialist said yesterday.

"This will does not represent Leona Helmsley's wishes clearly," said Rachel Hirschfeld, an estate lawyer who specializes in pet trusts. "She should be cared for the way Leona cared for her."

With Trouble apparently unwanted by her appointed caretaker, Helmsley's brother Alvin Rosenthal, the dog deserves better, Hirschfeld said.

"Trouble deserves impeccable care because she's been left a large estate," she said. "The guardian needs to have the pet's best interests in mind."

Hirschfeld, the daughter of zany real estate developer Abe Hirschfeld, also criticized Helmsley's attorneys for not considering the possibility that state law may bar Trouble from eventually being buried next to her mistress in a marble mausoleum.

Helmsley, who froze two grandkids out of her estimated \$8 billion fortune, provided a \$3 million trust for the eternal upkeep of her final resting place, where she hoped Trouble would eventually join her.

"She would never have given a \$3 million trust if she knew there was a chance that Trouble wasn't going to be with her," Hirschfeld said.