

**Virtus KAR Small-Cap Growth Fund,
a series of Virtus Equity Trust**

Supplement dated August 13, 2018 to the Prospectus and
Statement of Additional Information dated March 6, 2018, as supplemented

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO INVESTORS

The following subsection is hereby added under the heading 'How to Buy Shares' in the fund's Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information.

Important Information about Virtus KAR Small-Cap Growth Fund

Effective on September 28, 2018 (trade date), Virtus KAR Small-Cap Growth Fund will be no longer available for purchase by new investors (except as described below). The fund will continue to be available for purchase by existing investors; however, the fund reserves the right to refuse any order that may disrupt the efficient management of the fund. Beginning on September 28, 2018, only the following investors may make purchases in the fund:

- Current shareholders of the fund, whether they hold their shares directly or through a financial intermediary, may continue to add to their accounts through the purchase of additional shares and through the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Financial intermediaries may continue to purchase shares on behalf of existing shareholders only.
- Exchanges into the fund may only be made by shareholders with an existing account in the fund.
- An investor who has previously entered into a letter of intent with the Distributor prior to the closing date may fulfill the obligation.
- Trustees of the fund, trustees/directors of affiliated open- and closed-end funds, and directors, officers and employees of Virtus, its affiliates, and their family members, may continue to open new accounts.
- New and additional investments may be made through firm or home office discretionary platform models within mutual fund advisory (WRAP) programs and other fee-based programs established with the Distributor prior to September 28, 2018.
- The fund will also remain open to existing Defined Contribution and Defined Benefit retirement plans and will continue to accept payroll contributions and other types of purchase transactions into the fund from both existing and new participants in those plans only.

Notwithstanding the above exceptions, the fund may discontinue new and subsequent sales through any financial intermediary at its discretion.

The last day for a new investor to purchase the fund is September 27, 2018.

The fund and the Distributor reserve the right to modify these exceptions at any time, including on a case-by-case basis.

**Investors should retain this supplement with the Prospectus and
Statement of Additional Information for future reference.**