

Virtus Equity Trust

Supplement dated March 6, 2018 to the Prospectuses and Statement of Additional Information
("SAI") dated March 6, 2018

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Availability of Shares

Class T Shares are not currently available for purchase.

Investors should retain this supplement for future reference.

VET 8019/ClassTNotAvailable (3/2018)

Virtus KAR Small-Mid Cap Core Fund

A: VKSAX

C: VKSCX

I: VKSIX

R6: VKSRX

T: VKSTX

Before you invest, you may want to review the fund's prospectus, which contains more information about the fund and its risks. You can find the fund's prospectus, statement of additional information (SAI), annual report and other information about the fund online at virtus.com/products/prospectuses.

You can also get this information at no cost by calling 800-243-1574 or by sending an e-mail to: virtus.investment.partners@virtus.com. If you purchase shares of the fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the prospectus and other information will also be available from your financial intermediary.

The fund's prospectus and SAI, both dated March 6, 2018, are incorporated by reference into this Summary Prospectus.

Investment Objective

The fund has an investment objective of long-term capital appreciation, with dividend income a secondary consideration.

Fees and Expenses

The tables below illustrate all fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the fund. You may qualify for sales charge discounts in Class A Shares if you and your family invest, or agree to invest in the future, at least \$50,000 in Virtus Funds. You may qualify for sales charge discounts in Class T Shares if you invest at least \$250,000 in the fund. More information on these and other discounts is available: (i) from your financial advisor or other financial intermediary; (ii) under "Sales Charges" on page 85 of the fund's prospectus; (iii) with respect to purchase of shares through specific intermediaries, in Appendix A to the fund's prospectus, entitled "Intermediary Sales Charge Discounts and Waivers;" and (iv) under "Alternative Purchase Arrangements" on page 95 of the fund's statement of additional information ("SAI").

| Shareholder Fees (fees paid directly from your investment) | Class A | Class C | Class I | Class R6 | Class T |
|---|---------|----------------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Maximum Sales Charge (load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price) | 5.75% | None | None | None | 2.50% |
| Maximum Deferred Sales Charge (load) (as a percentage of the lesser of purchase price or redemption proceeds) | None | 1.00% ^(a) | None | None | None |

| Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment) | Class A | Class C | Class I | Class R6 | Class T |
|--|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Management Fees | 0.75% | 0.75% | 0.75% | 0.75% | 0.75% |
| Distribution and Shareholder Servicing (12b-1) Fees | 0.25% | 1.00% | None | None | 0.25% |
| Other Expenses ^(b) | 0.75% | 0.74% | 0.73% | 0.66% | 0.75% |
| Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses | 1.75% | 2.49% | 1.48% | 1.41% | 1.75% |
| Less: Expense Reimbursement ^(c) | (0.45)% | (0.44)% | (0.43)% | (0.44)% | (0.45)% |
| Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement ^(c) | 1.30% | 2.05% | 1.05% | 0.97% | 1.30% |

(a) The deferred sales charge is imposed on Class C Shares redeemed during the first year only.

(b) Estimated for current fiscal year, as annualized.

(c) The fund's investment adviser has contractually agreed to limit the fund's total operating expenses (excluding certain expenses, such as front-end or contingent deferred sales charges, taxes, leverage expenses, interest, brokerage commissions, expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, unusual or infrequently occurring expenses (such as litigation), acquired fund fees and expenses, and dividend expenses, if any) so that such expenses do not exceed 1.30% for Class A Shares, 2.05% for Class C Shares, 1.05% for Class I Shares, 0.97% for Class R6 Shares and 1.30% for Class T Shares through March 31, 2019. Following the contractual period, the adviser may discontinue these expense limitation arrangements at any time. Under certain conditions, the adviser may recapture fees waived and/or operating expenses reimbursed for a period of three years after the date on which such waiver or reimbursement incurred provided the recapture does not cause the fund to exceed its expense limitation in effect at the time of the waiver/reimbursement or recapture.

Example

This example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example assumes an investment of \$10,000 in the fund for the time periods indicated. It shows your costs if you sold your shares at the end of the period or continued to hold them. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year, that the fund's operating expenses remain the same and that the expense reimbursement arrangement remains in place for the contractual period. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

| | Share Status | 1 Year | 3 Years |
|----------|--------------|--------|---------|
| Class A | Sold or Held | \$700 | \$1,053 |
| Class C | Sold | \$308 | \$734 |
| | Held | \$208 | \$734 |
| Class I | Sold or Held | \$107 | \$426 |
| Class R6 | Sold or Held | \$99 | \$403 |
| Class T | Sold or Held | \$379 | \$745 |

Portfolio Turnover

The fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or “turns over” its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the fund’s performance. As of the date of this prospectus, the fund has not commenced operations; therefore, portfolio turnover information for the fund is not shown here.

Investments, Risks and Performance

Principal Investment Strategies

The fund pursues long-term capital appreciation in the small and medium market capitalization sectors while seeking to incur less risk than the small- and mid-cap markets. The fund invests in a select group of small and mid-market capitalization companies believed by the subadviser to be undervalued relative to their future growth potential. The investment strategy emphasizes companies the subadviser believes to have a sustainable competitive advantage, strong management and low financial risk and to be able to grow over market cycles. Although the fund invests primarily in U.S. companies, it may invest in foreign securities and American Depositary Receipts.

Under normal circumstances, the fund invests at least 80% of its assets in common stocks of small and medium market capitalization companies. As of the date of this Prospectus, the fund’s subadviser considers small and medium market capitalization companies for this purpose to be those companies that, at the time of initial purchase, have market capitalizations within the range of companies included in the Russell 2500[®] Index on a rolling three-year basis. On this basis, as of December 31, 2017, the total market capitalization range of companies included in the Russell 2500[®] Index over the past three years was \$4.1 million to \$32.5 billion. Generally, the fund expects to hold approximately 25 to 35 securities at any given time.

Principal Risks

The fund may not achieve its objective(s), and it is not intended to be a complete investment program. The value of the fund’s investments that supports your share value may decrease. If between the time you purchase shares and the time you sell shares the value of the fund’s investments decreases, you will lose money. Investment values can decrease for a number of reasons. Conditions affecting the overall economy, specific industries or companies in which the fund invests can be worse than expected, and investments may fail to perform as the subadviser expects. As a result, the value of your shares may decrease. Purchase and redemption activities by fund shareholders may impact the management of the fund and its ability to achieve its investment objective(s). The redemption by one or more large shareholders or groups of shareholders of their holdings in the fund could have an adverse impact on the remaining shareholders in the fund including by accelerating the realization of capital gains and increasing the fund’s transaction costs. The principal risks of investing in the fund are:

- > **Depositary Receipts Risk.** The risk that investments in foreign companies through depositary receipts will expose the fund to the same risks as direct investments in securities of foreign issuers.
- > **Equity Securities Risk.** The risk that events negatively affecting issuers, industries or financial markets in which the fund invests will impact the value of the stocks held by the fund and, thus, the value of the fund’s shares over short or extended periods. Investments in a particular style or in small or medium-sized companies may enhance that risk.
- > **Foreign Investing Risk.** The risk that the prices of foreign securities in the fund’s portfolio will be more volatile than those of domestic securities, or will be negatively affected by currency fluctuations, less regulated or liquid securities markets, or economic, political or other developments.
- > **Limited Number of Investments Risk.** The risk that the fund’s portfolio will be more susceptible to factors adversely affecting issuers of securities in the fund’s portfolio than would a fund holding a greater number of securities.
- > **Market Volatility Risk.** The risk that the value of the securities in which the fund invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of individual issuers and/or general economic conditions. Such price changes may be temporary or may last for extended periods.
- > **Small and Medium Market Capitalization Risk.** The risk that the fund’s investments in small and medium market capitalization companies will increase the volatility and risk of loss to the fund, as compared with investments in larger, more established companies.

Performance Information

The fund has not had a full calendar year of operations; therefore, performance information is not shown here. Updated performance information is available at virtus.com or by calling 800-243-1574.

Management

The fund’s investment adviser is Virtus Investment Advisers, Inc. (“VIA”).

The fund’s subadviser is Kayne Anderson Rudnick Investment Management, LLC (“KAR”), an affiliate of VIA.

Portfolio Managers

- > **Jon Christensen, CFA,** Portfolio Manager and Senior Research Analyst at KAR. Mr. Christensen has served as a Portfolio Manager of the fund since inception in March 2018.
- > **Julie Kutasov,** Portfolio Manager and Senior Research Analyst at KAR. Ms. Kutasov has served as a Portfolio Manager of the fund since inception in March 2018.

- > **Craig Stone**, Portfolio Manager and Senior Research Analyst at KAR. Mr. Stone has served as a Portfolio Manager of the fund since inception in March 2018.

Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

Minimum initial investments applicable to Class A and Class C Shares:

- \$2,500, generally
- \$100 for Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), systematic purchase or exchange accounts
- No minimum for defined contribution plans, asset-based fee programs, profit-sharing plans or employee benefit plans.

Minimum additional investments applicable to Class A and Class C Shares:

- \$100, generally
- No minimum for defined contribution plans, asset-based fee programs, profit-sharing plans or employee benefit plans.

For Class I Shares, the minimum initial purchase is \$100,000; there is no minimum for additional purchases.

Class R6 Shares are available only to the following investors without a minimum initial investment or minimum additional purchases: certain employer-sponsored retirement plans, including Section 401(k), 403(b) and 457, profit-sharing, money purchase pension and defined benefit plans and non-qualified deferred compensation plans, in each case provided that plan level or omnibus accounts are held on the books of the fund. Other institutional investors may be permitted to purchase Class R6 Shares subject to the fund's determination of eligibility and may be subject to a \$2,500,000 minimum initial investment requirement.

Class T Shares are available only through financial intermediaries. Your financial intermediary will provide you with the information you need to open an account and to buy or sell Class T Shares.

In general, you may buy or sell shares of the fund by mail or telephone on any business day. You also may buy and sell shares through a financial advisor, broker-dealer or other financial intermediary.

Taxes

The fund's distributions are taxable to you as either ordinary income or capital gains, except when your investment is through a tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Such tax-deferred arrangements may be taxed later upon withdrawal of monies from those arrangements.

Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries

If you purchase the fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your financial advisor to recommend the fund over another investment.

No compensation, administrative payments, sub-transfer agency payments or service payments are paid to brokers or other entities from fund assets or the Distributor's or an affiliate's resources on sales of or investments in Class R6 Shares. Class R6 Shares do not carry sales commissions or pay Rule 12b-1 fees, or make payments to brokers or other entities to assist in, or in connection with, the sale of the fund's shares.

Ask your financial advisor or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

Virtus Mutual Funds
P.O. Box 9874
Providence, RI 02940-8074