

## Virtus Equity Trust

Supplement dated August 16, 2017 to the Summary and Statutory Prospectuses as indicated below, each dated July 31, 2017, as supplemented

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO INVESTORS

Effective September 18, 2017, the disclosure describing Class R6 Shares will be revised as described below.

### **Virtus Contrarian Value Fund, Virtus KAR Small-Cap Core Fund and Virtus KAR Small-Cap Value Fund**

Under the heading “Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares” in each fund’s summary prospectus and summary section of the statutory prospectus, the paragraph describing Class R6 Shares will be replaced with the following:

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.

### **All Funds**

In the section “Sales Charges,” the disclosure describing Class R6 Shares on page 82 of the funds’ statutory prospectus will be replaced with the following:

**Class R6 Shares (Virtus Contrarian Value Fund, Virtus KAR Small-Cap Core Fund and Virtus KAR Small-Cap Value Fund only).** Class R6 Shares are offered to the following investors (provided that they do not require or receive any compensation, administrative payments, sub-transfer agency payments or service payments with respect to Class R6 Shares) without a minimum initial investment: (i) qualified retirement plans, including, but not limited to, 401(k) plans, 457 plans, employer sponsored 403(b) plans, defined benefit plans and other accounts or plans whereby Class R6 Shares are held on the books of a fund through plan level or omnibus accounts; (ii) banks and trust companies; (iii) insurance companies; (iv) registered investment companies; and (v) non-qualified deferred compensation plans. 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. The minimum initial investment amount may be waived subject to the fund’s discretion. If you are eligible to purchase and do purchase Class R6 Shares, you will pay no sales charge at any time. There are no distribution and service fees applicable to Class R6 Shares.

In the section “Your Account” on page 87 of the funds’ statutory prospectus, the second sentence under “Step 2” will be revised to read: “Each share class, except Class I Shares and Class R6 Shares, has different sales and distribution charges.”

In the section “Your Account,” the disclosure describing Class R6 Shares on page 88 of the funds’ statutory prospectus will be replaced with the following:

If you are investing through a qualified retirement plan, bank or trust company, insurance company, registered investment company or non-qualified deferred compensation plan, your financial institution or financial intermediary will provide you with the information you need to open an account and buy Class R6 Shares. If you are a qualified institutional investor, please refer to the instructions above for Class A Shares, Class C Shares and Class I Shares, except for the application of any minimum initial and/or additional purchase requirements.

In the section “How to Buy Shares” on page 88 of the funds’ statutory prospectus, the disclosure describing Class R6 Shares will be replaced with the following:

If you are investing through a qualified retirement plan, bank or trust company, insurance company, registered investment company or non-qualified deferred compensation plan, your financial institution or financial intermediary will provide you with the information you need to buy Class R6 Shares. If you are a qualified institutional investor, please refer to the instructions above for Class A Shares, Class C Shares and Class I Shares.

In the section “How to Sell Shares” on page 89 of the funds’ statutory prospectus, the disclosure describing Class R6 Shares will be replaced with the following:

If you are investing through a qualified retirement plan, bank or trust company, insurance company, registered investment company or non-qualified deferred compensation plan, your financial institution or financial intermediary will provide you with the information you need to sell Class R6 Shares. If you are a qualified institutional investor, please refer to the instructions above for Class A Shares, Class C Shares and Class I Shares.

In the section “Things You Should Know When Selling Shares” on page 90 of the funds’ statutory prospectus, the disclosure describing Class R6 Shares will be replaced with the following:

If you are investing through a qualified retirement plan, bank or trust company, insurance company, registered investment company or non-qualified deferred compensation plan, your financial institution or financial intermediary will provide you with the information you need to know when selling Class R6 Shares. If you are a qualified institutional investor, please refer to the instructions above for Class A Shares, Class C Shares and Class I Shares.

**Investors should retain this supplement with the Prospectuses for future reference.**