



# Protecting vulnerable animals in your Will

Why it matters – and how to make it happen



Leaving a Legacy

**“Saving badly-treated or injured animals is the most important part of my job. Gifts in Wills pay for half of all the work we do at the RSPCA, and are crucial to the charity’s survival.”**

David Mills, Vet at RSPCA Putney Animal Hospital



# In safe and caring hands

Creating a Will raises some very personal questions:

*What matters most to me?*

*How can I leave a lasting legacy?*

*And who can I trust to uphold my wishes after I'm gone?*

These are all questions that you will think about in your own time, on your own terms, and very likely with your family and loved ones in mind. In this guide, we'll show you how leaving gifts in Wills to the RSPCA could protect animals today, tomorrow and long into the future. Animals that have suffered cruelty and neglect and need our care and attention.

# Why the RSPCA?

We believe every animal deserves to live a life free from cruelty and neglect.

Our vets, inspectors and staff work tirelessly to uphold that belief. A gift in your Will helps them do what they do best – protect animals in real and desperate need.

## Here are a few more reasons we feel it's worth considering the RSPCA when making a Will:

- In 1824, we made it our responsibility to protect and care for all animals. Today, we take that responsibility as seriously as ever.
- We receive a call for help every 28 seconds\*.
- We are the only charity in England and Wales that is here for all animals.
- We are the largest animal charity that investigates and prosecutes allegations of animal cruelty.
- Gifts in Wills are a vital source of income, funding over half of our work to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome animals.



\*Figures correct as of June 2016.

**“The RSPCA picks up the pieces when no one else can, or will. But in order to continue their good work they need funding. That is why I’ve left the RSPCA a gift in my Will.”**

Joyce Dix, who has kindly included the RSPCA in her Will



# How a gift in your Will makes a difference

Your Will is an opportunity to provide for the people and causes you care most about.

Like you, we will never tolerate cruelty to animals. But we also want to tell you about the important ways your gift will help.

Rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming animals that have been abused or neglected involves a huge amount of time, dedication and equipment – from operating tables and incubators, right through to animal beds and toys.

Gifts in Wills provide over half of our funding. This amazing support helps us make a real difference to animals in desperate need every day.

The stories on the opposite page are just a glimpse of what we can achieve with your support. They show how your commitment to protecting animals from cruelty can live on for years to come, and be translated into a meaningful difference – no matter how big or small your gift.



Photo: RSPCA Photolibrary



## A new home

When an RSPCA inspector rescued Ziggy, he had been shot in the head with a crossbow and left for dead in remote woodlands. He was rushed to a specialist hospital, where x-rays showed the bolt had deflected off his skull, avoiding his brain – and missing his eyes and ears by just millimetres. Thankfully, Ziggy made a remarkable recovery and has since found loving new owners.

Photo: Richard Wadey/RSPCA Photolibrary



## A life-changing gift

Every gift matters, and will help us care for animals who desperately need us. The RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre, established in 1965, was paid for using a gift left to us by Mrs Barbour Paton in her Will. Today, decades after her death, the rehoming centre – one of 17 across England and Wales – still provides much-needed shelter to thousands of animals.

Photo: Andrew Forsyth/RSPCA Photolibrary



## A remarkable transformation

Little Gizmo was left to die when he was just a foal. He was found collapsed and emaciated on the side of the road. RSPCA staff carried Gizmo to their vehicle using a blanket and brought him to a nearby vet clinic, where he was diagnosed with pneumonia and received a blood transfusion. It was touch and go, but Gizmo has made a remarkable recovery and was even crowned RSPCA Rescue Pony of the Year.



**“I think it is really wonderful if someone decides to leave us a gift in their Will. Their generosity will directly help animals that are in need. That is a remarkable legacy for someone to leave behind.”**

Leanna Hone, RSPCA inspector

# There's no need to worry

Leaving a gift in your Will can make a huge difference to animals in need. But in case you have any lingering questions before you read on, here are a few points worth remembering.

## Family can still come first

You don't have to choose between looking after your loved ones and protecting vulnerable animals. You can use your Will to do both – for instance by leaving a gift to the RSPCA after friends and family have been taken care of. Every gift, no matter how big or small, has the power to make a real and lasting difference to animals.

## Your Will, your wishes

Making a Will is easy to put off, but it's the only way to be sure your wishes are carried out. Without one, you may leave your loved ones facing uncertainty. And of course, there'll be no way to ensure your desire to stop animal cruelty lives on.

## Good financial sense

Leaving a gift to charity in your Will can reduce the amount your estate pays in Inheritance Tax, meaning you can make an even greater difference to your loved ones and vulnerable animals.

## Easing the pressure

Once you've made a Will, you and your loved ones can feel secure; and you can enjoy peace of mind knowing your wishes will be carried out.



**“Knowing that my gift will help the RSPCA to rescue, look after and rehome more animals in future gives me great happiness.”**

Carrie Giles, who has kindly included the RSPCA in her Will

# How to leave a gift in your Will to the RSPCA

Once you've made your decision, this straightforward guide will take you through everything you need to know about leaving a gift to the RSPCA in your Will. Here's what it covers:

- Information on the different types of gifts you can leave, to help you make the best decision for you and your loved ones.
- A guide to writing or updating your Will, taking you through the process from start to finish.
- Options for suggested wording that you can take to your legal adviser to make sure your wishes are carried out.

If you have any questions as you're reading through, you can contact our Legacy Team using the following details:

0300 123 0239

[giftsinwills@rspca.org.uk](mailto:giftsinwills@rspca.org.uk)

[www.rspca.org.uk/giftsinwills](http://www.rspca.org.uk/giftsinwills)

# How to make or update your Will

A Will can ensure that your loved ones will be taken care of and that your wishes are carried out when you die. And remembering the RSPCA in your Will means our teams can remain on the ground, day after day, doing what they do best – rescuing and rehabilitating animals that desperately need us, and finding them loving homes.

These are the five steps you need to take to make or update your Will:

1. Use your enclosed Will planner to add up the estimated value of your estate and make a list of people and/or organisations you'd like to leave money, property or possessions to.
2. Appoint one or more (up to four) Executors to carry out the terms of your Will. This can be a relative, friend or legal adviser. It can even be us, in certain circumstances. Please phone us on **0300 123 0239** if you would like to discuss appointing the RSPCA as your Executor.
3. Visit a legal adviser to draw up or update your Will. If you're including a gift to the RSPCA, please use our suggested wording over the page.
4. Make a copy of your Will, and make sure someone you trust knows where your original Will is kept (your legal adviser will often store it for you free of charge, or you can use the Probate Registry).
5. If you're remembering the RSPCA in your Will, thank you. Your gift will make a real difference. If you'd like to let us know this is your intention, please consider returning the enclosed notification form in the envelope provided, as knowing this will help us plan for the future.

# Types of gifts in Wills

There are three main types of gifts you can leave to the RSPCA in your Will. We suggest you speak to your legal adviser to help you make the decision that's right for you. Every gift makes a difference to the animals who need us and we want you to leave the right gift for your circumstances.

## A residuary gift

This is where you set aside a portion of all your remaining estate after funeral expenses, debts and other gifts in the Will have been paid.

**Many people choose to leave this kind of gift because it helps make sure their loved ones are taken care of first.**

## A pecuniary gift

This is a gift of a specified sum of money. All gifts make a real difference to the animals we care for, but it's worth remembering that the eventual value of this type of gift is likely to be impacted by inflation.

## A specific gift

This is a gift of a specific, named item. For example, it could be property, a piece of jewellery, a work of art or a car.



# Suggested wording for your gift

Here is the suggested wording you need in order to include the RSPCA in your Will:

## Unrestricted gifts

Many people choose to leave an unrestricted or general gift. It's the most helpful because it allows us to use your gift wherever the need is greatest for animals. You can leave an unrestricted gift, which can be either residuary or pecuniary, using the words below:

"I give the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ (or specify percentage of estate) to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Wilberforce Way Southwater Horsham RH13 9RS (registered charity number 219099) for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the honorary treasurer or other proper officer of the said Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the time being shall be a full and sufficient discharge for the said legacy."

## Restricted gifts

You can also specify how or where you'd like your gift to be used by leaving a restricted gift. If you'd like to leave a restricted gift, please contact us to discuss the area of our work you'd specifically like to support, using the contact details on the back page. To leave a restricted gift, use the wording below:

"I give the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ (or specify percentage of estate) to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Wilberforce Way Southwater Horsham RH13 9RS (registered charity number 219099) for its general purpose and I express the wish but without creating any binding trust that this legacy be used in the (specify) areas and I declare that the receipt of the honorary treasurer or other proper officer of the said Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the time being shall be a full and sufficient discharge for the said legacy."

## Gift to a specific RSPCA branch

You can choose to remember a specific RSPCA branch. These are separately run organisations to the main RSPCA charity. Here's the wording you'll need:

"I give the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ (or specify percentage of estate) to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (specify) Branch (specify registered charity number for that Branch) and I declare that the receipt of the honorary treasurer or other proper officer of the said Branch shall be a full and sufficient discharge for the said legacy. In the event the aforesaid Branch shall no longer exist at the date of my death I give the legacy to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Wilberforce Way Southwater Horsham RH13 9RS (registered charity number 219099) for its general purposes."

## Overseas Fund

You might choose to leave a gift to our Overseas Fund, enabling us to support the rescue of animals abroad or to promote better welfare standards and stronger laws to protect animals. Here's the wording you'll need:

"I give the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ (or specify percentage of estate) to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Wilberforce Way Southwater Horsham RH13 9RS (registered charity number 219099) for its Overseas Fund.  
I further direct that the receipt of the honorary treasurer or other proper officer of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals shall be a full and sufficient discharge for the said legacy."



**“The RSPCA is a beneficiary of my Will as I want to help enable their dedicated staff to continue their loyalty and kindness to all our precious animals.”**

Sybil Piper, who has kindly included the RSPCA in her Will



# Thank you

Your gift will help us keep our promise to animals.

When you've had time to reflect and discuss your decision with those close to you, we'd love to know your intentions as it will help us plan for the future and ensure we can give our teams on the ground the maximum resources to protect animals in need. So if you wish, please fill out the enclosed notification form.

If you'd like to know more, you can contact our Legacy Team using the following details:  
0300 123 0239  
giftsinwills@rspca.org.uk  
[www.rspca.org.uk/giftsinwills](http://www.rspca.org.uk/giftsinwills)

**“Leaving a gift in your Will is  
a great way to help protect  
vulnerable animals for many  
generations to come.”**

Alice Rose Robinson, groom at RSPCA Lockwood  
Centre for Horses & Donkeys





# We're here to help

We have a team of dedicated people who are well versed in Wills and how they can help us protect animals from cruelty and neglect. So if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you.

## **RSPCA Legacy Team**

**0300 123 0239**

**giftsinwills@rspca.org.uk**

**www.rspca.org.uk/giftsinwills**

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.  
Wilberforce Way, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 9RS.  
[www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk) [facebook.com/RSPCA](https://facebook.com/RSPCA) [twitter.com/RSPCA\\_official](https://twitter.com/RSPCA_official)

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**Leaving a Legacy**