

# **A guide to leaving a gift in your Will**





## A guide to leaving a gift in your Will

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will to Animals in Distress. Any gift, large or small, that you are able to give will help us to continue to provide the best possible care for our animals and find them their forever homes.

### **A message for you from Neil Thomas, Chief Executive, Animals in Distress**

Animals in Distress exists to give the homeless pets of South Devon the new life they deserve. To achieve this, we aim to provide the best possible care and meet the highest welfare standards for the animals whilst we are looking for their new, forever home.

It is thanks to the continued support of people like you that Animals in Distress has been able to continue to evolve and raise standards and help more animals than ever before.

Legacies form a vital proportion of the charity's income. They not only help to cover our day to day costs but have enabled us to realise some of our bigger aspirations in the form of a new cattery and sensory garden as well as a much improved rabbit and guinea pig house...what wonderful gifts they were!

We still have a lot to do and lots more animals to help so I hope you will be able to help our work continue, because it really does depend on the kindness and generosity of people like you.

Thank you.





## A quick guide to the types of gifts in Wills

There is more than one way to remember Animals in Distress in your Will. Naturally, you will want to look after your loved ones first, but when you give a gift in your Will you can also help pets across South Devon to receive the care, support and services they need.

A **residuary gift** is the remainder of the estate once other gifts and payments have been made. This type of gift is popular because it takes care of others first and remains proportional to the value of your estate by keeping pace with inflation.

A **pecuniary gift** is a fixed sum of money. The value of a pecuniary gift could decrease over time, as the cost of living increases.

A **specific gift** is a particular named item, for example a piece of jewellery or property.

**And it's tax-free  
– remember, most gifts in Wills are completely tax-free.**

*Picture, right*

Our new cattery and sensory garden have greatly enhanced welfare conditions for the cats in our care, and have made a big difference to their lives.

This was all achieved thanks to generous gifts left to us in Wills.





## How to remember Animals in Distress in your Will

1. Calculate the value of your estate, taking into account property, investments and any debts.
2. Decide on your beneficiaries – the members of your family, close friends or charities you want to remember in your Will. Many people who remember Animals in Distress in their Will choose to leave a percentage of their estate, as this ensures their loved ones are provided for first.
3. Appoint your executors. These individuals will be named in your Will, and as such, they will be responsible for making sure your instructions are carried out.
4. Visit a solicitor to have your Will drawn up.

**We are generously supported by solicitors across the local area who are kindly offering 10% discount to all Animals in Distress supporters wishing to write or amend their Wills.**



**WBW Solicitors - Contact 01626 202404.**  
**Local offices: Brixham, Exeter, Exmouth, Newton Abbot, Paignton & Torquay**



**Woolcombe Yonge Solicitors - Contact 01752 827920**  
**Local offices: Plymouth and surrounding areas**



**Tozers Solicitors - Contact 01392 207 020**  
**Local offices: Teignmouth, Newton Abbot and Exeter**

5. Store your Will in a safe place and keep a copy to check from time to time. Your solicitor can store it for you safely.
6. Make sure a relative or close friend know where the original copy of your Will is stored.
7. Finally, please let us know of your intention to make us a legacy gift so we are able to thank you during your lifetime .

Don't forget: if you already have a Will, and wish to add Animals in Distress as one of your beneficiaries, ask a solicitor to help you complete a codicil or a new Will.



## Vital information you'll need

When adding Animals in Distress as a beneficiary to your Will, we suggest you use the following wording to ensure your gift is valid.

Any gift to Animals in Distress will make a difference. A residuary gift is popular with many supporters because it takes care of others first and remains proportional to the value of your estate by keeping pace with inflation.

### Residuary gift

To leave a residuary gift we suggest the wording:

'I give \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my residuary estate to Animals in Distress (Charity Registration No. 1105487), Rescue Centre, Biltor, Edgelands Lane, Ipplepen, Newton Abbot TQ12 5UF to be applied for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the finance director or appropriate officer shall be a complete discharge to my trustees.'

### Pecuniary gift (cash sum)

To leave a pecuniary gift (cash sum), we suggest the wording:

'I give £\_\_\_\_\_ to Animals in Distress (Charity Registration No. 1105487), Rescue Centre, Biltor, Edgelands Lane, Ipplepen, Newton Abbot TQ12 5UF to be applied for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the finance director or appropriate officer shall be a complete discharge to my trustees.'

**If you need any information on making a Will or amending your current Will to include Animals in Distress, please call us on 01803 812121 or email [info@animalsindistress.uk.com](mailto:info@animalsindistress.uk.com)**





## Your questions answered

### **What type of gift is best?**

Any gift to Animals in Distress will make a difference. A residuary gift is popular with many supporters because it takes care of others first and remains proportional to the value of your estate by keeping pace with inflation.

### **Can I leave a gift to be used for a specific area of work or project?**

If you choose not to limit your gift to a specific area of work it can be incredibly helpful to us – we can use your gift wherever the need is greatest.

However, if one particular area of our work is very close to your heart, then please contact us on 01803 812121 or email [supportus@animalsindistress.uk.com](mailto:supportus@animalsindistress.uk.com) to discuss your specific gift in more details.

### **Who is best placed to act as an executor of my Will?**

Although there is no need to do so, we suggest that you consider nominating a professional executor, such as a solicitor, alongside a family member or friend. You should not appoint a professional executor without establishing in advance what charges, if any, he or she intends to impose for acting.

We also recommend that you discuss your wishes with those people you would like to appoint in your Will to ensure that they are willing and able to take on the role of executor.

### **Do I need to draw up a new Will?**

If you do not wish to alter the contents of your existing Will other than to include a gift to Animals in Distress you can amend your current Will by preparing a document called a codicil. A codicil needs to be signed and witnessed in accordance with the same legal formalities as a Will and we therefore recommend that you consult a solicitor to ensure that the codicil is valid and your wishes will take effect.

### **Can I save tax by leaving a gift to Animals in Distress?**

A gift to Animals in Distress in your Will does not attract inheritance tax, which may save tax that your estate would otherwise have to pay.

Tax is a complex area of law and we recommend you take specialist independent advice, particularly if you have substantial sums to gift to individuals and charities. Your solicitor can assist in drafting your Will to ensure gifts are transferred in the most tax efficient way and therefore give the greatest value to the individuals and charities concerned.