

# How to leave a legacy

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Your only guarantee that the proceeds of your estate will go to the people and causes that you care about is by making a Will.

## ***Leaving a legacy to a charity***

Once you have remembered your friends and family, you may like to also include a legacy to your favourite charity or charities in order to support their work. Such a legacy may also help to reduce any tax burden on your estate.

National Animal Welfare Trust greatly appreciates all types of legacies of any size. All legacies are a very valuable and major source of our funding and any amount can make a difference.

Anyone can leave a legacy to the National Animal Welfare Trust and every bequest is important to us, no matter how small or large. There are a few different types of gifts you can leave in your Will; these are the most common.

## ***Pecuniary legacy***

This is a set sum of money which you can leave either to individuals or charities. *Pecuniary legacies can be index linked so that the value of your gift increases with inflation. Otherwise, the value of the bequest will decrease over time, as the cost of living increases.*

## ***Residuary legacy***

This is what is left of your estate once all other monies have been paid out. *Unless you specify how you would like the residue to be disposed of, the Government will decide where it is to be paid out.*

## ***Specific legacy***

This is a particular item or specific property that you can leave to an individual or charity.

## ***Once you have written your Will***

Once your Will has been written, you will need to sign it in the presence of two witnesses who will then also sign your Will in the same company. Your witnesses must not be beneficiaries or the spouse of a beneficiary. Your professional advisor will be able to assist further.

Once you have made your Will, keep a copy for yourself and keep the original in a safe place (e.g. with your Solicitor or Bank). It is advisable to review your Will from time to time and it is especially important if your circumstances change through marriage or divorce as parts of your Will may become void.

If you only need to make minor changes, this can be done by making a Codicil, which will need to be executed in the same way as your Will, and should be kept alongside your Will.



*We advise anyone making or updating a Will to get in touch with a practising solicitor to help you do this.*

# ***Example wording for your solicitor***

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If you have decided to remember the National Animal Welfare Trust in your Will, you might like to provide the following suggested wording to your solicitor:

***If you'd like to leave a specific sum of money:***

I give to the National Animal Welfare Trust, Tylers Way, Watford by Pass, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 8WT (Registered charity number 1090499), the sum of £....., for their general purposes and the receipt of the proper officer of the charity shall be sufficient discharge for my Trustees.

***If you'd like to leave a residue legacy:***

I give (...%) of the residue of my estate both real and personal to the National Animal Welfare Trust, Tylers Way, Watford by Pass, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 8WT (Registered charity number 1090499), for their general purposes and the receipt of the proper officer of the charity shall be sufficient discharge for my Trustees.

***If you'd like to leave a property as a legacy:***

I give my property known as ... or any other property which I may own at the date of my death to the National Animal Welfare Trust, Tylers Way, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 8WT (Registered charity number 1090499) and I request (without imposing any binding trust or obligation) that if possible it be used to provide accommodation for animals in need of rehoming.

***If you'd like to leave a legacy to a centre:***

I give to the National Animal Welfare Trust, Tylers Way, Watford by Pass, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 8WT (Registered charity number 1090499) the sum of .... and I express the wish that this legacy be used for the benefit of the ... centre and the receipt of the proper officer of the charity shall be sufficient discharge for my Trustees.

***If you'd like to make a provision for your pet:***

My Executors should contact the National Animal Welfare Trust, Tylers Way, Watford by Pass, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 8WT (Registered charity number 1090499) to arrange for the care of any pets that I may own at the time of my death.



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# Legacy Glossary

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Here is a list of explanations for some of the legal terms you may come across when making your Will.

## **Administrators**

Those appointed to administer an estate where there is no Will or executor, often solicitors

## **Beneficiary**

A person or organisation included in your Will to receive a gift

## **Bequeath**

To leave something (money/property/jewellery) in your Will

## **Codicil**

A separate document to change any details or provisions in your existing Will

## **Conditional Legacy**

A gift that will only take effect if a certain event occurs

## **Crown**

HM Treasury. This is where the proceeds of your estate will go if you do not have a next of kin and did not make a Will (intestate)

## **Estate**

Any assets you own at the time of your death

## **Executor(male)/Executrix(female)**

Someone you appoint to carry out the instructions in your Will. Executors are usually family, friends or professional advisors (Solicitor/Bank Manager/Accountant)

## **Guardians**

Guardians are the people that are appointed to look after any minors up to the age of 18

## **Inheritance Tax**

A tax charged if the value of your estate is above a certain limit

## **Intestate**

Leaving no valid Will

## **Legacy**

A gift of your assets made by making a Will

## **Pecuniary legacy**

A gift of a sum of money

## **Probate**

The procedure to establish the validity of a Will to enable your Executors to administer your estate

## **Residuary legacy**

A gift of all or a share of the residue of your estate

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**Residue**

Everything that is left over in your estate after all debts, expenses, taxes and other types of legacies have been paid

**Reversionary legacy**

A legacy (e.g. a property or income from investments) is left to a beneficiary for their lifetime and then upon their death passes onto a subsequent beneficiary

**Specific legacy**

A specific item such as a piece of jewellery, an antique, shares or a property

**Testate**

Leaving a valid Will

**Testator (male)/Testatrix (female)**

The person who is making the Will

**Trustee**

Someone you appoint to deal with any assets left in a trust

**Will**

A legal statement of your wishes dealing with the disposal of your property after death

**Witnesses**

Two people who witness your signature and then sign your Will themselves in your presence and in each other's presence



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# Legacy FAQs

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We understand that you will put a lot of thought into leaving a legacy. Here are the answers to some common questions:

## ***What type of legacy most benefits the National Animal Welfare Trust?***

A residuary legacy benefits NAWT the most because it is not lessened by the rate of inflation. A residuary legacy is the residue or remainder of your estate after other specific bequests have been made.

## ***Can I leave NAWT a specific sum of money?***

Yes you can. A specific sum (or pecuniary legacy) is the simplest form of legacy. You can also protect the value of your gift by directly linking it to the cost of living, so that it doesn't reduce over time.

## ***Can I leave NAWT specific items?***

Again these gifts are very welcome. You can leave the National Animal Welfare Trust items such as property, antiques, jewellery and stocks and shares.

## ***Can I remember a specific branch or adoption centre?***

Yes. However, we advise you only express a wish for your legacy to go to a particular branch or adoption centre. By expressing a wish, the charity Trustees will have the discretion to apply the legacy to our general funds if the one you have named has since closed or changed its name, allowing us to maximize your gift and help as many animals as possible.

## ***How often should I update my Will?***

Solicitors normally advise you to review your Will every few years to make sure that it reflects your changing circumstances.

## ***Can I save tax on my estate by leaving a legacy to charity?***

Yes. Gifts made to charities are exempt from inheritance tax, which may reduce the tax your executors would have to pay.

## ***Can Scottish law affect my legacy to the National Animal Welfare Trust?***

Yes, Scottish laws relating to Wills do differ in some areas and we would strongly advise you to speak to your solicitor who will be able to advise you and ensure that your wishes are carried out.

## ***Will you look after my pet should I die?***

National Animal Welfare Trust will be happy to care for any pets that survive you. You can be safe in the knowledge that we will care for your pets until a suitable new home is found, however long that takes.

## ***Can the National Animal Welfare Trust be my Executor?***

The National Animal Welfare Trust would be happy to act as the executor or co-executor of your Will should you wish. If you would like to discuss this please contact our Legacy Administrator

*For further information please contact our Legacy Administrator on 020 8950 0177 (option 1), or via email [legacies@nawt.org.uk](mailto:legacies@nawt.org.uk)*

**Legacy Administrator, National Animal Welfare Trust  
Tylers Way, Watford by Pass, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 8WT**

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