



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**  
UNITED KINGDOM



# Stand between animals and cruelty, always.

Your guide to will-making and legacies



Dear Friend,

Thank you so much for requesting our guide, and for thinking of leaving a legacy gift in your will to Humane Society International/UK.

Like you, I am a lifelong animal lover and passionate about animal rights. I joined HSI because I have seen our incredible achievements in saving the lives of animals, and changing laws to end their needless suffering, all over the world. Achievements that, of course, are only made possible thanks to the generosity and kindness of supporters like you.

Together we have achieved so much change. We have been able to close down dog meat farms across South Korea, saving the lives of thousands of dogs. We have been there to rescue animals all over the world when disasters have struck. And right here in the UK we continue to influence governments to introduce legislation to protect animals, and to inspire companies to end cruel practices such as the selling of fur.

There are many more changes that I know are possible. The ending of the dog meat trade, vicious trophy hunting and the inhumane caging of animals on farms are all within reach. But I know that animals will always need people like us to stand up for them, to be their voice and to protect them. Even when we are no longer here.

The gifts our supporters leave in their wills help free animals from pain and cruelty. They allow us take on big, global battles to change laws and entire industries to eliminate suffering for good. Thank you so much for thinking about protecting animals in this very special way, and for all that you do to support our work.

Nick

Nick Jones  
Executive Director, HSI/UK



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# About HSI/UK

Humane Society International/UK is one of the UK's leading animal protection charities. As part of Humane Society International, we are one of the only international animal protection charities working across the globe to protect **all** animals.

We work tirelessly to end animal suffering around the world and confront animal cruelty in all its forms.

## At HSI/UK, we work to:



**End the dog meat trade across Asia.**



**End fur farming and ban the sale of fur for good.**



**End factory farming, including the cruel caging of animals.**



**Rescue animals from disasters.**



**Accelerate the replacement of animal tests with non-animal methods.**



**Protect wildlife and end trophy hunting.**

You can read more about our historical impact and the changes we have made to the lives of animals worldwide on pages six and seven of this guide.

With your help, we will continue to stand between animals and cruelty wherever we can and deliver change long into the future. We will never stop campaigning for a kinder world for animals and will always be there to ensure their protections are defended.

Thank you so much for your support, and for helping to build a safer and more humane future for animals all over the world.

## *“I’ve loved and looked after animals my entire life”*

For many of our supporters, a legacy gift is a way of continuing a lifetime of love for animals. We spoke to June, one of our dedicated supporters, about why she decided to leave a gift in her will to HSI/UK.



“ I’ve loved and looked after animals my entire life. I brought my daughters up to love animals, and we’ve looked after all sorts—cats, rabbits, horses and even ducks! I have my dog Fluff (pictured) now; he’s a rescue dog from near where I live.

I was going to adopt a dog, Scooby, that HSI rescued from South Korea, but sadly he had a heart problem that meant he died suddenly before he was ready to travel to the UK. They sent me a video after the rescue, and I saw how much love they gave him and how well he was cared for before he died.

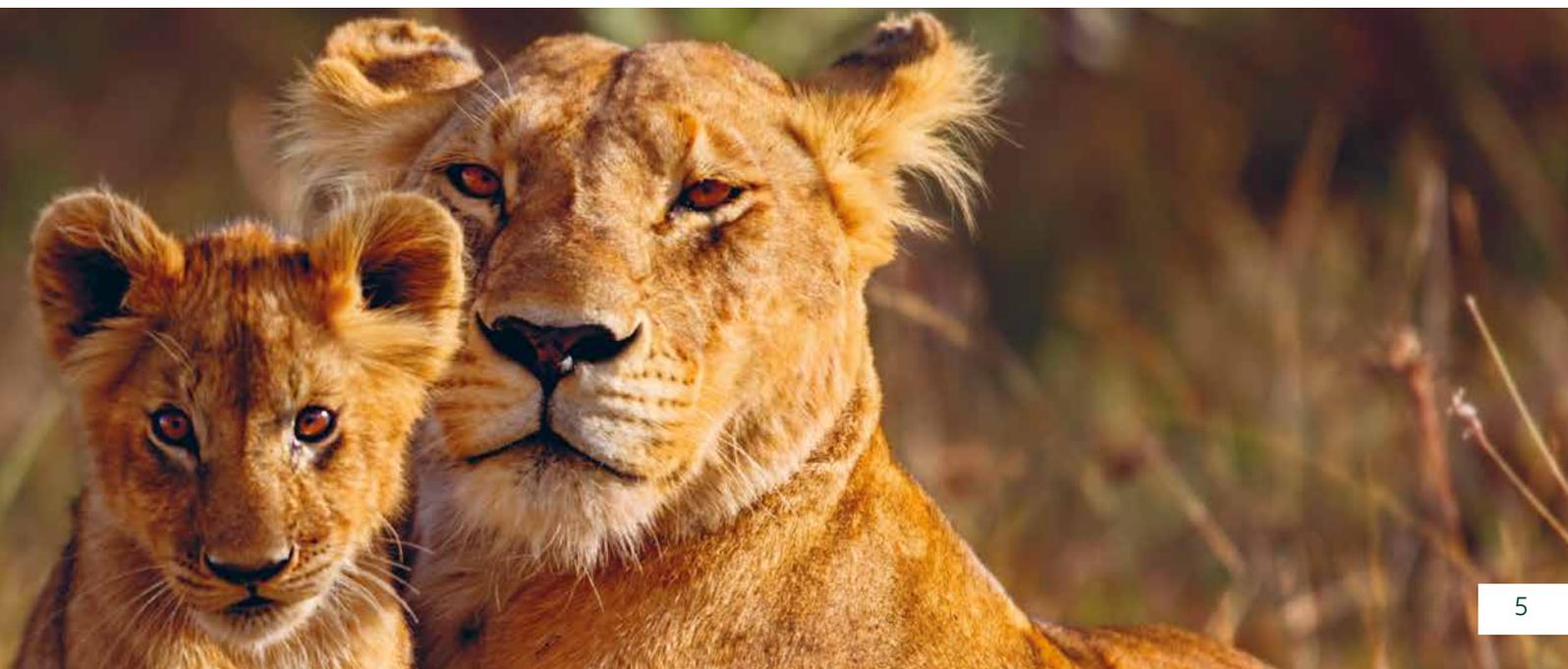
I support lots of animal charities, but HSI is my top one. They go all over the world, not just one area. They actually go in and rescue the animals, and get

the job done respectfully by helping people like dog meat farmers find a new way of making a living. I’m always telling my friends about their work and that they don’t just rescue dogs, they help all animals.

I’ve left a gift in my will to HSI so that they can continue to do the job in the future that they’re doing so well now.

I hope that in my lifetime we will see the end of eating dog and cat meat. The younger generation are changing things. I hope that the gift I’m leaving will be able to help rescue other animals and free them from pain. ”

June Carmichael – HSI/UK Supporter



# Our global impact for animals

Thanks to supporters like you, HSI/UK and our global HSI partners have been able to help achieve dramatic change for animals around the world. Below are just some of the advances your support has made possible.



## EU bans sale of animal-tested cosmetics

The EU became the world's largest cruelty-free market for cosmetics after banning the sale of all newly animal-tested cosmetic products. HSI has campaigned for many years on this issue, and since 2013 we have successfully lobbied many more countries to ban cosmetics testing on animals.

2013

2014

2016

2018

## Canada begins phasing out battery cages

As a result of negotiations between major companies, animal charities such as HSI and the government, Canadian egg farmers agreed to transition away from battery-caged eggs. Canadian egg production is expected to be 100% cage-free by 2036, but many major companies are getting there sooner.



## India prohibits cosmetics testing and shark finning

This double victory was a huge step in the global fight to end shark finning – an inhumane practice where fishermen catch sharks, cut off their fins for sale and throw the still-living animals back into the water.

## Indonesian government pledges action to end dog meat trade

Thanks to pressure from the Dog Meat Free Indonesia coalition, of which HSI is a founding member, the Indonesian government pledged action to end the dog meat trade. HSI continues to work closely with our partners to ensure that the government delivers its commitment.





### Landmark UK legislation for animals

In 2022 HSI/UK celebrated the passing into law of the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act. This act reinstates legal recognition of animal sentience in the UK and requires the Government to show Parliament how it has taken animal welfare into account when making and implementing new laws.

2022



### History made as South Korea announces plan to ban the dog meat industry

In a truly historic announcement, the South Korean government announced that they will introduce a bill to ban the dog meat industry. There will be a three-year phase out period to allow farmers to close their businesses, and the ban will come into effect in 2027. HSI/Korea has campaigned for over a decade for this ban and since 2015 has been helping dog farmers across the country to transition to other livelihoods.

2023

### The future?



### Emergency response in Ukraine

In response to the conflict in Ukraine, HSI continues to provide life-saving aid to both animals inside the country and displaced people who have fled to neighbouring countries with their pets. Since the conflict began HSI has helped to send 160 tons of pet food and supplies to impacted areas in Ukraine, and helped more than 145,000 animals.

### Major brands continue to go fur-free

Following our multi-year campaign, in 2023 Harvey Nichols became the latest major brand to announce it would end the sale of fur products in the UK. In 2022 Frasers Group, including House of Fraser and Flannels, made the same commitment. HSI continues to successfully campaign for this change and many major brands (such as Prada, Gucci and Canada Goose) have gone fur-free in recent years.



With your support, we have already achieved so much for animals. But there is so much more to be done. We want to see a fur-free Britain, a worldwide ban on trophy hunting, and the end of the inhumane dog meat trade. Will you consider leaving a gift in your will to HSI/UK, and protect animals wherever they need us in future?

# How to make a will

Making or updating your will is simple and straightforward. We always recommend preparing your will through a solicitor, to ensure it is accurate, legally binding and beneficial to the people, causes and animals you care about.

## 1 Make a list of what you own (assets)

Firstly, you should work out what your estate is worth. Add up the value of your assets, such as your home, what you have in your bank or savings accounts, and any significant possessions.

## 2 Make a list of what you owe (liabilities)

After you have worked out your assets, calculate any outstanding debts, such as mortgages, credit cards and loans, and deduct them from the total value of your assets. What is left over is the overall value of your estate.

## 3 Decide who you would like to benefit

Make a list of the people and organisations you would like to benefit and work out how you would like to divide your estate between them. Information on the different types of gifts you can leave in your will is on page 10.

## 4 Choose your executors

Executors are the individuals responsible for distributing your estate. You can appoint between one and four executors, and these can be family members, friends or a solicitor. If you would like to appoint family members or friends as executor, it is advised that you ask them before making your will.



If you need a solicitor, information on how to find one (including one who can make your will for free) is on page 12. Before visiting a solicitor, it's best to do some brief preparation. This can save you time and money when making your will. Just follow these seven steps:

### **5 Book an appointment with a solicitor**

After completing the above four steps, you're ready to meet with a solicitor. For advice on how to find one, turn to page 12.

### **6 Sign your will**

After making your will, you need to sign and date it in the presence of two independent witnesses. It is important to note that your witnesses can't be people who will benefit from your will or who are married to people who will benefit.

### **7 Store your will safely**

Your solicitor or bank can advise you how to store your will securely. Wherever you choose to store it, it is important that you let your executors know where your will is kept.



# Types of gifts

There are a few ways you can leave gifts in your will (also known as legacies or bequests) to the people, organisations and charities that you care about. Your solicitor will be able to talk you through the most suitable options.

## Residuary gift

This is when a person leaves a set percentage of their estate after all other gifts have been made, and debts such as funeral expenses and solicitors fees have been paid. Dividing your estate into percentages means you're less likely to need to update your will in the future, as the percentage remains unchanged if the value of your estate rises or falls. For this reason, many people choose to leave charitable legacies as a residuary gift.

## Cash gift

This is a specific sum of money, also known as a pecuniary gift. It is worth considering that cash gifts lose value over time, owing to the effects of inflation, so do bear this in mind when working out the size of these types of gifts.

## Specific gift

This is a gift of a particular item, for example a house, a piece of furniture or an item of jewellery. It's important that these types of gift are described precisely in your will, so that your executors can easily identify them and gift them in line with your wishes.



# How to leave a gift to HSI/UK

Thank you so much for considering a gift in your will. Each year, many HSI/UK supporters leave legacy gifts, which help end animal suffering all over the world. Our work would not be possible without them.

Leaving a gift to HSI/UK is very straightforward.  
All you need is:

Our official charity name:

**The Humane Society International (UK)**

Our address:

**5 Underwood Street, London N1 7LY**

Our registered charity number:

**1098925**

We recommend the following wording for your will clause, for you to discuss with your solicitor:

## **Residuary gift**

*“I leave x% to The Humane Society International (UK), 5 Underwood Street, London N1 7LY, Registered Charity Number 1098925, for the general purposes of the charity.”*

## **Cash gift**

*“I leave £x to The Humane Society International (UK), 5 Underwood Street, London N1 7LY, Registered Charity Number 1098925, for the general purposes of the charity.”*

In any will clause, you are free to specify areas of HSI/UK’s work you would like your gift to benefit. If this is something you are interested in, please do contact us first, so we can talk you through how best to word your gift and ensure your wishes are delivered. **You can get in touch using the contact details on page 15.**



# Make a will for free

As a dedicated HSI/UK supporter, we can help find you a solicitor to make or update your will for free through our friends at the National Free Wills Network.



The National Free Wills Network has over 900 participating solicitors and covers all parts of the UK. All solicitors are Law Society accredited, so you can be sure that you are in safe hands. There is no obligation to leave a gift to charity when making your will, although we would be delighted if this is something you are considering.

**For more information, and to find a participating solicitor in your area, please get in touch with us using the contact details on page 15.**

## Finding a local solicitor

You can find a local will-making solicitor via the Law Society website. Costs will vary by solicitor, but any solicitor you contact should make these costs clear before you begin.

England and Wales

**[lawsociety.org.uk](http://lawsociety.org.uk)**

**0870 606 2555**

Scotland

**[lawscot.org.uk](http://lawscot.org.uk)**

**0131 226 7411**

Northern Ireland

**[lawsoc-ni.org](http://lawsoc-ni.org)**

**028 9023 1614**

Isle of Man

**[iomlawsociety.co.im](http://iomlawsociety.co.im)**

**01624 662 910**



# How we spend your donations

HSI/UK's work to end animal suffering is wholly funded by the generous donations of supporters like you. We receive no government funding, which is why donations and legacy gifts are so important in protecting animals worldwide.

We work efficiently and effectively to maximise the impact your donations have. Our Annual Report shows how we spend every £1 donated:

## For every £1 we receive

**21p** is spent on fundraising and governance costs

**79p** is spent on promoting animal welfare worldwide



(Source: The Humane Society International (UK) Annual Report & Financial Statements 2022)

All donations directly help to rescue animals in emergencies, close down dog meat farms and help to end animal suffering in the fur trade and in farming systems.

Our expenditure on fundraising and ensuring good governance is an important investment that allows us to secure and expand our work for animals long term. You can be assured that any gift you choose to leave in your will be used effectively to protect animals, wherever they need us in the future.

To find out more about how HSI/UK spends your donations, you can read our latest Annual Report [hsi.org/financial-information-hsi-uk](https://hsi.org/financial-information-hsi-uk) Here you can also read about HSI's combined impact for animals in all countries where we work.



# How we spend gifts in wills

HSI/UK receives legacy gifts of all sizes every year, and all of them make a huge difference to animals. Our work would not be possible without them. Here are just a few examples of how any gift that you choose to leave will help to protect animals all over the world.



**£2,000**

will help to rescue, rehabilitate, provide veterinary care for, and adopt one dog from a dog meat farm in Asia.



**£8,000**

will pay for 20 collars for threatened African elephants, enabling them to be tracked and protected through HSI's humane herd management programme.



**£15,000**

will help HSI/UK to locate fur farms and investigate and film their activities. This evidence can be used to convince policymakers to ban fur sales.



**£62,000**

will help train an animal response team to rescue and treat animals in disaster situations around the world, including bushfires and volcanic eruptions.

# Contact us

If you would like a friendly and confidential chat about anything mentioned in this guide, please get in touch with our legacy director Adam West (pictured here with Lumi, rescued from a South Korean dog meat farm by HSI). Adam is here to help you with any questions you have about will-making and would be delighted to hear from you.



**Please also contact Adam if you are interested in making or updating your will for free through our friends at the National Free Wills Network.**

## Contact details

Email: [acwest@hsi.org](mailto:acwest@hsi.org)

Telephone: 020 4548 1495

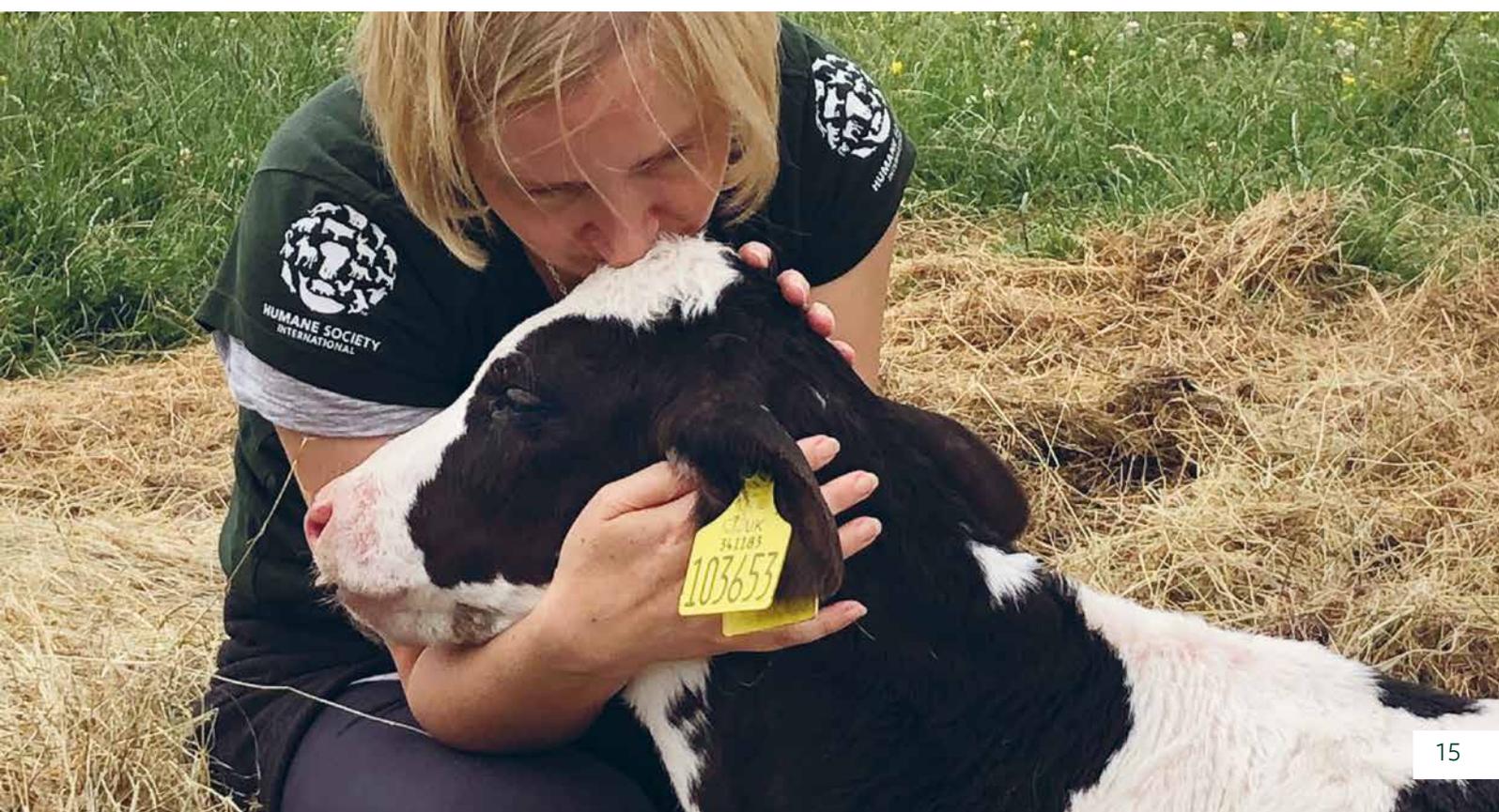
## Keep us updated

Thank you so much for your interest in leaving a gift in your will to protect animals worldwide. If this is something that you intend to do, or have done already, please let us know. Knowing your intentions helps us to better plan how we can end animal cruelty in all forms, and helps us send you more relevant news about HSI's work.

If you are able, please scan the QR code below using your mobile phone or tablet. It will take you to a short online form where you can keep us updated on your thoughts about leaving a legacy gift. Alternatively, please visit [hsi.org/legacies](https://hsi.org/legacies)



**Thank you for helping to build a safer, more humane future for animals all over the world!**





**HUMANE SOCIETY  
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5 Underwood Street  
London N1 7LY  
Telephone: 020 7490 5288  
[hsi.org/legacies](http://hsi.org/legacies)

 [HSIUnitedKingdom](https://www.facebook.com/HSIUnitedKingdom)

 [HSIUKorg](https://twitter.com/HSIUKorg)

 [HSIUKorg](https://www.instagram.com/HSIUKorg)

## Our Mission

Advancing the welfare of animals in more than 50 countries, Humane Society International works around the globe to promote the human-animal bond, rescue and protect dogs and cats, improve farm animal welfare, protect wildlife, promote animal-free testing and research, respond to disasters and confront cruelty to animals in all of its forms.



Reg. Charity No. 1098925. Company No. 4610194.



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