

your legacy **THEIR FUTURE**

.....
Your guide to leaving a gift in your Will



THE **HUMANE LEAGUE** 
UNITED KINGDOM

Registered Charity Number 1177926

leave a LEGACY of HOPE

Each year in the UK, over 1 billion farmed animals suffer from extreme health issues, injuries, confinement, and frightening deaths.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Together, through a gift in your Will, we can create a more compassionate world.

At The Humane League UK (THL UK), we strive for a world where animals are treated with far greater compassion. That's why, by 2050, we will have stopped the worst and most widespread abuse of animals raised for food.

Ultimately we want to help create a world where we don't need to exist, because no animal is suffering. But we are realistic and know that achieving this goal will take time, most likely decades.

However long it takes, we won't stop until we've ended the abuse of animals raised for food. We hope that you'll continue to stand up for them alongside us.

We have already achieved numerous big wins for the animals. This is why we are one of Animal Charity Evaluator's Recommended Charities, and are the only organisation to have been recommended every year in the history of their reviews.

You can be part of securing even bigger wins and, together, achieving something truly special: a better world for animals.

Leaving a gift in your Will to THL UK means you can leave a legacy of hope that will make a lasting difference.

Thank you for taking the time to consider your legacy and continuing your support of our work far into the future.

We hope this guide will help you as you consider your options, think about your beneficiaries, and prepare your Will. Please do get in touch with us if you have further questions, we'd love to hear from you.

For the animals,
Sean Gifford



*Managing Director,
The Humane League UK*



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the impact of leaving a **LEGACY TO THL UK**

By leaving a gift in your Will to THL UK you can help create a better, more compassionate world for animals.

We work relentlessly to push for the institutional and legislative change that will eliminate the worst cruelties of industrial animal agriculture. By using data-driven, cost-effective strategies to expose the horrors of modern factory farms, we create the biggest impact for the greatest number of farmed animals.

THL UK is distinguished from other British animal protection organisations by the effectiveness of our corporate campaigns and the relentlessness of our staff and volunteers, making us a respected leader in the global movement.

We believe a world that's free from animal abuse starts with a world that has less animal abuse. Step by step. Day by day. Big social change is a journey of small, yet meaningful, incremental steps. Ending the use of cages. Giving animals more space. Making cruel breeding practices that create 'Frankenchickens' a thing of the past. Building support for the first law to protect farmed fish. All of these wins change the factory farming system.

We focus on chickens raised for meat, hens, and fish as they are farmed in the largest numbers and have relatively few protections. The scale of the suffering these animals face mean we can have a significant impact through targeted and incremental welfare improvements.

Our successes have had a huge impact on millions of individual animals and we're not slowing down. We will work relentlessly until we achieve our mission of a total end to all farmed animal suffering.

A gift in your Will costs you nothing during your lifetime but has the power to disrupt the farming industry and transform the lives of millions of animals for years to come.

*Your **LEGACY**, no matter the shape or size, could **ACHIEVE** more than you could ever **IMAGINE**.*



making an **IMPACT** for **ANIMALS** long term

Vicky explains how leaving a gift in her Will to THL UK is creating a better world for her family and for animals.

I've cared about animals from a very young age.

I became a vet because I wanted to help them, and during that time, I discovered the degree of suffering that intensively farmed animals experience. Ever since then, I have devoted myself to ending factory farming.

Sadly, it is one of the biggest causes of suffering on the planet for animals, and ending it is going to take a considerable amount of time. I hoped it would be in my lifetime. It probably won't, unfortunately, given the level of suffering.

Setting up my Will, and thinking about a future where hens are freed from cages once and for all and where chickens no longer have suffering coded into their DNA, I recognised that The Humane League UK's (THL UK) work is long-term. So by leaving a gift to them in my Will, I know that even after I'm gone, I will still be contributing to ending factory farming for good.

The work that THL UK does is so important, and the reality is that it takes money. They are a small charity with limited resources, working with other similar small charities to dismantle one of the most powerful and widespread industries in the world.

It gives me peace of mind that my gift will go a long way in helping to continue their successes for animals.

My choice was based on knowing that, typically, when people think about helping and giving money for animals, it often goes to smaller-scale projects for cats and dogs, shelters or sanctuaries. I wanted to look at how I could have the biggest impact for animals. An organisation like THL UK has such potential for impact on animals at such a grand scale, and if I was to give that same money to another organisation it may not help as many individuals.

My advice to anyone just getting started with their Will is to think about what the change is you want to see in the world. And if that change is a world without factory farming, then THL UK is a great option to make the biggest difference with your money. Their work impacts millions upon millions of animals every year.

I didn't have a Will, but I wanted to make sure that I had thought through what I wanted to do with my assets. I was worried about how complicated making a Will was going to be

but it was actually very simple. I always thought it would be prohibitively costly but it was affordable. I found an online Will writing service and they took me through the process step by step. They asked relevant questions about where I wanted to leave my money - relatives, companion animals and charities, and then talked me through what type of gifts I could leave. I came out of this process with a Will that was legal and binding, and that I was fully content with.

When I was writing my Will, I considered family members and charities that I wanted to leave money to. To me, the future world I want for my niece and nephew, who are both animal lovers, is a kinder one, and I can achieve that by leaving a gift in my Will to charity.

I would recommend anyone having a Will. Not second-guessing what it is that you would have wanted can help grieving loved ones, and take responsibility off them.

It's amazing that you can continue to have an impact long after you're no longer here, for what is important to you. In my case, that means reducing animal suffering and ending factory farming.

Knowing that I can support this crucial work after I've gone and still be able to help animals means a lot to me.

Vicky Bond is currently President of The Humane League and Chair of the Trustees for The Humane League UK, having formerly been Managing Director for The Humane League UK.



our VICTORIES

You have already helped us achieve so much for the animals.



When we started our work in the UK in 2017, only 48% of egg-laying hens were in cage free systems. Since then we have worked to persuade all the major food companies to go cage free, including winning our campaign against the UK's largest egg producer, Noble Foods, which freed 4.3 million hens from cages. Today, over 75% are cage free.



We secured a court hearing to challenge the legality of fast-growing breeds of chicken, Frankenchickens. Only 5% of cases make it this far. We appealed when the original case wasn't won and have been granted a final hearing to take place in spring 2024.



We secured a first for fishes, hosting the first ever parliamentary reception at Westminster focused on fish welfare. We are leading an NGO coalition pushing for legislation and have secured backing from major political parties as well as the salmon industry.



We have convinced the vast majority of the restaurant sector to sign up to the Better Chicken Commitment (BCC), including KFC, Greggs, and Nando's. The BCC is a set of six welfare standards which will dramatically reduce the suffering and improve the lives of chickens farmed for meat.



In May 2023, we submitted a member-led motion at Co-op's AGM resulting in them committing to give their chickens 20% more space. That's 51 million lives that will be suffering less because of our work.



*“Knowing I could leave something behind that would help animals now and in the **FUTURE** gave me **PEACE OF MIND**. It meant I could feel **HOPEFUL** for a **BETTER WORLD** where animals will **NO LONGER BE ABUSED** for food.”*

MARTIN, THL UK SUPPORTER AND LEGACY PLEDGER



what your **LEGACY** *can help us* **ACHIEVE**

*Our biggest challenges are yet to come,
and we can't overcome them alone.*

We are now working to convince the main UK supermarkets to commit to the Better Chicken Commitment. Being responsible for approximately 65% of the UK's meat chicken flock, they have the power to change the lives of millions of innocent birds. This is a monumental task for us, given the scale of the industry, and how chickens raised for their meat are viewed as mere commodities.

We'll also continue to push for the UK Government to ban cages for hens for good, and implement legislation to improve fish welfare.

We, and more importantly, the animals, will need support to help us achieve such ambitious goals. That's where you and your legacy come in.

Without gifts in Wills, and without the backing of you, our supporters, we will not be able to rise to the challenges we are facing.

You can help us secure vital legislation and Better Chicken Commitments for the animals. By leaving a gift in your Will, you are actively ensuring our work can continue.

Your **LEGACY,**
their **FUTURE.**



how to leave a **GIFT** *in your* **WILL** *to* **THL UK**

Deciding who will benefit from your Will is an important decision and we understand that your loved ones will come first.

If you are considering leaving a gift in your Will to THL UK, please know that we value this as an immensely generous and transformative gift. We are grateful to all those who remember us in this way and trust us with their legacy.

All gifts left to THL UK are valuable and help to create a more compassionate world for animals.

It is simple to add THL UK as a beneficiary of your Will. To do so, please make sure to include our registered name, address and charity number.

REGISTERED CHARITY NAME: THE HUMANE LEAGUE UK
REGISTERED CHARITY NAME: THE OFFICES
57 NEWTOWN ROAD
BRIGHTON
EAST SUSSEX, BN3 7BA
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1177926



why your WILL is IMPORTANT

Having an up-to-date Will is important for many reasons.



It means you can make sure that the people you love are taken care of. It also allows you to continue to support the causes that are close to your heart.

If you don't have a Will, your estate could be divided up and shared in a way that goes against your wishes, meaning that loved ones and causes you care about could miss out. Ultimately, a Will can make sure that your wishes, including a better world for animals, are carried out.

Having a Will can also help to avoid family disputes and costly legal challenges. You might want to think about sharing the details of your Will with those it will affect so that there are no surprises.

Once you have made a Will, it is important to keep it up to date. Life changes, such as getting married, moving home, or having children, can affect it.

We would recommend seeking legal advice before making or amending your Will. A solicitor can help make sure the wording is correct and that the Will is valid.

The [Law Society](#) and [The Institute of Professional Willwriters](#) can help you find a solicitor or Will writer.

If you're unsure of who to speak to, or simply want more information, then please get in touch and we'd be happy to help.



your **STEP-BY-STEP** guide to making a **WILL**

*Making a Will doesn't need to be complicated.
Here are some simple steps you can follow.*

1

Work out what assets you have that you would like to include in your Will, such as money, property, and vehicles.

2

Decide who you would like to benefit from your Will, such as family, friends, and charitable causes.

3

Decide on the types of gifts you would like to leave (you can find more information about this in the FAQs), such as:

- a.** a percentage of your estate
- b.** a cash gift or fixed sum of money
- c.** a specific item

4

Decide who should look after any **dependants or companion animals**.

5

Decide if you have **specific wishes for your funeral**.

6

Choose executors who will distribute your estate and carry out your wishes as laid out in your Will.

7

Appoint a solicitor or seek legal advice to help draft your Will.

8

Let beneficiaries, such as loved ones, charitable causes and anyone else affected by your Will, **know your intentions**.

9

Store your Will, It is important the original version of your Will is kept secure and your executors have access to this when the time comes. You can find more guidance [here](#).

10

Keep your Will up to date.



FAQs

IS MAKING A WILL COMPLICATED?

Making a Will does not have to be a complicated process. You can follow our simple steps above and if you appoint a solicitor or legal adviser then they will be able to take you through the process.

IS MAKING A WILL EXPENSIVE?

The cost of making a Will will depend on the type of Will, whether it is a single Will or a pair of mirror Wills, and its complexity. It will also depend on how you make your Will and if you employ a solicitor or use, for example, an online Wills platform. Some companies and charities offer free or reduced-fee Will-writing services.

The cost of making a Will does not need to be prohibitive and you will be able to get a quote from a solicitor or Will writer before you appoint them.

IS IT NECESSARY TO APPOINT A SOLICITOR?

You do not have to appoint a solicitor or seek legal advice to make a Will. However, we would recommend that you do so to make sure that the wording is accurate and your Will is valid. A solicitor can also often store the original copy of your Will for you to keep it safe.

CAN THL UK PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE?

We are unable to provide legal or financial advice and recommend that you seek your own independent professional advice when making your Will. It is important that your Will reflects your wishes and is not influenced in any way.

CAN THL UK RECOMMEND A SOLICITOR OR WILL-MAKING ORGANISATION?

We are not able to give recommendations on who should help you make your Will. [The Law Society](#) and [The Institute of Professional Willwriters](#) can help you find a solicitor or Will writer.

FAQs

CAN THL UK ACT AS MY EXECUTOR?

We would encourage you, where possible, to appoint executors that you know well, whether professional advisers or from friends and family, as they would be better positioned to carry out your wishes.

Acting as an executor can be complex and we do not have the expertise or resources in-house to act in this capacity. Should you have limited options in this respect and wish to discuss this with us then please get in touch.

We would recommend speaking with anyone you wish to name as an executor first. After they have been named we would also advise you let them know where the original copy of your Will is stored. This needs to be a physical copy, as indicated by the [National Will Register](#).

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE A WILL?

If you have an existing Will and want to make small changes, these can be stated in a document called a codicil. For larger changes, it is sometimes necessary to create a new Will. Your solicitor will be able to provide further advice.

IF I LEAVE A GIFT TO THL UK DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T LEAVE SOMETHING TO MY LOVED ONES?

You can do both. Many people give to the causes and the people they care about. This will be a personal decision for you, and will be different for each person that makes a Will. When drafting your Will, you can make sure that your loved ones are taken care of first and then think about what you might want to leave to charities that you care about, such as THL UK.

Your Will is a reflection of what matters most to you.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO GIVE; IS MY GIFT STILL VALUABLE TO THL UK?

Anyone can leave a gift to THL UK. You can give as little or as much as you are able to and are comfortable with.

All gifts left to THL UK, regardless of size, are valuable and will make a difference in helping us achieve our vision for the animals, especially when combined with the collective power of all our supporters giving together.



FAQs

WHAT TYPE OF GIFT CAN I LEAVE AND WHICH IS THE MOST VALUABLE?

There are several types of gift you could leave in your Will:

- A fixed sum of money is called a **pecuniary gift**. Due to inflation and increases in the cost of living, this can be devalued over time.
- You can set aside a percentage of your estate, after everything else has been paid, to be divided between named beneficiaries. This is called a **residuary gift**.
- You can leave specific items, known as a **specific gift**, to a beneficiary, such as property, vehicles, antiques, and jewelry.

A share of your estate (a residuary gift), even just a small percentage, is extremely valuable to us at THL UK as it will maintain or increase in value over time, unlike a specific sum (pecuniary gift).

Specific gifts, whilst welcomed, can be hard for us to manage as we have limited resources and may need to arrange storage, spend time working out how best to utilise the gift, or sell/auction the item.

CAN I RESTRICT THE GIFT I LEAVE TO THL UK TO BE USED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES?

Unrestricted gifts are the most valuable as they give us the flexibility to use the money where it is most needed. Whilst it is certain that THL UK will be here for many years to come, and that we will be able to put your gift to good use, it is unclear how the world will look and what our exact campaigns will be at the moment in time when your gift is realised. We would, therefore, request that you place no restrictions on your gift. Rest assured that, regardless, your gift will be spent in a way that makes the biggest difference to the animals you care about.

If you would like your gift to be restricted for a specific purpose then please speak with us first before including this in your Will to make sure that we will be able to fulfill your request.

WILL THL UK STILL EXIST WHEN I AM NO LONGER HERE?

The Humane League has been fighting against the suffering faced by farmed animals since 2005 and we will continue to fight until we have ended the abuse of animals raised for food. Sadly, we know this will be a long fight and we will, therefore, be needed for many more years to come. It is a big challenge and we cannot face it alone. We don't know exactly what the future holds but we intend to still be fighting far into the future. Regardless, it can be helpful when writing your Will to specify how you would like your executors to act should a beneficiary not be around when the time comes.



FAQs

DO I NEED TO LET BENEFICIARIES NAMED IN MY WILL AND / OR MY FAMILY KNOW OF MY INTENTIONS?

You don't have to let anyone know your intentions and can keep the details of your Will private. However, it can be helpful to let those affected by your Will know your intentions to avoid disputes when the Will goes to probate.

SHOULD I INFORM YOU IF I LEAVE SOMETHING IN MY WILL TO THL UK?

You don't need to inform us of your intention to leave a gift in your Will to THL UK. If you do feel comfortable sharing this information with us, then we would be grateful as this information can help us plan for the future. Understanding your intentions can also help us communicate with you better and thank you appropriately for your generosity. Letting us know your intentions is not legally binding and you can update and amend your Will at any time.

HOW ARE MY DETAILS USED AND HOW DO YOU ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS LEFT IN WILLS?

Should you inform us of your pledge, we will treat all details confidentially.

We would like to thank you for your pledge and keep you updated with our work, although you can let us know if you prefer not to receive these communications.

When your Will goes to probate and your gift to THL UK is realised, we will communicate and coordinate with your executors and solicitors managing the Will. Where it is relevant and we have permission to do so, we will thank your executors and next of kin. Once again, all details of your gift will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

It can be really valuable to share the stories of those who have chosen to leave a gift in their Will to THL UK, both to celebrate those givers and encourage others to think about giving in the same way. We will never share these stories without the permission of you and/or your next of kin/executors. We will respect all requests for anonymity.

WHAT DOES PROBATE MEAN?

Probate is the process of proving that a Will is valid and confirming who has authority, or the legal right to deal with someone's estate when they die. You can find out more about [applying for probate here](#).



FAQs

WHAT ABOUT INHERITANCE TAX? ARE THERE ANY TAX BENEFITS FROM LEAVING A GIFT IN MY WILL TO CHARITY?

Yes, most gifts left to charities are exempt from Inheritance Tax and are, therefore, tax free.

In addition, naming a charity in your Will can help reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax you pay, if liable. In these instances, where at least 10% of your estate is gifted to charity, the rate of Inheritance Tax falls from 40% to 36%.

Inheritance Tax is only due on estates valued over a certain threshold.

You can find out more information about [tax relief here](#) and more about [Inheritance Tax here](#).

We would also recommend speaking to a professional adviser for further advice.

WHO ARE EXECUTORS AND HOW DO I CHOOSE THEM?

An executor is legally responsible for carrying out the instructions in a person's Will and handling their estate after they die.

An executor can be a spouse, child, family member or friend. Someone can act as an executor even if they are named as a beneficiary in the Will.

Anyone who makes a Will must name at least one executor, and can appoint up to four executors so that the responsibility is shared. If there's more than one executor, all decisions must be made jointly. Often, at least two executors are appointed, just in case one dies or is otherwise unable to carry out their duties.

You can appoint a professional executor, such as a solicitor or an accountant, if you don't have anyone else that you feel would be suitable. A professional executor will charge for their services and this will be paid for out of your estate.

When choosing your executors, think carefully as it can take up a lot of time and energy, and may be the last thing someone wants to do when they are also grieving.

IS THERE ANY OTHER GUIDANCE AVAILABLE?

The Law Society has provided a [quick guide to making a Will](#) which you may find helpful. You can also find guidance from [Citizens Advice](#).





our PROMISE to YOU

Leaving a gift in your Will to THL UK is a significant decision. That's why we promise that:

- If you choose to remember THL UK in your Will, we will make sure your gift achieves the greatest impact for animals.
- Every gift matters: every legacy, no matter the size, will help us achieve significant wins for the animals.
- We will never put you under any pressure - making a Will is a big decision and we know that it can take time.

→ We understand that if you have loved ones, they will always come first. But we hope that, after they are provided for, you will also remember THL UK and the animals we take a stand for.

→ We will respect your privacy. We'd love to know if you remember us in your Will and we will keep any details confidential.

→ We promise to treat your legacy with the utmost respect and care.

→ You can change your mind at any time.



get in TOUCH

*Thank you for taking the time to consider leaving a gift in your Will to
THL UK and making the world a more compassionate place.*

If you have any further questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to get in touch. Klara, our Digital Fundraiser, would be delighted to hear from you.

You don't need to inform us of your intention to leave a gift in your Will to THL UK. However, if you do feel comfortable sharing your pledge confidentially, then we would encourage you to share your intentions with us as it will help us to plan for the future and communicate with you more effectively.



KLARA SCHMIDT
Digital Fundraiser

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Brighton, East Sussex
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SHARE YOUR STORY

It can be inspiring for others to hear why you have left a gift in your Will to THL UK and can encourage others to do the same.

If you would like to share your story then please get in touch.



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



**RECOMMENDED
CHARITY**

2023

THE HUMANE LEAGUE 
UNITED KINGDOM

Registered Charity Number 1177926