

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



**Let your love of animals live on**

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**RAYSTEDE**  
GIVING ANIMALS A BETTER LIFE

Will you consider  
**a very special gift**  
to the animals at Raystede?

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**Thank you for enquiring about gifts in Wills at Raystede, I hope you will find this guide inspirational and informative.**

We help over 1,800 animals in need each year, and support a diverse range of species, including dogs, cats, horses, alpacas, goats and exotic birds. When an animal is found neglected, we take care of them, when they need a home, we help find loving new owners, and when the scars run too deep, we provide sanctuary.

We are passionate about creating a world where animals are treated with kindness and understanding. To achieve this, visitors are welcome to meet our residents, and our education programmes, events and awareness campaigns promote positive attitudes towards animal welfare.

Although our work is fuelled by compassion, the cost of providing life-changing animal care and education is £2.5 million each year. Gifts in Wills are vital to us and cover the cost of looking after half of the animals at our working centre. As we receive no government funding, without these very special gifts we simply wouldn't be here to care for animals who need us.

We believe every animal deserves a happy life, and it is our privilege to be a part of their journey with you by our side, now and in the future.

*Derwyn Jones*

**Chair of Trustees**

**Derwyn Jones**



## You are vital to us

today... and tomorrow

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We've been here for animals in need since 1952 – and we hope to be here for many years to come. But we can't do it without you.

We spend £6,500 a day caring for animals and improving animal welfare in the community, but this is set to rise as the number of animals needing our support is increasing. From hand-feeding tiny kittens, to performing life-saving operations and finding new loving homes, gifts in Wills ensure we can be ready when a vulnerable animal needs us.

### You can help secure a future for the animals at Raystede

An up-to-date Will gives you peace of mind that your loved ones will be cared for after you're gone. It is also a wonderful way to help the causes you care about.

As someone who loves animals, you may wish to use one of our free Wills services to have your Will written or updated for free, and although there is no obligation to include Raystede when you use one of these services, we hope that you will consider doing so.

Leaving a gift in your Will is a special way of supporting Raystede in the future. Every gift large or small is special, and will help us be here today and tomorrow, letting your love of animals live on.



**Topsy**

This gentle girl was in a terrible state when she arrived as a stray. At only 18 months old, we could see that she had experienced abuse. As a result of being confined, she had no muscle development in her hindquarters, and instead of fur she had mange sores. Moreover, Topsy's teeth were coated in gunk from a bad diet, and she was anaemic and emaciated.

To help her back to health, we fed her small, regular nutritious meals so as not to overwhelm her and we treated her other conditions. She learned to trust and feel loved through our team's help, and finally, her true happy personality emerged.

# Every animal

is very special to us

Across our 43 acre site, we care for one of the most diverse range of species of any animal rescue centre in the UK. We look after a wide range of animals including dogs, cats and small animals. We also care for exotic birds, fowl and tortoises, as well as larger animals such as horses and donkeys. With your support, we rescue, rehome and provide sanctuary to more than 1,800 animals every year.

## A loving new home

We work hard to match dogs, cats and other animals that can be rehomed very closely with potential owners. As a result, the number of animals returned to us is extremely low.

## A forever home in our sanctuary

It simply isn't possible to rehome every animal, often due to age or complex medical needs, so we give some of our horses, donkeys and tortoises a permanent home in our beautiful sanctuary. And this is supported by our promise never to put a healthy animal to sleep.

Buddy, an adorable two-year-old pony came to Raystede as his previous owners lacked experience with young colts.

He has now been castrated, and with consistent training and handling such as hand-walking, picking out feet, grooming and bathing, he is thriving. It takes time and patience to train a young pony, but Buddy is taking everything in his stride.

He has been introduced to our pony herd and his playful spirit has rubbed off on them as he encourages them to play chase. Watching Buddy grow and learn has brought immense joy to the team at Raystede.



Buddy

A gift in your Will could help us find a loving new home for an abandoned pet, or it could provide life-long sanctuary for an unwanted donkey, alpaca or pony.



# Gifts in Wills pay for the big things and small things too

We rely on gifts in Wills to help fund major costs such as cutting-edge veterinary equipment, so we can provide the best possible care to every sick or injured animal. They also help us expand and update our animal care facilities, so we can keep our doors open to as many unwanted, abandoned or surrendered animals as possible. Additionally, these gifts enable us to purchase everyday essentials like kitten milk, specialist dog food, toys and treats.

Without gifts in Wills, we simply wouldn't be able to care for all the animals that need us, so whether you choose to leave a share of the residue of your estate or a fixed sum of money, every gift no matter how big or small will help, and let your love of animals live on.

**Every gift in a Will, large or small, makes a difference to the animals at Raystede.**



## Why Ann chose to leave Raystede a gift

"We are so grateful to Raystede for rehabilitating our two special dogs Hugo and Nigel, who have become such an important part of our lives. I have left a bequest to Raystede in my Will so that many more dogs in difficult circumstances will be able to have the opportunities that they have had."

# Writing or updating your Will couldn't be simpler

An up-to-date, professionally written Will is very important. It's the only way to guarantee that the wishes you have for your loved ones are carried out. It's also important to review your Will from time to time, to ensure it reflects any changes to your family circumstances. Reviewing your Will could be the perfect opportunity to include a gift to Raystede – and it doesn't have to be complicated or time-consuming.

## Write your Will for free

By using one of our free Wills services you can make or update your Will for free. Whilst there is no obligation to leave a gift in your Will to Raystede, any gift you do choose to leave will mean we can continue to help animals in need for many years to come.

### In-person

If you would prefer to speak to a solicitor face to face to make your Will, we've partnered with the National Free Wills Network which gives you access to participating solicitors in your area. All you need to do is request a referral and we will ensure that the National Free Wills Network sends you a pack, with a list of local solicitors in the network. You can then contact the solicitor of your choice and make an appointment to have your Will written for free.



### Online

Bequeathed offers a simple way to make your Will at your own pace, from the comfort of your home. All you need to do is visit [www.bequeathed.org/raystede](http://www.bequeathed.org/raystede) and take the online interview to draft your Will. You can then check your Will at home with a professional via telephone or video call to ensure it caters for your needs. You will receive your Will in the post to sign in front of your witnesses, after which you return it to the legal firm who will check that everything has been done correctly and securely store it for you at no cost.



To find the service that is right for you scan the code or visit [www.raystede.org/free-wills](http://www.raystede.org/free-wills)

# Your Will, your wishes

getting started

When you make or update your Will, it is a chance to ensure that your wishes are expressed. Here is a handy list of important things to think about.

- 1. The value of your estate** – taking into account property, investments and any debts.
- 2. Your beneficiaries** – the family, friends and charities you want to remember in your Will.
- 3. Choose your executors** – the people responsible for ensuring that your wishes are followed.
- 4. Visit a solicitor** – to have your Will written. Don't forget you can use one of our Will writing services to have your Will professionally written for free.
- 5. You can add Raystede** – to an existing Will or a new Will. Your professional advisor will explain the best way of doing this.
- 6. Keep your Will safe** – with your solicitor and keep a copy at home. Make sure a relative or friend knows where to find it.

**We're here to help.** If you would like to discuss or inform us of your intentions, please contact our Gifts in Wills Fundraiser at [legacy@raystede.org](mailto:legacy@raystede.org) or call 01825 627086. Any information you give will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Mole



Mouse

Mouse and Mole needed treatment for a range of health issues, including poor dental health, renal disease and arthritis. While finding them a home took over three months, thankfully they are now able to nap on soft beds and enjoy sun-filled windowsills.

Our promise to  
**care for your animal**  
if you no longer can

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**You've promised your animal a lifetime of love and happiness and we promise to make sure they receive that, when you no longer can.**

Lifetime of Love is a free service, giving you peace of mind that, should the worst happen, Raystede will be there to care for your beloved companion.

**We pride ourselves on finding pets the right home**

Nothing can replace the special bond you have with your animal, but we'll take great care to match your animal with a family that can give them the love they deserve. Until they find that loving home, they will be safe and cared for at Raystede.



**Next steps**

We have made it as easy as possible to register your animals onto Lifetime of Love. Request your free enquiry pack by filling in your details on the form with this brochure, or online by scanning the QR code.

Once your animal's registration is confirmed, all you have to do is add a clause to your Will to say that you wish the care of your animal to be handed over to Raystede after your death. It can also help to let your family and friends know about your wishes, so that we can look after your animal as soon as possible.

Our Lifetime of Love service is available for dogs, cats and small animals, however we are always happy to help you find alternative services for other animals.

Scan here  
for more  
information



# Questions and answers

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## I would like my gift to be used in a specific way – is this possible?

Yes, gifts in Wills can be used in a specific way, but we would prefer to have the flexibility to use them wherever the need is greatest. If you would like your gift to be used for a particular area of our work, we would appreciate it if you could discuss your request with us before writing your Will. It would also be enormously helpful to us if your solicitor could express any specific requests as a 'wish', rather than a 'condition'.

## Can I afford to remember Raystede in my Will?

Gifts in Wills don't have to be large – and you may be surprised by how much you actually have to leave. How much you choose to give is up to you, but large or small, every single gift we receive means we can help more animals at Raystede.

## What can I leave to Raystede in my Will?

There are three main types of gift that you can leave in your Will. Specific gifts are particular items such as jewellery, paintings, investments or even property. A pecuniary gift is a specific sum of money, for example £2,000. Please note that the value of pecuniary gifts can decrease over time as the cost of living increases. Residuary gifts are a popular way of giving to a cause you care about because it is a percentage or share of your estate, once you've provided for your loved ones and all debts, taxes and expenses have been taken care of. A residual gift is generally the most valuable as it keeps pace with inflation.

## Do I need to inform you that I have included Raystede in my Will?

No, you don't need to tell us if you have left us a gift in your Will. However, understanding supporters' intentions helps us plan ahead. We would also like to have the opportunity to thank you and keep you informed about our work.

## How do I include my pets in the Lifetime of Love scheme?

If you wish to include your cat, dog or other small pet in the Lifetime of Love scheme then please either complete and return the form, visit [www.raystede.org/lifetime-of-love](http://www.raystede.org/lifetime-of-love), or scan the QR code.



## Is a gift in my Will affected by inheritance tax?

Any gift made in your Will to Raystede is exempt from tax and could even reduce the inheritance tax liability for your loved ones if your estate is over the inheritance tax threshold. We recommend that you speak to an independent financial advisor or your solicitor about the tax implications of your estate.

## How do I find a solicitor?

You can use any solicitor you prefer, or use one of our free Will writing services.

## If I decide to leave a gift in my Will to Raystede, what do I do next?

Whether you're writing a new Will, or updating an existing Will, it's essential that you talk to a solicitor. If you have any questions please call our Gifts in Wills Fundraiser confidentially on 01825 627086. Alternatively, email [legacy@raystede.org](mailto:legacy@raystede.org)



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**Thank you for considering a very special gift to the animals at Raystede.**



**RAYSTEDE**  
GIVING ANIMALS A BETTER LIFE

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Registered charity no: 237696