



Make a lasting difference  
to the welfare of food  
animals worldwide with  
a gift in your Will

**Humane Slaughter Association**  
Caring beyond the farm gate

[www.hsa.org.uk](http://www.hsa.org.uk)

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## Making a difference

*Caring beyond the farm gate*

Around the world, millions of animals are killed for human consumption every day. However well cared for on the farm, animals are extremely vulnerable once they leave – during transport, at markets and up to the point of slaughter in abattoirs. The potential for suffering is immense. The HSA is unique – the only UK charity totally dedicated to the humane treatment of all food animals during transport, marketing and slaughter.

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# Personal message from Dr Robert Hubrecht – Chief Executive

## Dear supporter

Thank you for thinking of animal welfare at this stage in your life when you are considering your family and friends and how you'd like to provide for them after you've gone.

When planning for the future, it's natural to want to look after those who mean the most to us – family, friends, pets and also special causes which are dear to our hearts. Whatever your personal circumstances, please consider making a Will. It will ensure that your wishes are known and met and need not be time-consuming, difficult or expensive.

Making a Will also gives you an opportunity to leave behind a legacy which has the potential to go on making a real difference for many years to come. By leaving a gift in your Will to the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) you'll be leaving a gift which will help us to prevent suffering as well as continue to be a significant force in bringing about fundamental and long-lasting improvements in food animal welfare.

There are many parts of the world where much could be achieved by improving the understanding of humane transport, marketing and slaughter of food animals.

The HSA believes high standards of animal welfare must continue beyond the farm gate and is the only UK charity exclusively promoting the humane treatment of all food animals, including cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, fish and 'exotic' species such as deer, during transport, marketing, and slaughter, or killing for welfare reasons and disease control.

We hope that, when planning your Will, you may consider a legacy to the HSA. To help you, we've put together this simple guide which should be of some assistance to you when speaking to a solicitor and making your Will. It tells you more about the HSA and how it has already benefited food animal welfare as well as answering some frequently asked questions about planning your Will and leaving a legacy to charity. Should you have any questions about how your legacy could help the HSA to continue to make a real difference to food animals then please get in touch.

Thank you



**Robert C Hubrecht** OBE PhD FRSB  
Chief Executive & Scientific Director



*“Making a Will also gives you an opportunity to leave behind a legacy which has the potential to go on making a real difference for many years to come”*

# CARING BEYOND THE FARM GATE – ABOUT THE HSA

*“I have seen 3, 4,  
5 and over 10  
blows of the  
poleaxe levelled  
at an animal  
before it has  
been brought to  
the ground....  
Oft repeated  
blows cause the  
head to swell  
and then a knife  
has been run into  
the spine at the  
back of the head  
or a bone laid  
bare by removing  
the skin from the  
forehead”*

John Dodds,  
superintendent  
at a public  
slaughterhouse 1929

**D**uring the early years of the 20th century there was a growing recognition that the slaughter of animals for meat resulted in a large amount of preventable suffering. All animals slaughtered for food were bled by cutting their throats or by “sticking” them with a knife. Large animals, which were difficult and dangerous to restrain when so slaughtered, were usually stunned first with a poleaxe. Smaller animals such as sheep and pigs were more manageable and so stunning was not considered necessary. The pain and suffering endured by these animals can only be imagined.

In 1911, a meeting of those concerned with the welfare of animals killed for food was held on the 17th of January in London. Those present agreed to form an organisation to be known as the Council of Justice to Animals (CJA) and a Committee was elected. The Duchess of Portland was elected President – a position which she held until her death in 1954.

The objectives of the CJA (which subsequently became the Humane Slaughter Association in 1928) were agreed – to promote more humane methods for the slaughter of food animals and to improve the welfare of food animals in livestock markets and transport facilities. These aims are still true of the HSA today – it is the charity which cares “beyond the farm gate”.

Since its foundation over 100 years ago, the HSA has led and/or contributed to major changes in attitudes towards animals, with scientific and technological developments resulting in huge improvements in methods for slaughter or killing. Successes over the HSA’s history include:

**1920s** – The HSA introduced and demonstrated a mechanical stunner, which led to the adoption of humane stunning “by 28 London boroughs and later by 494 other local authorities.”

**1930s** – The Slaughter of Animals Act (1933), which required cattle to be stunned prior to slaughter. The HSA worked for the inclusion of sheep and pigs within the Act (which required the passing of byelaws by Local Authorities).

**1950s** – The HSA was asked by the Government for its views and advice on the planning and location of 300-400 new slaughterhouses in England and Wales. This was as a direct result of the organisation campaigning for the Government to outline its policies for the future of slaughterhouses following the end of the Second World War. The Secretary, Miss Dorothy Sidley, visited Canada to give demonstrations of the use of captive-bolt equipment and orders were subsequently received from several slaughterhouses; Canada passed humane slaughter regulations in 1960.





*“... smaller animals such as sheep and pigs were more manageable and so stunning was not considered necessary. The pain and suffering endured by these animals can only be imagined.”*

**1960s** – Poultry were still being slaughtered without prior stunning. The HSA funded research into the development of an electrical stunning system and went on to purchase and install a demonstration electrical system in a plant in Bedford. The company was pleased with the results and went on to install similar systems in their other plants.

**1970s** – The Slaughter of Poultry Act and the Slaughter of Poultry (Humane Conditions) Regulations came into effect after six years of lobbying by the HSA, which was congratulated in the House of Lords for its work in campaigning for humane stunning of poultry. The Act required that all commercially killed broilers, hens and turkeys must be humanely stunned before their

*“Significant improvements continue to be achieved by the HSA through working constructively alongside agricultural, meat industry, veterinary and other welfare and professional organisations.”*

throats were cut. Previous research had found that 40% of birds, stuck without preliminary stunning, were alive and conscious when they went into the scalding tank.

**1980s** – The HSA was active in India demonstrating the use of the captive-bolt gun and encouraging its use in slaughterhouses across the country. It continued to visit and advise on improvements to markets around the UK.

**1990s** – The HSA’s training video ‘Humane Slaughter – Taking Responsibility’ was launched. Subsequently it received a Gold Award from the International Visual Communications Association (IVCA). In 2001 the training video ‘The Road Ahead – Livestock Welfare in Transit’ also received a Gold Award from the IVCA and was selected by the EU Commission to promote good welfare standards during transport in EU candidate countries. The first titles in the ‘Guidance Notes’ series were published – these are now the most popular of the HSA publications and have recently been made available as online guides.

**2000s** – HSA was awarded the British Society for Animal Science/RSPCA Award for its outstanding contribution to animal welfare through promoting humane methods of slaughter and reforms in livestock markets and transportation. The organisation also part-funded a machine for the large scale humane stunning of crabs and lobsters, the Crustastun.

Since its foundation, the HSA has built an international reputation for being a reliable, knowledgeable and practical organisation with a sound understanding of livestock and livestock handling. Despite its substantial achievements, outside the scientific, academic/veterinary and professional community relatively few people are aware of the major impact the charity has had on humane transport, marketing and stunning. Significant improvements continue to be achieved by the HSA through working constructively alongside agricultural, meat industry, veterinary and other welfare and professional organisations.

Much of this work has been funded by donations from supporters but also, crucially, from legacies which are so important to the charity. Together, these donations and legacies have made a real difference to many animals at a time when they are at their most vulnerable; a powerful testament to the generosity and benevolence of those who care about them and their welfare.

You can find out more about the HSA’s current projects and programmes in the latest Newsletter and Annual Report, which we will be pleased to send you, or by visiting [www.hsa.org.uk](http://www.hsa.org.uk).

# CARING FOR GENERATIONS TO COME – LEGACIES AND GIFTS

There are three main ways to make a gift or bequest in your Will and you can use any or all of them as you feel appropriate. Your gift, no matter what its size, will help the HSA in its efforts for generations to come. With your help, the HSA will continue to make regular visits to assess markets and slaughterhouses and advise on improvements; support and participate in essential research and technical development; promote the incorporation of scientific advances into industry working practices; and provide expert welfare training and advice to all concerned with livestock handling and slaughter, veterinarians, other welfare organisations, governments and other bodies.

## Pecuniary bequest

This is a stated amount of money that you choose to leave to a named person, charity or other organisation. Inflation will reduce the value of these gifts over time so you may want to revise them periodically. Please ask your solicitor or Will-writer for the appropriate wording to use if you wish to inflation-proof a pecuniary bequest.

**Example wording:** I give to the Humane Slaughter Association (Charity Registered in England and Wales No 1159690: Charitable Incorporated Organisation) of The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, St Albans, Herts AL4 8AN, the sum of £ \_\_\_\_ (in figures and words) free of tax and duty, to be used for its general charitable purposes

and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Executor(s).

## Specific bequest

You may decide to leave specific items rather than money to someone. You should describe these items exactly and state the name and address of the person or organisation to whom you wish to leave them.

**Example wording:** I give (enter the item specified with a description, if required) absolutely to the Humane Slaughter Association (Charity Registered in England and Wales No 1159690: Charitable Incorporated Organisation) of The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, St Albans, Herts AL4 8AN, to be applied by HSA for its general charitable purposes and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Executor(s).

## Residuary bequest

When you have decided on all your pecuniary and specific bequests, the remainder of your estate (after all the costs have been met) is known as the residue. The value of the residue is impossible to determine exactly beforehand and you should make clear what you wish to happen to it – for example specifying particular fractions or percentages of it to certain beneficiaries, otherwise the law will determine what happens to it. Making a residuary bequest can enable your

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gift to the HSA to keep pace with inflation.

**Example wording:** I give all (or a \_\_\_ % share) of the residue of my estate to the Humane Slaughter Association (Charity Registered in England and Wales No 1159690: Charitable Incorporated Organisation) of The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, St Albans, Herts AL4 8AN, to be used for its general charitable purposes and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Executor(s)

### Trusts

A Trust is a type of gift which Trustees (who you appoint by name) look after for the person receiving the gift. For example, a “life interest trust” is a gift that the receiver has the right to use during their lifetime, after which it passes to someone else of your choosing. Trusts can be useful for providing for dependants, and possibly for reducing inheritance tax. You can also set up a “discretionary” or named Trust where the Trustees have the right to distribute funds as they judge best among a group of beneficiaries specified by you. Trusts are a complex area so you should seek advice from your solicitor.

### A codicil – to change a Will you have already made

If you wish to make a relatively simple change to your Will, such as the addition of a charitable bequest, you only need to add a codicil, which is a legally binding document that details amendments to your Will. If you wish to make major changes to your Will, it is advisable for your solicitor to do it.

### Example simple codicil wording:

I (your name) of (your address) declare this to be a (first/second etc) codicil to my Will dated \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ .

- 1) In addition to any legacies given by my said Will I give to the Humane Slaughter Association (Charity Registered in England and Wales No 1159690: Charitable Incorporated Organisation) of The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, St Albans, Herts AL4 8AN, the sum of £\_\_\_\_ (or the specific item to be given) free of tax and duty, to be used for its general charitable purposes and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a valid and appropriate form of discharge.\*
- 2) in all other respects I confirm my said Will and any other codicils thereto in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ signed by the said \_\_\_\_\_ as a codicil to his/her last Will in the presence of us who at his/her request in his/her presence and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses (signatures, names and addresses of witnesses).\*\*

\* You can also make a residuary bequest in a codicil by using the residuary wording above, but we suggest you consult your solicitor.

\*\*Witnesses or their spouses must not be beneficiaries in your Will.

*“Your legacy will help us to continue to improve the welfare of food animals around the world by providing training, education and advice, visits to markets and slaughterhouses...”*

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*“From our own research and published evidence, we know that consumers have a strong interest in the welfare of animals in the food chain, including their welfare at slaughter (by which we mean their welfare from arrival at the premises where they are to be slaughtered until they are dead)”*

Food Standards Agency  
2015-2020 Animal  
Welfare Survey

## **What is a legacy?**

A legacy is any gift (monetary or asset) left in a person’s Will; an instruction for part of your estate to be given to an individual or organisation after your death.

## **Why should I leave a legacy to the HSA?**

An estimated 70 billion farm animals a year are reared and killed for food globally. With a rising world population (now at over 7 billion) this is set to increase.

The majority of the population in many parts of the world eats meat and this is likely to continue. Slaughter is never pleasant, but it can be humane and, increasingly, consumers are concerned about where the food on their plate has come from. Legacies are of vital importance to the HSA, helping us to continue to make a lasting difference to the welfare of food animals during marketing, transport and slaughter, as well as enabling us to plan ahead into the future.

## **How will my legacy help the HSA?**

Over the decades, improved and scientifically-evaluated methods (many stimulated and supported by the HSA) have been developed for cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry and other species. Yet, there are still gaps in our knowledge and improvements to be made. In spite of the large number of animals affected, the number of projects carried out to develop more humane techniques is quite small, which means that the HSA can and does have a significant

impact. Your legacy will help us to continue to improve the welfare of food animals around the world by providing training, education and advice, visits to markets and slaughterhouses, funding towards the improvement of animal handling facilities and for essential research into more humane methods of slaughter. The charity values every donation and you can be sure that we will use your gift, no matter what its size, in our efforts to improve the welfare of food animals for generations to come.

## **Should I be helping the HSA now, rather than later?**

The HSA appreciates everyone who supports us, however and whenever they choose to do so. During your lifetime, you are able to see the difference your generosity makes in the work the HSA does. However, a gift in your Will does something exceptional – every day millions of animals worldwide are transported, marketed and slaughtered for food. At these times when the animals are most vulnerable, the HSA has been there working for over a century to improve the welfare of food animals once they leave the farm and your legacy will enable us to continue to be there.

## **How do I make a Will?**

Consulting a solicitor is the best way to ensure your Will is valid and legally binding. If you don’t already have a solicitor, you can find one by calling The Law Society on 020 7320 5650 or going online at [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk).

There are a number of things to consider when making your Will including:

- If you have children, who will act as their guardian
- Your wishes regarding your funeral arrangements
- If you have pets, who will care for them
- The value of your estate and who you want to give something to
- Who you want to act as your Executor(s)

### **When should I update or change my Will?**

Any update or change to your Will should reflect a change in your personal circumstances such as marriage, bereavement, divorce or the birth of children or grandchildren.

You should also consider updating or changing your Will when your financial situation or the value of your property or belongings changes significantly. If you have left specific sums in your Will, they may become worth considerably less with the passing of time due to inflation, so you may wish to review these occasionally.

You should always seek legal advice if you are in any doubt whether a particular change in your personal or family circumstances could affect your Will.

### **How can I update or change my Will?**

If the changes are relatively simple such as the addition of a charitable bequest, you need only add a codicil (see page 7). Any major revisions or changes should be discussed with your solicitor.

### **Do I need a solicitor?**

Yes – whether you are considering revisions to an existing Will or making one for the first time. A professionally written Will ensures that your wishes are clear and your affairs are in order and you could also save your loved ones from additional administrative demands at a difficult and stressful time.

A properly drafted Will can also help reduce the amount of tax paid by your estate, ensuring it goes to the loved ones and causes that you have chosen to benefit. Charitable gifts are exempt from inheritance tax and they can reduce or even eliminate the overall tax on your estate altogether.

### **Are there any other legal considerations?**

Yes – you will also need to nominate executors. Being an executor can involve a considerable amount of work and is quite a responsibility. Your Executor(s) must be over 18 years of age and will be responsible for carrying out your wishes. Your solicitor or bank can act as your executor but they will charge your estate for their time. You can choose a family member or friend to be your executor, even if they are a named beneficiary in your Will.

*“Legacies are of vital importance to the HSA, helping us to continue to make a lasting difference to the welfare of food animals during marketing, transport and slaughter...”*





### **Where should I keep my Will?**

Your solicitor or bank may store your Will for you without charge. It is also a good idea to keep a copy in a safe place at home and make sure that a relative or close friend knows where the original copy of your Will is kept.

### **I don't have much to leave, is it worth including a gift to the HSA?**

Any legacy you choose to leave to the HSA will make a real and lasting difference to the welfare of food animals. Since its foundation over 100 years ago, the HSA has led and/or contributed to major changes in attitudes towards animals, with scientific and technological developments resulting in huge improvements in methods for slaughter or killing and every donation has counted. We understand it can be extremely difficult to estimate how much will be left or what your financial situation will be in the future. This is why some supporters have chosen to leave a residuary gift (a percentage share of their estate once all their other wishes have been carried out). If there is nothing left in the estate then the HSA would not receive a gift – but we would still value your thoughtfulness in remembering the HSA.

### **A lasting legacy – what to do next**

We hope that you have found this guide useful and have been inspired to remember the HSA in your Will.

If you have decided to leave a legacy to HSA – thank you for caring. Please be assured that we are deeply appreciative and your special gift will be treated with the utmost respect, thoughtfulness and attention. We understand that, for many people, leaving a legacy is a very personal decision but it would be tremendously helpful to know what your intentions are. Even if you are undecided, please tell us your thoughts by filling in and returning the enclosed form in the freepost envelope.

If you have any questions, or would like more information on the HSA and its work, please get in touch.

*“Since its foundation over 100 years ago, the HSA has led and/or contributed to major changes in attitudes towards animals, with scientific and technological developments resulting in huge improvements in methods for slaughter or killing and every donation has counted.”*







*Around the world, millions of animals are killed for human consumption every day. However well cared for on the farm, animals are extremely vulnerable once they leave – during transport, at markets and up to the point of slaughter in abattoirs. The potential for suffering is immense.*

*For the HSA to continue caring beyond the farm gate, your support is essential. Thanks to the generosity and support of those who share our concern for the welfare of these animals, we've already achieved much. By leaving a legacy to the HSA in your Will, you can help us make a difference for millions of animals. Thank you.*



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