



A Safe Future for Wildlife. **Your Lasting Legacy.**

A guide to leaving a gift in your Will to the League Against Cruel Sports

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Your support doesn't just fund a cause, it powers vigilance, fuels intelligence, and strengthens the fight against cruelty to animals in the name of 'sport'. Through you, our supporter funded Animal Crimewatch team can continue to expose the truth, support vital campaigns, and equip those on the front line to gather evidence in support of prosecutions. The legacy you leave is not only measured in what you give, but in the lives of animals saved because you chose to act.

**Jodie & Michelle,
Animal Crimewatch**



Welcome from Emma



Thank you for taking the time to consider leaving a gift in your Will to the League Against Cruel Sports.

It is a privilege to lead an organisation that has stood up for animals for more than a century. Every day, I see the passion, determination and compassion of our supporters, staff and volunteers

working towards one shared vision: a world where no animal suffers for 'sport'. I couldn't be prouder to be part of that journey.

Your compassion for animals has already helped challenge cruelty and protect wildlife. By remembering the League in your Will, you can ensure that commitment lives on, creating a future where animals are free from persecution and needless suffering.

Together, we have achieved so much. We've exposed cruelty, campaigned for stronger legal protections, safeguarded our nature reserves, and inspired people across the country to stand up for a kinder world. But there is still more to do.

A gift in your Will, whatever its size, is a powerful way to continue the values you've championed throughout your life. After providing for those closest to you, your gift could help protect wildlife, strengthen our campaigns, and ensure future generations inherit a world where compassion always triumphs over cruelty.

This guide explains how your gift could make a lasting difference, alongside the practical steps for including the League in your Will, should you decide to do so. Making a Will is an important and deeply personal decision, and one you'll want to consider carefully. On behalf of everyone at the League, thank you for considering this extraordinary act of generosity.

Should you choose to remember the League in your Will, your legacy will become part of the lasting change we are working to achieve together.

With my heartfelt thanks,

Emma Slawinski

Emma Slawinski
Chief Executive Officer

A Century of Protecting Animals

For more than 100 years, the League Against Cruel Sports has stood up for animals facing needless cruelty. Founded by a group of visionary and determined people at a time when the persecution of wildlife for sport was widely accepted, the League set out to challenge deeply ingrained attitudes, influence laws, protect countless animals and bring about lasting change.

Thanks to the passion and generosity of our supporters, we have achieved so much together. But our work is not yet done. With your continued support, we can build on this proud history and create a future where cruel sports are finally a thing of the past.

1920s - 1940s

In 1923, Henry Amos banned rabbit coursing in Morden, leading to the League's establishment in 1924. The League advocated against hunting for pleasure, influencing public opinion and legislation, garnering 85,000 signatures for bans, and exposing hunting's brutality.



1950s

Despite the 1949 Private Member's Bills failing, the League criticised the biased Scott Henderson inquiry and started buying land to protect hunted animals, gaining public and press support.



1960s

In the 1960s, the League used new technology for investigations, helped farmers against hunt trespassers, closed the last carted stag hunt, campaigned for otter protection, and garnered significant public support against hunting.



1970s

In the 1970s, the League faced setbacks with failed hare coursing bills and a Conservative government unsupportive of bans. However, we succeeded in protecting otters and compensated landowners for hunt trespass.

1980s

During the 1980s, the League achieved significant successes in corporate responsibility and judicial precedents. We persuaded major landowners to ban hunting and closed legal loopholes protecting badgers. Investigations provided scientific evidence of hunting's cruelty.

1990s

In the 1990s, public support for a hunting ban surged to 79%. The League exposed hunting abuses, expanded wildlife sanctuaries, and achieved legislative victories with the Badger Setts Protection Act and Wild Mammals (Protection) Act. The 1997 election boosted our cause, promising a potential ban on hunting with dogs.



2000s

In 2000, the Burns Inquiry confirmed hunting with dogs harms animal welfare, leading to the Hunting Act 2004 and a ban in 2005. The League then continued fighting illegal hunting, exposing trail hunting, supporting bans across the UK, campaigning against dog fighting, and securing tougher animal cruelty sentences.

2020s

The League adapted its campaigning during the COVID-19 lockdown, focusing on digital communication. Despite challenges, we succeeded in rallying support online for various causes, including banning trail hunting on National Trust land. Significant legislative victories were achieved, notably in Wales and Scotland. In 2026, after extensive campaigning by the League, a new public consultation on Hunting in England and Wales was launched, promising to end the existing loopholes and properly ban hunting for good.

Simple Steps for Writing your Will

More than half of the League's vital work is made possible through gifts left in Wills.

STEP ONE

Choose who you would like to include in your Will

You can leave a gift in your Will to whoever you choose. These are your beneficiaries and typically includes family, friends and charities such as the League Against Cruel Sports.

STEP TWO

Think about the gifts you would like to leave

You don't need to be wealthy to leave a gift to charity in your Will. Every gift, whatever its size, helps protect wildlife for future generations. When planning your Will, consider the proportions of your estate or specific gifts you would like to leave to each beneficiary. You can choose to leave a percentage of your estate to the League as a residuary gift — supporters often leave anything from 100% to 1%, or you can leave a fixed sum of money (a pecuniary gift), or a specific item, such as jewellery or artwork.

STEP THREE

Choose your executors

Appoint up to four executors to carry out the terms of your Will. They can be relatives, friends, or legal advisers.

STEP FOUR

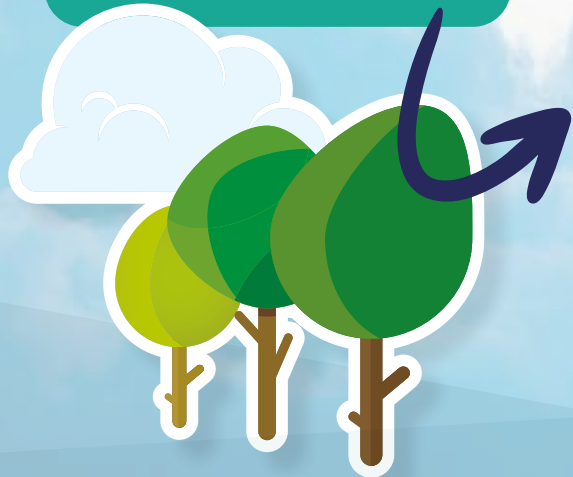
Write a new Will or update your existing Will

We would always advise that you use a solicitor or professional Will writing service to prepare your Will. Details of local solicitors can be found on the Law Society website. Please note that England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland each have their own Law Society website. When your Will is finalised and signed, ensure it is stored in a safe and accessible place.

STEP FIVE

Let the League know about your gift

If you do choose to include the League in your Will – thank you. By telling us about a gift in your Will, you're helping us plan for the future. We would love the opportunity to thank you and keep you up to date on our vital work. We also respect your decision to keep your gift private if you prefer.



Our Free Will Service

We've partnered with expert Will writing service Octopus Legacy to give you, our valued supporters, the chance to write your Will for free.

The cost of your Will is covered by the League up to £150, so you can write or update a simple Will for free or get a Will with trust at a discounted rate.

Point your phone camera at the code and tap the link to find out more.



Our Promise to you

When you pledge to build a better future for animals, we promise that:

Your wishes will be honoured

Your gift will be used efficiently

Your family will be treated sensitively

Your privacy will be respected.

A Lasting Tribute

Every gift left in a Will is a remarkable act of generosity that helps protect wildlife and defend animals from persecution in the name of 'sport' for years to come.

To honour this special commitment, those who choose to remember the League in their Will are commemorated with an engraved brass leaf, displayed at our Baronsdown Nature Reserve. Each leaf bears the name of a supporter whose generous legacy has been realised, creating a lasting tribute to their compassion and dedication to protecting wildlife.

These commemorative leaves are a heartfelt expression of our gratitude, celebrating the enduring impact that each legacy will have for future generations.

The impact of your gift

Animals are at the heart of everything we do, and it is thanks to the commitment of our supporters that we can continue to stand up for them.

More than half of the League's vital work is made possible through gifts left in Wills. These generous gifts provide the foundation that allows us to continue protecting animals, challenging cruelty and working towards a kinder future.

A gift in your Will can help us protect animals from persecution in the name of 'sport' and continue our work to end cruel practices including fox hunting, game shooting, snaring, trail hunting, hare coursing, greyhound racing and dog fighting.

Together with our supporters, we are changing attitudes, challenging what is considered acceptable and working towards a future where animals are treated with the respect and compassion they deserve.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you can help ensure our work continues for generations to come, creating a lasting legacy of kindness for animals.



As a charity we want to redefine what is acceptable and inspire change. **We do this by:**



Campaigning for change

We stand up for animals who don't have a voice and demand changes to legislation to protect them. Our hard-hitting campaigns inspire actions.



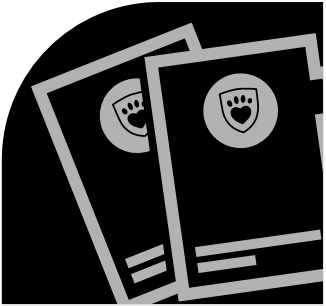
Providing our animal crimewatch service

Our supporter-funded confidential service enables the public to report acts of suspected animal cruelty in the name of sport for us to investigate.



Educating the public and policy makers

Our high-profile work in the media and expert behind-the-scenes lobbying across the devolved nations, ensures we can create awareness of the plight our wildlife faces.

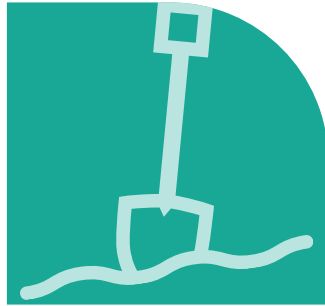


Providing intelligence to law enforcement

Our in-house intelligence team provides information for local law enforcement about those suspected of illegal activity to bring them to justice.

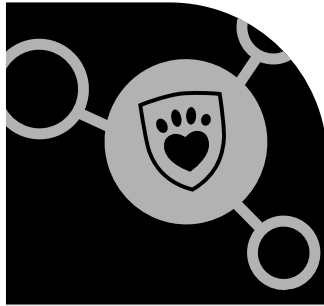


'Animals are at the heart of everything we do.'



Maintaining wildlife reserves

Our ten wildlife reserves provide a safe haven for animals to roam free from those who persecute them.



Sharing our research and evidence

We strive to share our knowledge and highlight the plight that hunting, shooting and animal fighting has on our society and landscape.



Working with other animal welfare charities

We work in partnership with others to raise our collective voices and inspire change, such as increasing sentences from six months to five years for those found guilty of animal welfare crimes as part of the Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act 2021.



Working with schools

Our League of Animals educational resource enables younger generations to be curious about the world around them, from our wildlife to our natural world.





FAQs

Why do I need a Will?

A Will helps ensure that your wishes are clear and your loved ones are provided for after your death. A Will covers everything from what you leave to family and friends, remembering a charity such as ours, and funeral arrangements. Without a Will, it can be more difficult to ensure your wishes are fulfilled.

Why should I consider leaving a gift to the League Against Cruel Sports in my Will?

Your gift will help shield animals from the suffering caused by blood sports while building a more compassionate future for generations to come. It enables us to continue exposing cruelty, campaigning for stronger protections, and driving meaningful, lasting change.

Do I need a solicitor to write a Will?

While it is possible to write a simple Will yourself, we strongly recommend using a qualified solicitor or professional Will writing service. They can ensure your wishes are clearly documented and legally valid, helping avoid any potential issues later on.

What information do I need to include for the League Against Cruel Sports in my Will?

Charity Name: The League Against Cruel Sports

Address: New Sparling House, Holloway Hill, Godalming, GU7 1QZ

Charity number: Registered charity in England and Wales (1154856) and Scotland (SC045533)

How much does it cost to write a Will?

The cost of writing a Will can vary depending on its complexity and whether you use a solicitor or a professional Will writing service. To make the process easier, we offer a free Will-writing service through our trusted partner, Octopus Legacy. This gives you the opportunity to write or update your Will at no cost, while considering leaving a gift to support our work.

Can I leave a specific amount, or does it have to be a percentage of my estate?

You can choose either. A fixed sum, known as a pecuniary gift, is a set amount of money, while a residuary gift is a percentage of your estate after other gifts and expenses are paid. Many people choose a percentage because it keeps the gift proportional over time.

Are there tax benefits to leaving a charitable gift in my Will?

In the UK, gifts to registered charities are usually exempt from Inheritance Tax. In some cases, leaving 10% or more of your estate to charity may also reduce the overall tax rate applied to the rest of your estate. We recommend you seek advice from a solicitor who should be able to provide more detailed advice on inheritance tax planning.

Do I need to tell the League that I've included a gift in my Will?

There's no obligation to do so, but letting us know can be helpful as it allows us to thank you, keep you updated on our vital work, and plan for the future.

Glossary

Beneficiary

A person, charity or organisation that receives a gift from a Will.

Bequest

Another word for a gift left in a Will.

Codicil

A legal document used to make a small change or addition to an existing Will without writing a new one.

Estate

Everything a person owns at the time of their death, including property, savings, investments and personal possessions, after any debts and liabilities have been settled.

Executor

The person or people appointed in a Will to carry out the wishes of the person who has died and administer their estate.

Inheritance Tax (IHT)

A tax that may be payable on an estate when someone dies, depending on its value and current tax rules. Gifts to UK-registered charities are generally exempt from Inheritance Tax.

Intestacy

The legal rules that apply when someone dies without leaving a valid Will.

Pecuniary Gift

A gift of a fixed sum of money left in a Will.

Probate

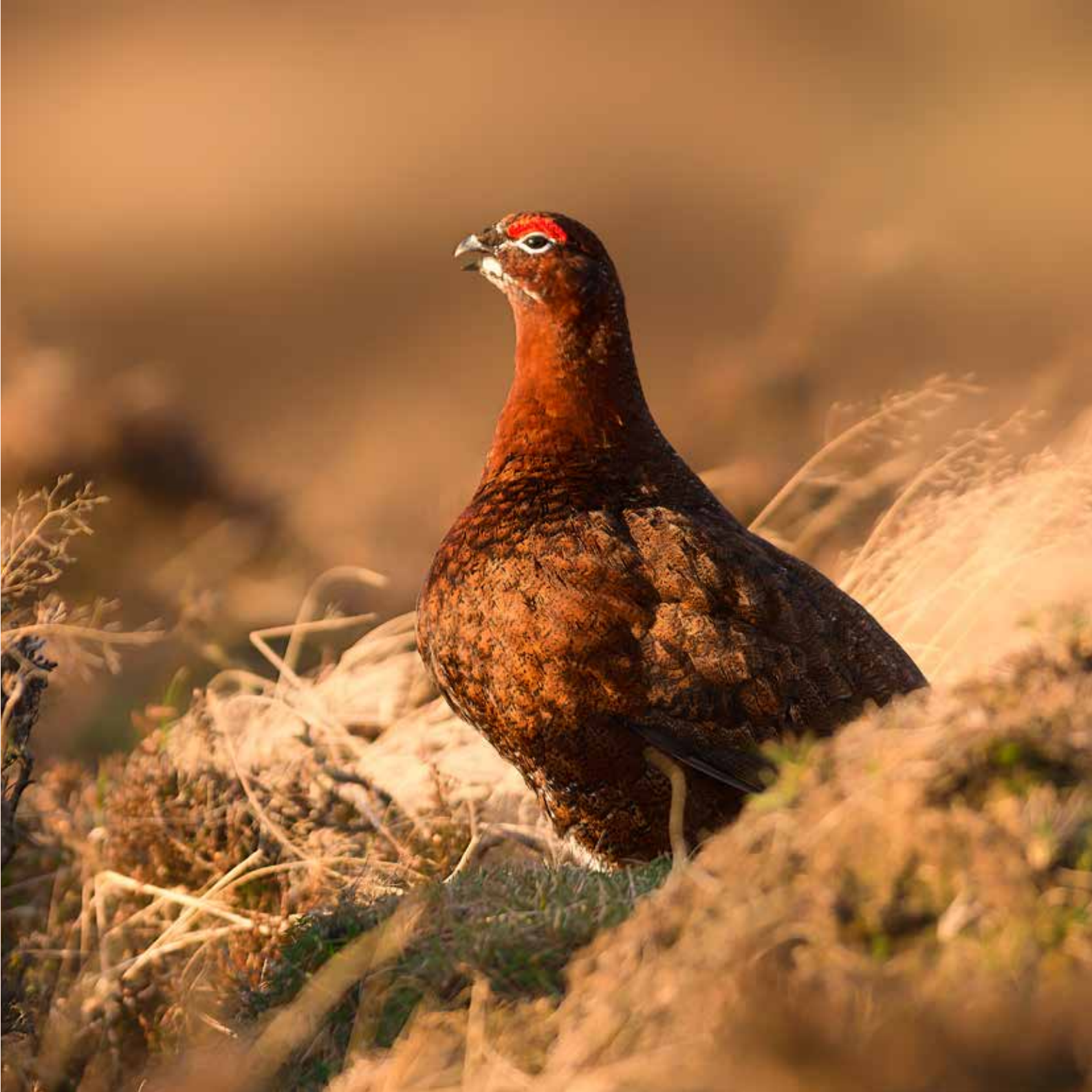
The legal process of administering a person’s estate after they die and confirming that the executor has the authority to act.

Residuary Gift

A gift of all or a percentage of what remains of an estate after debts, taxes, expenses and any other gifts have been paid. This type of gift can help retain its value over time and is often the most effective way to support a charity.

Testator

The legal term for a person who makes a Will.



*Together, we can end the
persecution of animals in
the name of 'sport'.*





A gift in your Will to the League is a gift of hope for future generations. Thank you for considering this extraordinary gift.

If you would like to talk the team in confidence, please call
01483 524250 or email **legacies@league.org.uk**.

League Against Cruel Sports is a registered charity in England and Wales (no.1095234) and Scotland (no.SC045533). Registered in England and Wales as a company, no. 04037610.
Registered office: New Sparling House, Holloway Hill, Godalming, GU7 1QZ



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