

# Q&As

What to consider when  
making your Will



# Every gift matters

**Q: I don't have a huge amount to leave – is it worth leaving a gift?**

**A:** SPANA works in some of the poorest countries in the world, so what seems like a small gift could go a really long way overseas to help hard working animals. We are very grateful for whatever you can leave, and recognise the compassion behind every gift.

**Q: I don't know if there will be anything left to leave, what should I do?**

**A:** We understand it is incredibly difficult to judge how much will be left or to estimate your financial situation in the future. That's why some supporters choose to leave a residuary gift (a share of their estate once all their other wishes and commitments have been carried out). If there is nothing left in the estate, then SPANA would simply not receive a gift – but we would still appreciate your kindness in remembering us.

## Things to consider

**Q: If I want to leave a gift in my Will – what should I do?**

**A:** The first step is to choose the family, friends and causes/charities you want to remember in your Will and how you would like to divide your estate between them. It's useful to work out the approximate value of your estate and any outstanding debts. By doing this you may well find you have more to leave than you think and, if the value of your estate is close to the inheritance tax threshold, you may want to consider discussing options with your solicitor to limit any inheritance tax liability.

Making a list of your beneficiaries' addresses will save you time at the solicitors. You will also need to know the registered charity number for any charity that you wish to include. SPANA's is 209015.

*I am delighted to have SPANA in my Will. You all work so hard - not only helping and saving these poor animals but also helping the local people to improve the health and welfare of these animals who work so hard for them. I can't praise you enough.*

*Madeleine Lockyer*



Call our legacy team confidentially on 020 7831 3999  
or email [giftsinwills@spana.org](mailto:giftsinwills@spana.org)

## **Q: What type of gift can I leave to SPANA?**

### **A: A residuary gift – a share of your estate**

A residuary gift is a way of donating the residue of your estate once all your other wishes and commitments have been carried out. Residuary gifts are expressed as a percentage, so they remain proportional to the value of your estate.

Residuary gifts can reduce the number of times you need to update your Will as they will change accordingly with your financial circumstances.

### **A pecuniary gift – a fixed sum of money**

If you want SPANA to benefit from a fixed sum of money, you'll need to choose what is known as a pecuniary gift. However, inflation is likely to erode the value of your gift over time, unless this sum is inflation linked. Your solicitor may be able to advise suitable wording.

### **A specific gift**

This is a gift of a particular item or items such as jewellery, paintings, property (vacant or let), land, shares, insurance/assurance policies or other securities.

## **Q: Can I leave a gift to a specific area of SPANA's work?**

**A:** Yes. We will do our very best to honour any particular wish you have about how your legacy is used. However, we ask that your solicitor expresses this as a wish in your Will. This is in case things change in the future so that we can put your legacy towards a similar project or to where it will have the most impact for working animals. Our legacy team would be very happy to discuss any specific areas to which you wish to leave a legacy.



*The people who rely on working animals are not cruel, but desperately poor, and their donkey or mule will be their most valuable possession. If a family's donkey gets sick they can't plough their land or transport their children to school.*

*So to see SPANA treating these animals for free and getting the animals back to their owners in a healthy and happy condition was fantastic.*

*I feel extremely honoured to be an ambassador for SPANA and hope that many more people will support the charity's excellent work.*

**Jim Broadbent**



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# The legal stuff

## Q: Will I need a solicitor?

**A:** Yes – whether you're writing or amending your Will. A professionally-written Will ensures your affairs are left in order and could save your loved ones from months of stressful administrative work during a difficult time. It also gives you the chance to leave lasting gifts and mementos to the people and organisations that are close to your heart. You can find a local solicitor who specialises in Wills online at [solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk](http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk) for England and Wales, at [lawscot.org.uk/find-a-solicitor](http://lawscot.org.uk/find-a-solicitor) for Scotland and at [lawsoc-ni.org/solicitors](http://lawsoc-ni.org/solicitors) for Northern Ireland.



## Q: Do you have any specific wording for my solicitor?

**A:** The following wording may assist your solicitor in writing or amending your Will:

*'I give <insert percentage of your estate> % of my residuary estate to SPANA of 14 John Street, London, WC1N 2EB, Registered charity number 209015 for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the proper officer of the charity shall be a full and sufficient discharge.'*

*'I give <insert amount> to SPANA of 14 John Street, London, WC1N 2EB, Registered charity number 209015 for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the proper officer of the charity shall be a full and sufficient discharge.'*

## Q: Are there any other legal considerations?

**A:** You will need to choose executor(s). They will be responsible for carrying out your wishes and must be over 18 years of age. You can choose a friend or family member to be an executor, even if they are a beneficiary of your Will. It is a good idea to consider choosing an executor a little bit younger than yourself.

Being an executor is quite a responsibility and can involve a considerable amount of work, so it is best to discuss it with the person you would like to nominate first. You can also nominate a solicitor or bank, though they will charge your estate for their time. Wherever SPANA is a beneficiary of a Will, we monitor professional executors to ensure that they do not charge excessive fees.

## Q: Where should I keep my Will?

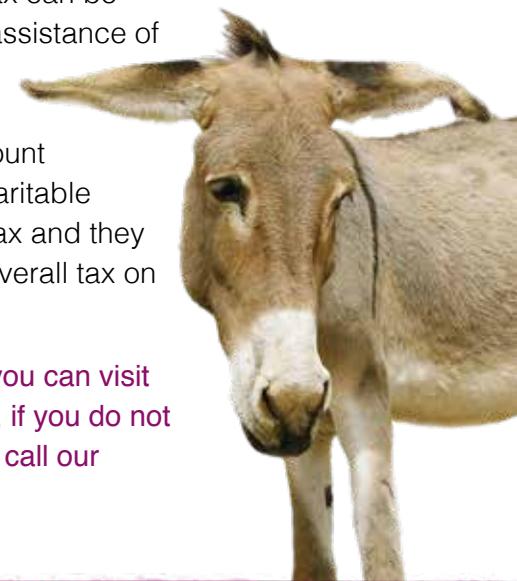
**A:** Your solicitor or bank may store your Will for you without charge. It is also a good idea to keep a copy in a safe place at home, and make sure a relative or close friend knows where the original copy of your Will is stored.

## A word on tax

### Q: Will I pay tax on my estate?

**A:** A properly drafted Will can 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. Tax can be complex so it's worth seeking the assistance of a Wills, probate and tax solicitor to discuss any inheritance tax implications and maximise the amount inherited by your beneficiaries. Charitable gifts are exempt from inheritance tax and they can reduce or even eliminate the overall tax on your estate altogether.

If you would like more information you can visit [www.hmrc.gov.uk/inheritancetax](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/inheritancetax) or, if you do not have access to the internet, please call our legacy team.



**SPANA is the charity for the world's working animals.  
We work in some of the poorest countries in the world  
caring for horses, donkeys and other animals that  
endure hardship and backbreaking toil.**

Yet SPANA is far more than just an animal charity. We believe that by ensuring working animals are well cared for and healthy, we can also help the poor families who depend on these animals for their livelihoods – and, in some cases, even their lives.

Our vision is of a future where all working animals are treated with respect, care and compassion. As a charity, SPANA relies entirely on the kindness of members of the public. Please support SPANA and help the world's working animals.



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Registered charity no: 209015

