



**A GIFT IN YOUR WILL  
HELPS PETS WHEN THEY'RE ILL**

**pd**sa  
SAVING PETS CHANGING LIVES

***Help  
thousands  
of pets stay  
healthy and  
happy***

**A message  
from PDSA's  
Director General**



Jan McLoughlin  
and Chester

**THANK YOU** for thinking about leaving a gift in your Will to PDSA, the UK's leading veterinary charity. By including a gift in your Will to PDSA you will leave a lasting legacy to improve the future health and welfare of thousands of pets in our care. In many cases, you will be saving lives.

At PDSA we believe that every pet deserves to live a happy and healthy life. We know that owners love their pets and hate to see them suffer. But sometimes owners just can't afford the full cost of preventive and emergency care their pets need. That's where we come in.

We touch the lives of more pets and their owners than any other animal charity in the UK today. Since 17 November 1917 PDSA has been saving pets and changing lives. In that time the charity has helped more than **20 million pets**, providing **100 million treatments**.

It costs **£60 million** to provide our veterinary care each year. Every penny comes from people like you who generously support us. This kindness is a testament to the pet-loving nation we are.

We rely on gifts in Wills to go on funding our vital services: preventing illness, educating owners and providing treatment.

After providing for your friends and family, I hope you'll consider including a gift in your Will to PDSA. Your support really matters to the pets we help.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan McLoughlin". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'J' and 'M'.

**Jan McLoughlin**  
PDSA Director General

## We've come a long way, over 100 years in fact!

PDSA was founded in 1917 by animal welfare pioneer Maria Dickin, CBE. Horrified by the dreadful state of animal health in London, she made it her goal to bring lifesaving care to animals whose owners were unable to afford the services of a private vet.



**1917**

Maria Dickin opened her free 'dispensary' in Whitechapel on Saturday 17 November – it was an immediate success.

**1923**

Within six years Maria had designed and equipped her first horse-drawn clinic and a fleet of mobile dispensaries was established.

**1929**

The Busy Bees children's club was launched nationwide to educate children on how to care for their pets.

**1937**

PDSA's free veterinary treatments surpassed the one million milestone. By now we were operating 17 clinics around Britain.

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**1960**

We opened our first purpose-built Pet Hospital in Nottingham.

**1981**

We formed partnerships with private vets to provide PDSA-funded treatments in communities without our veterinary cover and no PDSA Pet Hospital.

**2006**

Belfast Pet Hospital opened its doors marking the start of free PDSA treatments throughout the whole of the UK.

**Today**

We run 48 Pet Hospitals, treating more than 5,300 pet patients every working day; costing more than £60 million a year. All thanks to people like you. With your help we hope to be here for at least the next 100 years.



**£2,000**

*Will pay for  
bottles of pain  
relief to keep  
500 injured pets  
comfortable*



# An introduction to gifts in Wills

Including a gift in your Will to PDSA will make a big difference to the future of thousands of pets across the UK. It's your chance to leave a lasting legacy and show your love for pets, helping us to prevent animal suffering.

**Gifts in  
Wills save  
pets' lives.**

Our veterinary service is a vital lifeline to thousands of worried pet owners. They love their pets, but their circumstances mean they can't afford private vet bills.

Many owners contribute what they can to the cost of treating their pets and our dedicated supporters kindly donate through our shops and appeals.

But it's mostly thanks to the kindness of people who have chosen to include a gift in their Will to PDSA that we can carry on our vital work. You see, gifts in Wills are hugely important to us.

## ***Gifts in Wills enable us to:***

- Provide veterinary care to two out of three of the **2.7 million treatments we provide** in our Pet Hospitals.
- Employ our **1,000 strong veterinary team** of dedicated vets and vet nurses.
- **Buy surgical instruments, bandages and medicines** to help poorly pets heal.
- **Educate pet owners** about preventable illnesses and unnecessary death of pets.

# What we do

At PDSA our aim is to help ensure a lifetime of wellbeing for every pet.

## We do this by:

- **Preventing** illness, suffering and unnecessary death of pets.
- **Educating** people about the welfare needs and value of pets.
- **Treating** sick and injured pets needing our help within communities across the UK.

With **48 PDSA Pet Hospitals** providing vital lifesaving care, no other animal charity compares to PDSA – both in terms of scale and impact on animal welfare.

We've been helping pets in need for over 100 years. We touch the lives of more pets and their owners than any other animal charity in the UK today.

By sharing advice, preventing disease and treating sick and injured pets, we work with owners to ensure happy, healthy pets. We're looking towards the day when no pet has to suffer needlessly.



***Gifts in Wills fund  
two out of three pets  
treated by our vets  
and vet nurses.***





# We've helped – Skie

**Skie was treated by PDSA after swallowing the bell from her collar.**



Three-year-old Skie was brought into her local PDSA Pet Hospital by her owner Elsie.

Skie was really quite poorly; she had been sick and was completely off her food. An x-ray revealed a metal object in her stomach so our vets operated immediately and retrieved the bell from her collar!

Skie made a full recovery and bounced back onto all four paws almost immediately.

Elsie said 'I am so grateful to the vets and nurses at PDSA. Even though Skie had only been away for one night, I was delighted to have her home safe.'

Gifts in Wills enable PDSA to help keep people and pets like Elsie and Skie together for longer.

## Why do you need a Will?

Having a Will means that your wishes will be carried out as you would want when the time comes.

If you don't make a Will, you die intestate, which means the law of intestacy will decide what happens to your property and possessions.

Quite simply, no Will means no choice. That's the blunt truth.

An up-to-date Will ensures that the things you hold dear are passed to the people you love and causes you believe in.

Making a Will gives you complete peace of mind. The last thing any of us want is for our loved ones to have to deal with stressful issues because we didn't make a Will or perhaps even worse left it too late to update an existing one.

**Remember,** it's not enough just to make your wishes known or even to write them down. Only a properly drawn-up Will is recognised by law.

We provided  
**2.7 million**  
veterinary treatments  
last year.





**470,000**  
*pets are treated by our  
vets and vet nurses  
every year.*

## Easy steps to making a Will

Getting your Will written needn't be as daunting as you may at first think. We recommend you seek the services of a solicitor or a suitably qualified professional to have your Will written. Writing your own, even with a Will pack, can be risky because probate law, inheritance tax and the language used are not always straightforward.

If all the required legal procedures aren't followed, you could inadvertently make your Will null and void.

### Find a solicitor

If you don't have your own solicitor, visit [pdsa.org.uk/giftsinwills](https://pdsa.org.uk/giftsinwills) for more information on how to find one.



# Making your Will –

## Before you seek professional advice

### Be prepared with the following:

- A list of all your assets with rough estimates of what they are worth.
- A list of any outstanding debts you may have.
- A list of beneficiaries, including any charities and their registered charity numbers, you would like to include in your Will.

### Ideally you should also:

- Decide who you would like to be your executor/s. That's the person or people who will make sure the instructions in your Will are carried out.
- Choose guardians for your children if they are under 18. However, make sure you discuss this with the potential guardians first.
- Give instructions as to who should care for any pets you own making sure you discuss this with the potential guardians first.
- Decide whether you would prefer burial or cremation.
- Indicate whether you would like flowers at your funeral or whether you would prefer donations to go to a charity, such as PDSA.

**Once your Will has been written and you are happy that it reflects your wishes, it needs to be signed by you and witnessed by two other people, all in the presence of each other.** A witness must not be a direct family member (this includes your spouse/civil partner), your executors or a beneficiary in your Will.

Your solicitor will be able to arrange suitable witnesses on your behalf.



**£1,000**

*Will pay for  
overnight  
hospitalisation  
for 9 very  
poorly patients*

# Keep your Will up to date

It's important that your Will states your wishes, protects your loved ones and can be found. With taxation and personal circumstances changing more frequently, many people update their Wills regularly.

If you want to make a simple amendment to an existing Will, usually all you need to do is add a codicil. It's like an appendix and can be used to make specific changes or additions, such as replacing an executor or including a new beneficiary, while leaving the remaining instructions untouched.

A codicil needs to be signed and witnessed in the same way as a Will. Once this has been done it should be stored with (but not attached to) the original Will to which it relates.

If you want to change who you give your residue to or if you want to make numerous changes to your Will, it may be advisable to write a completely new one with the help of a solicitor.

We can send you a blank codicil form and easy-to-follow instructions on how to complete it. To request one, phone our Legacy Team on **0800 591248**.



***A codicil is a separate document that makes a change or addition to an existing Will.***



# Let your Executor know where your Will is stored

We've teamed up with Certainty, the National Will Register and Will search service, to provide you with free Will registration if you include a gift in your Will to PDSA.

Certainty is used by the legal profession and endorsed by the Law Society.

It's essential that your executor/s and loved ones know where your most up-to-date Will is stored. Registering your Will with Certainty ensures it isn't overlooked, lost or untraced and ensures, as far as possible, that your Will is administered in accordance with your wishes.

To register your Will with Certainty, visit [www.certainty.co.uk/](https://www.certainty.co.uk/) and enter redemption code 'pdsa5000' when prompted.

It's advisable to keep a copy of your Will with your personal papers at home, and the original Will and any codicils should be placed together in safe custody.



pd@sa  
DON'T HELP A PET

**£500**

*Could help  
towards the  
cost of a major  
operation like a  
fracture repair*

# Case Study – Charlie

**Charlie was saved by PDSA vets after eating fairy lights.**

Charlie had a lucky escape after eating his family's Christmas fairy lights. PDSA vets x-rayed Charlie which showed the tangled remains of the Christmas decorations in his stomach. They would have proved fatal if not removed.

Charlie was rushed into the operating theatre at his local PDSA Pet Hospital to have the life-threatening lights removed. Charlie is now back at home, much to the delight of his family.

***Gifts in  
Wills fund  
two out of every  
three free treatments  
provided by PDSA and  
are vital to pets  
like Charlie.***



# The right wording to include PDSA in your Will

If you decide to include a gift in your Will to PDSA, please use the recommended form of wording given in one of the following paragraphs:

## Residuary gift

I GIVE free of inheritance tax **XX%** of my residuary estate to The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (the PDSA) (Registered charity numbers **208217** and **SC037585**) of Whitechapel Way, Priorslee, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9PQ and I DECLARE that the receipt of the Treasurer or other Officer of the charity shall be a sufficient discharge to the Executors/Trustees.

## Pecuniary gift

I GIVE free of inheritance tax the sum of **[AMOUNT IN WORDS] [AMOUNT IN NUMBERS]** to The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (the PDSA) (Registered charity numbers **208217** and **SC037585**) of Whitechapel Way, Priorslee, Telford, Shropshire, TF2 9PQ.

**If your specific needs are not covered by these forms of wording or you wish to leave a specific gift, such as a property, please contact our Legacy Team for further guidance.**

# Frequently asked questions

## How much does a Will cost?

The average cost of writing a simple Will with a reputable solicitor is around £200, depending on where you live.

## Can I write my own Will?

The answer is 'yes', but writing your own Will, even with a DIY Will pack, can be risky because probate law, inheritance tax and the language used are not always straightforward. If you don't follow all the required legal procedures, you could inadvertently make your Will null and void.

## Who will tell PDSA when I've passed away?

Usually your executor would inform us of your death and the administration of your estate would then begin. We suggest you tell friends, family or neighbours, even your doctor, who your executor is. If we're your executor, please place our contact details with your documents at home, where they can be easily found.

To ensure information about your estate is clearly available for your executor, it is advisable to complete a PDSA Estate Pack. You can list key contacts and provide information, such as where important documents are stored, what provisions you have made for your pets, and your funeral wishes and plans.

*To request a copy, please call the freephone number below.*

## Can PDSA clear the contents of my house when the time comes?

We would recommend that you instruct your executor to arrange for the contents of your home to be sold and the proceeds then donated to PDSA if that is your wish. We don't operate a house-clearance service, although our stores are grateful for donations of clothes, books and bric-à-brac items. We also have contacts with auctioneers and jewellers who can deal with higher-value items on our behalf.

## Are there any steps I can take to reduce the chances of my Will being challenged in court?

The best way to ensure that your Will can withstand a legal challenge is to have it drawn up by a solicitor. Many challenges are brought by people who are surprised by a Will's contents.

They may not believe that the Will represents the person's genuine wishes if they do not understand them. Therefore, it is often a good idea to explain, perhaps in a letter signed at the same time and kept with the Will, why you have chosen your beneficiaries.

## A closer look at our work

Would you like to see first-hand the important work a gift in your Will could help make possible? We'd love to meet you and share with you what we do and why our work is so special.

Come along, find out more about PDSA and ask us any questions you have about our work or writing a Will. We can arrange for you to visit one of our Pet Hospitals where you'll be able to see behind the scenes.

If there isn't a PDSA Pet Hospital in your area we may be holding one of our larger events at a local venue soon.

To arrange a visit and discuss how to give something back with a gift in your Will, please phone our Legacy Team on **0800 591248**.







**£1,500**

***will pay for  
18 x-rays to  
be taken***



# A glossary of legal terms

Here's an explanation of the legal terms you may come across while making or amending your Will.

**Beneficiary:** A person, charity or organisation who receives a gift from your Will.

**Codicil:** A separate document that makes a change or addition to your existing Will.

**Estate:** Your assets and liabilities at the time of your death.

**Executor:** Someone you appoint to carry out the instructions in your Will.

**Intestate:** A person dying without having made a Will.

**Intestacy Rules:** The law that decides who inherits your estate if you die without a Will.

**Legacy:** A gift in your Will.

**Pecuniary Legacy:** A gift of a fixed sum of money.

**Probate:** The procedure that establishes the validity of a Will so that the executors are authorised to administer your estate.

**Residue:** What is left of your estate after all other gifts have been paid and all debts, taxes and expenses settled.

**Residuary Legacy:** The gift of all or a percentage of the residue of your estate and the most valuable kind of legacy to PDSA.

**Testator/Testatrix:** The person making the Will.

**Trustee/s:** The person, or people, you appoint to look after any part of your estate that you leave in a trust.

**Witness:** A person who witnesses your signature and who cannot benefit from a gift in your Will.



*If you have  
included a gift  
in your Will to  
PDSA, thank you  
so much.*

## Your promise to PDSA

By promising to help us with a gift in your Will you are helping to ensure a future for PDSA and the pets we treat. So, together we can provide well-being for all pets throughout their lives.

Of course it's not legally binding but, if you could, please do tell us about your gift to pets by returning the enclosed promise card. Please be assured that any information you choose to disclose through our promise card about your Will, or the gift you have included in it to PDSA, will be treated with the utmost respect and in the strictest confidence.

## THANK YOU



**2.7  
million**  
treatments  
every year



**470,000**  
pets treated  
every year



**48**  
PDSA Pet  
Hospitals

We receive no  
HM Government  
funding for our  
veterinary services,  
so rely entirely on  
public support.

With **you** we  
make **one**  
amazing team.

#### **PDSA**

Whitechapel Way, Priorslee, Telford  
Shropshire TF2 9PQ  
Freephone 0800 591248  
Email [legacies@pdsa.org.uk](mailto:legacies@pdsa.org.uk)

**[pdsa.org.uk](http://pdsa.org.uk)**

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