

**If animals
have a place
in your heart...**



 **THE BLUE CROSS**
Britain's pet charity

**...find a place for
them in your Will**



“It’s amazing to me that The Blue Cross operates entirely on charitable donations, over 50% of which are from legacies. The most impressive thing of all is the dedication and commitment of all the staff, which is why my husband and I are proud to have left The Blue Cross a gift in our Will. Long may they continue their wonderful work!”

Pam Ferris

A century of caring for animals

Founded in 1897, The Blue Cross has been a lifeline for animals for more than a hundred years. As you may know, we find loving homes for abandoned and unwanted animals through our adoption and equine centres. Our animal hospitals provide treatment for pets whose owners cannot afford private veterinary care. Advice and education about responsible animal ownership runs through all our services.

The Blue Cross receives no financial support from the Government, so every penny our supporters give us is vital. Gifts in Wills are crucial to everything we do and this booklet tells you how you can help our vital work continue.

Every legacy is valuable to us. Whatever you are able to give will be gratefully received and put to the best possible use – caring for vulnerable animals.

Remember The Blue Cross in your Will and help us be there for animals in years to come



The Blue Cross has been caring for Britain's animals for over a hundred years

Legacy Team Tel: 0300 777 8240

Help us find loving homes for unwanted animals

Each year, our adoption centres care for thousands of abandoned animals until new homes are found for them. Our staff use every possible means to find a loving new owner for each unwanted animal we take in.

Around £1,000 will cover the cost of caring for two cats from admission to adoption



How Grace became Little Sukie...

Grace arrived at The Blue Cross adoption centre in Cambridge after being found abandoned in a knotted bin bag in a skip. It was a hot day and it is a miracle she survived.

After Grace was given the all clear by the vet, we put a story in the newspaper hoping to find her a new home.

Rebecca, a local animal lover, was struck by Grace's resemblance to her cat Sukie, who had recently passed away and decided to adopt her. She renamed Grace, Little Sukie and says, *"She's such an affectionate little cat. We're so lucky to have found her."*

Remember The Blue Cross in your Will and help us find homes for more abandoned animals like Grace.

Gifts in Wills help us rehome animals like Grace and Ollie (pictured)





Why legacies are vital

By leaving a gift to The Blue Cross in your Will, you'll help us plan for the future – one where animals receive the care they deserve.

Your gift will be tax-free too. There is more information about inheritance tax in the rear of this booklet.

Of course, you will always want to look after family and friends first, but after that, you can also care for your animal friends with a residuary legacy.

What type of gift to choose

A residuary legacy is the remainder of the estate once other gifts and payments have been made. This type of gift is popular with our supporters because it remains proportional to the value of your estate.

A pecuniary legacy is a fixed sum of money. The value of pecuniary legacies could decrease over time, as the cost of living increases.

A specific legacy is a particular named item, for example a piece of jewellery or property.

A residuary legacy after a partner dies allows you to leave assets for the care of a loved one for the duration of their life. When they die, your legacy will then go to your chosen recipient.





Gabby (left) has a new best friend and a loving family

Help us save the lives of abandoned animals

Equine welfare remains an important part of our work. The Blue Cross has dedicated equine centres that care for hundreds of injured, neglected or unwanted horses and ponies. After careful assessment and rehabilitation, many of these horses go on long-term loan to caring new owners.

When Gabby met Jake...

Gabby was found abandoned by a motorway. From her terrible injuries, it's likely she had been hit by a car. Thankfully, Gabby survived her ordeal and we were able to get her back to full health through our special equine rehabilitation programme.

The extent of Gabby's trauma meant that she could not be ridden again but her gentle nature made her a perfect companion animal. So, we placed Gabby on a long-term loan with a very experienced borrower, Sharon. Gabby soon became the best of friends with her new stablemate, Sharon's Appaloosa riding horse, Jake.

A gift in your Will could help us care for more injured horses like Gabby and find them caring new homes.

£4,000 covers the cost of 12 months' rehabilitation for a horse like Gabby



Seven steps to remembering The Blue Cross in your Will

- 1 Work out the value of your estate.
- 2 Decide on your beneficiaries, the people or organisations that you wish to leave property, possessions or money to. Many people choose to leave a residuary legacy to The Blue Cross to ensure that family are provided for first.
- 3 Appoint your executors. These are people named in your Will who are responsible for making sure your instructions are carried out.
- 4 Visit a solicitor to have your Will drawn up and executed.
- 5 Make a copy of your Will for future reference and keep the original in a safe place. Your solicitor will often store it without charge.
- 6 Make sure a relative or close friend knows where the original Will is stored.
- 7 Finally, please send us your completed reply form giving notice of your intentions.



If you need our advice, expert help is at hand

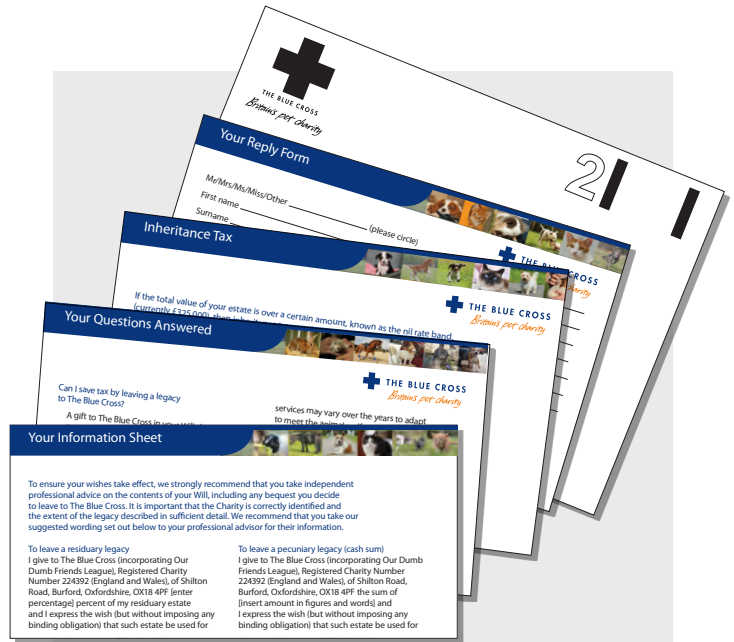
If you have any questions about the information you have read today, please do not hesitate to write, email or call us.

You'll find the contact details for our specialist Legacy Team at the rear of this booklet.

The Blue Cross always recommends the use of a qualified solicitor, to ensure your Will is legally valid and to prevent any costly mistakes.

Whatever you decide, please tell us

It would be a huge help in planning our future work if you could let us know your intentions – whatever they may be.



**You'll find information
to help you make or amend
a Will to include The Blue Cross
at the rear of this booklet.
We've included a FREEPOST
envelope to send back
your reply form.**

Legacy Team Tel: 0300 777 8240

£50,000 will cover the cost of six months worth of drugs to treat sick animals at our Merton hospital



Help us keep special friends together

Our first animal hospital was opened in Victoria, in 1906. We have a further three hospitals in Hammersmith, Merton and Grimsby, with mobile and welfare clinics supporting some of our hospitals and adoption centres. Each year, we treat thousands of animals whose owners cannot afford private veterinary care.

Mending Carlos's broken heart...

Five-year-old great Dane, Carlos, and his owner, Peter, both suffer from heart problems. However, when Carlos became seriously ill, Peter couldn't afford to pay for the life-saving treatment his beloved companion needed. He did not know where to turn.

Thankfully, The Blue Cross was able to come to Peter's aid, treating Carlos at our Merton hospital and keeping these two best friends together. Peter told us, *"Without The Blue Cross, Carlos would not be with me today. You'll never know just how much all this is appreciated."*

Including a gift to The Blue Cross in your Will can help us keep more special friends like Carlos and Peter together.



Each year, we treat thousands of animals like Carlos

Legacy Team Tel: 0300 777 8240

13

A gift that means everything...

If animals have a place in your heart, you can ensure they receive the care they deserve in the future by finding a place for them in your Will. That is what Janet Gower chose to do.

Janet's close family meant everything to her and when they passed away, she struggled to make sense of anything. As all her loved ones supported The Blue Cross, Janet used their legacy to help fund our work. Janet has also included us in her own Will and her legacy will help many more animals in the future.

"I chose to remember The Blue Cross in my Will because not only do they help the animals that sadly come in to their care, but they also provide advice and support for animal owners.

"Animals have enriched my life. The unconditional love from those precious creatures is so magical and The Blue Cross helps others experience that special bond."

Janet Gower





THE BLUE CROSS

Britain's pet charity



The Blue Cross – providing a service that meets all the welfare needs of companion animals through treatment, advice and support, and finding them caring homes.

The Blue Cross is a charity registered in England and Wales (224392) and in Scotland (SC040154). M5952/0111

