

At the conclusion

+ Income tax

Charities can reclaim their share of tax paid on income received during the administration. The institutions holding estate funds will be able to provide certificates showing the tax paid to enable you to complete a form R185 (estate income) for the charity. When you have provided this form to us, we can then reclaim the tax from HM Revenue and Customs and use it for our charitable work.

+ Estate accounts

Please provide estate accounts at the end of the administration. The accounts should include the amounts received into the estate from each asset, what payments have been made and how the amount due to us has been calculated. Where Executors are entitled to charge for their time dealing with the administration, providing copy invoices will help us understand the amount of work undertaken and how the expenses of the estate have been

calculated. Once we have seen this information we can provide you with a formal receipt for your records confirming that we have received our legacy in full and the area of our work that it will benefit.



Our Thanks

It is important for us to acknowledge the generosity of supporters who have helped pets by leaving us a gift in their Will and we will be pleased to add their name to our virtual Book of Thanks on our website at www.bluecross.org.uk

We are always keen to share memories of our supporters and their connection to our charity. We welcome any photographs and stories you feel able to share with us that will help us in this.

If you would prefer us not to express our gratitude in this way please do not hesitate to contact the legacy team.



Thank you for your help in distributing a gift that will help us be there for pets

We will be happy to talk to you more about our work or arrange a visit to one of our centres or hospitals

Blue Cross legacy team
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Burford,
Oxfordshire,
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Registered charity no: 224392 (England and Wales), SC040154 (Scotland).



Working together ...

... for healthy, happy pets



Working Together

Blue Cross finds happy homes for abandoned or unwanted pets, and keeps pets healthy by promoting welfare and providing treatment. We are always honoured to be left gifts in Wills which make up over half of the annual income we need to be here for pets.



We thank Executors for their work in distributing legacies to us and appreciate that dealing with an estate takes time. We understand that this can be particularly difficult for family members or friends entrusted with that role in the estate of a loved one, at an already upsetting time.

This leaflet explains how we can offer support and practical tips to Executors and their professional advisors. We welcome working together to make the process as straightforward as possible and make the most of the gift kindly left to us.

Please contact us at :

**Blue Cross legacy team,
Shilton Road, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4PF**

Telephone: 0300 777 8240

Email: legacyteam@bluecross.org.uk

Helpful information about dealing with charities as beneficiaries can also be found on the Institute of Legacy Management website www.ilmnet.org



Telephone: 0300 777 8240



At the outset

+ Pets

You may need to arrange care at short notice for any pets that outlive their owner. Please do contact the legacy team to see if the pets are already registered on our Pets into Care scheme, or if we are able to help with rehoming.

+ Will & any codicils

Providing us with copies of these documents helps us to honour any wishes about how we use the legacy and understand how other gifts may affect the amount due to us.

+ Assets and liabilities

Providing us with a brief estimate of the value of assets and debts of the estate at the outset helps us to understand the amount of work that will be needed, the time it will take to deal with the estate and how to help you optimise the value of assets, including spotting opportunities to make the most of our tax exemptions.

+ Lead charity

It is best practice for charity beneficiaries who share in an estate to talk to one another to help reduce costs and make communication easier for Executors. You may like to ask the charities to appoint a "lead charity" to be the main contact for you, distribute information amongst them and collate instructions on any issues arising.



As matters progress

+ Reduced fees

Through the Institute of Legacy Management, we have access to professionals such as surveyors, stockbrokers and auctioneers who can offer low commission rates on the valuation and sale of some assets. Please contact us to see if the estate could benefit from this service.

+ Property

Both Executors and charities have a duty to obtain the best price for estate assets. For this reason we recommend obtaining two initial valuations of an estate property and an initial marketing period of at least four weeks. It is helpful to be kept informed of progress with the marketing, particularly where a property may sell for a higher value than originally estimated or if there are issues such as development potential, tenants or agricultural property to be considered. We may have come across similar situations before and have useful contacts who can provide specialist advice.

+ Investments

Where there are large holdings of shares, it is helpful to receive a valuation and be given the chance to consider if we would prefer our portion of these to be transferred to us rather than sold.



+ Tax

The amount of funds available for distribution to the charity can be increased by ensuring that our tax exemptions are used. Applying various tax exemptions and rules can be complicated. We recommend that professional advice is sought if there is likely to be tax to pay and please do contact us about our own exemptions.

Inheritance tax (IHT)

No IHT is payable on any property that passes to charity. If the estate is over the IHT threshold, please take into account our exemption when calculating any IHT liability. **Our tax reference number is X9862.** Any tax arising on the residuary estate should not be paid from the charity's share of the estate, unless there is a specific clause in the Will to the contrary.

Capital gains tax (CGT)

A CGT liability may arise where an asset, such as a property or shareholding, is sold for more than the date of death value and the gain is in excess of the annual exemptions available to the estate. It may be possible to complete a simple "appropriation" form so that our tax exemption can be applied and any CGT reduced. In the case of a property, appropriation has to take place prior to exchange of contracts and Section 119 of the Charities Act 2011 may then apply to the sale. We are experienced in dealing with these issues so please contact us at an early stage if a CGT liability may arise so that we can assist you in reducing this liability where possible.



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