



How My Legacy Will Save Lives?

Your legacy will transform lives. It will give us the means to change the future for animals that had no hope before they came to Freshfields.

Your legacy will enable us to deliver a service which puts dignity and respect for all animals at the heart of everything we do.

Your act of kindness is literally a gift of life, which will carry forward your love of animals after you have gone.

Your gift will help us to provide valuable medical care to hundreds of rescue animals. Veterinary bills account for almost one fifth of our expenses, and the need is rising all the time.

A legacy will cost you nothing in your lifetime but will help us to provide the vital services of micro-chipping and neutering to hundreds of animals in our local communities. It will help fund our outreach programmes for children and young people, providing education and support about animal welfare and promoting responsible attitudes to pet ownership.

Planning for Your Pets Future

The Magnificent Seven: A cautionary tale. These 7 lovely Shi Tzu arrived at Freshfields Wales having lost their guardian very suddenly. They were very bewildered and confused, and in need of reassurance and loving care. All 7 were female and were aged between 5 and 10 years; they were friendly and affectionate dogs who remained safe at Freshfields, until we secured a better future for them which we were confident we could do.

In this case, we were able to respond quickly and provide immediate support in a situation which could otherwise have ended in tragedy for the dogs. There were no plans in place for the future care of the seven Shi Tzu. The dogs were fortunate, as in this instance we were able to provide everything that they needed.

It's an all-too familiar story here at Freshfields, and now more than ever we need to turn our attention to being pro-active and informing our supporters of the steps they themselves can take, to gain the peace of mind that comes with planning for the future.

Thinking Ahead

We will always put the welfare of the animals at the heart of everything we do. It's been our guiding principle for the past 40 years.

However, we are better placed to provide for your pets when you are no longer around if there are plans in place to help us financially. Running costs for smaller charities continue to climb, and in order to guarantee our future the financial stability of the Rescue Centres must be prioritised going forwards.

Veterinary Fees are the biggest single area of expenditure for Freshfields. In 2015 our veterinary bills were £120,000, including prescribed foods and this year our projections predict costs will top that figure.

Freshfields depends entirely upon donations and support from the public to keep the Rescue Centres running.

We recognise that everyone's situation is different. Not everyone has the facility to plan for the future. However, if you can, we would encourage you for the sake of ALL the animals in need of our help to put something in place to aid us in caring for your pet when you are no longer around.

What can you do?

Pet Insurance will provide financial support for your pet during your lifetime, but does not provide benefits after you are unable to care for them.

Savings Plans

There are several products on the market which will enable you to set up a Savings Plan to which you can pay regular monthly amounts designated for the care of your animal. You will need to indicate in your Will or any Advance Directive you make, that the proceeds of this policy are to be left to Freshfields Animal Rescue to assist the charity to care for your pet when you are no longer able to.

If you need us to take over the care of your pet during your lifetime, the money from the Savings Plan will help us to provide for your pet during its time at Freshfields, and will assist us in finding your pet a new home if appropriate.

Be Informed; Be Prepared

As well as setting out your plans for your pet, you will need to know about the organisation you are entrusting them to. We know who we are, but it's important that you find out as much as you can about ANY charity to whom you are giving the responsibility of looking after your pet.

You will of course want to find out about the values and policies of the charity that you are considering for this very important step. Freshfields has a genuine non-destruction policy, and we will never put a healthy animal to sleep. We hold this principle very dear, and we are clear and explicit about what we do, but it is vital that you do your own research and find out for yourself as the policies of organisations differ widely.

Our Companion Animal Care Card

Did you know that you can register for a free Companion Animal Care Card, to guarantee safety and security for your pets when you pass away? We promise that if anything happens to you, we will take your pet into our care at one of our two Freshfields Animal Rescue Centres in Liverpool and North Wales, where they will be given all the love and affection that they need. We will undertake to find your pet a suitable loving home. If we are unable to do so, you can rest assured that we will look after them for the rest of their life.

A word of warning...

Whatever you choose to do, please make sure those closest to you are aware. There can often be a period of delay between the death of a person and locating that persons will and when animals are involved it is vital that action is taken quickly. To avoid a decision being made with regard to your pets that is not in keeping with your wishes, a discussion with family or even with a friend or close neighbour is best.

How can I find out more?

Please give us a call for an informal discussion and further information about both our Companion Animal Care Card and to discuss leaving a Legacy/Gift in your Will to Freshfields. If you would prefer to talk to someone in confidence, please call our Legacy Officer Jane Young on **0151 931 1604**.

Types of legacies and suggested wording

Types of Legacies

If you would like to remember Freshfields Animal Rescue in your Will, there are three main types of gift you can make:

- **Residuary Gift** - this is the gift of all (or part) of the value of your estate after debts, liabilities and other legacies have been paid and this is the most valuable kind of legacy to Freshfields.
- **Pecuniary Gift** - this is the gift of a particular sum of money.
- **Specific** - this is the gift of a specified item that could for example be; property, a book collection, a piece of jewellery or a painting.

Suggested wording for a gift in your Will

If you would like to leave Freshfields Animal Rescue a gift in your Will the following wording may be of help to you when you visit your legal advisor:

"I give all (or a _% share of) the residue of my estate to Freshfields Animal Rescue, (registered charity number 1160348), East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool L29 3EA, for its general charitable purposes and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a valid and appropriate form of discharge."

Suggested wording for a codicil to Freshfields Animal Rescue

If you have already made your Will and decide that you would like to add a gift to Freshfields Animal Rescue, the following wording for a codicil may be helpful when you visit your legal advisor:

"I (name) of (address) declare this to be my first codicil to my last Will dated (date). I give (details of legacy) to Freshfields Animal Rescue, (registered charity number 1160348), East Lane, Ince Blundell, Liverpool L29 3EA, for its general charitable purposes and I direct that the Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be valid and appropriate form of discharge. In all other respects I confirm my Will."

In both cases you may also wish to specify whether your gift should be spent to further the activities of the charity at our branch in Liverpool, our branch in North Wales or, at the discretion of the charity trustees, to benefit the two.

Companion Animal Care Card

If you are a pet owner you may also like to include the following wording in your Will "It is also my wish that Freshfields Animal Rescue care for or rehome any pets I own at the time of my death."

We want to say thank you!

If you have already included a gift in your Will to Freshfields Animal Rescue, or it is your intention to do so in the future, then we would love to hear from you. Not only will this information allow us to plan for the future but just as importantly it means that we will be able to pass on our heartfelt thanks for your generous pledge. Your kind support will allow your love of animals to live on and save lives long into the future.

Will-making & Codicils

Will-making

The only way to ensure that those you love, including your pets, will be taken care of is to make a will or add a codicil to an existing Will. Having a Will that is up to date allows you to make sure that your money benefits the people or causes that you really care about.

If animals have brought great joy into your life, remembering Freshfields Animal Rescue in your Will is a wonderful way to celebrate that unique relationship and to help animals less fortunate than your own for many years to come.

Freshfields receive no government funding, therefore we are totally reliant upon the kindness of animal lovers in order to continue our work. Ensuring that we can continue our work to help thousands of animals in the future and to educate future generations regarding the importance of providing the right care for our animal companions will become your lasting legacy.

What you need to know

Making your Will is easier than you may think; Firstly, start by listing everything you could include in a Will including property, money and other assets.

Then you must decide who you want to benefit from your Will (including Freshfields Animal Rescue if you wish), and make a list of their names and addresses.

Decide who you wish to be executors of your Will. It is usual to have two executors, in case one isn't able when the time comes. They are usually family members or a professional advisor such as a solicitor.

Take all of these details along to the solicitor, who will draw up a Will for you. We strongly advise that you do not attempt to 'do it yourself'. A 'home-made' Will can often lead to trouble as it may be ruled invalid by the courts if it fails to meet all legal requirements.

Already made a Will?

Many people make a Will and assume that's all they need to do. However, circumstances can change over the years and so it is always advisable to take a fresh look at your Will every few years to ensure it meets your current needs.

Changing your Will

If you have already made your Will and decide that you would like to add a gift to Freshfields Animal Rescue, a codicil is a good, inexpensive way to do so. Adding a codicil to your Will enables you to leave a legacy to Freshfields Animal Rescue whilst ensuring that the other provisions you have made remain untouched and you also won't have to pay for your Will to be completely rewritten.

If you are considering making a will and you live in the North West please click on the link to download details of professionals offering discounts to supporters of Freshfields Animal Rescue.