



THE DONKEY
SANCTUARY

BE FOREVER BY THEIR SIDE

Your guide to gifts in wills

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WELCOME

A message from Paul Lunn, Chair of Trustees at The Donkey Sanctuary.

Thank you for considering a gift in your will for donkeys. It's a wonderful way to ensure that your love for donkeys lives on into the future.

When I came on board as Chair of Trustees at The Donkey Sanctuary in March 2022, I immediately felt an affinity for our wonderful supporters. It has been a heartwarming experience meeting so many of you on my visits to Sidmouth. We share a deep love for donkeys. We see what others so often overlook and appreciate them for the kind-natured, intelligent and loyal animals they are.

As you know, in the UK and across the world, too many donkeys are facing terrible suffering. I want to thank you for showing that you share our belief that no donkey should ever be neglected or abused. When donkeys have needed you, you've stepped up to help. Remembering The Donkey Sanctuary in your will is a powerful way to continue your vital support – and ensure that donkeys get the love and care they need.



Wherever and whenever donkeys need help, leaving a gift in your will means you will be there to ease their pain and protect them always. I hope this guide shows you what a life-changing difference you can make.

Thank you for considering leaving a legacy of kindness to donkeys.

Paul Lunn
Chair of Trustees at The Donkey Sanctuary

BE PART OF A POWERFUL LEGACY OF PROTECTING DONKEYS

When you leave a gift in your will, you will be part of a rich history of kindness, care and love for donkeys.



Dr Svendsen and Naughty Face

As you may know, it all began in 1969 with a little grey donkey, affectionately known as Naughty Face. When Dr Elisabeth Svendsen first met Naughty Face, it was love at first

sight. As Dr Svendsen said: *“She had beautiful limpid eyes and such an intelligent face that I really have to blame her for everything that happened after.”* She took her in and gave her a home on her farm in Devon.

While the deep friendship of Naughty Face cemented Dr Svendsen’s love for donkeys, it was a visit to a local market and seeing the terrible conditions donkeys faced there that ignited her passion for their welfare. Just like you, she couldn’t stand back and watch these gentle animals suffer. She was moved to take action – and so, The Donkey Sanctuary was born.

One donkey quickly became hundreds and soon Dr Svendsen had no choice but to move to a larger space in Sidmouth, Devon. The rest, as they say, is history.

Through the decades, the love and support of people like you has helped reach more and more donkeys in need.

Today, thanks to the incredible dedication and generosity of supporters like you, our work transforms the lives of suffering donkeys across the world. But our heart remains in Sidmouth.

Still nestled in the same stretch of beautiful countryside that Dr Svendsen chose for it, The

Donkey Sanctuary's Sidmouth site is a haven for donkeys and the people who love them. If you have ever had the pleasure of visiting, you will agree that there is something truly magical here: a vision of a world where every donkey gets the love, respect and care they need. Not only does a gift in your will help to protect this special site for donkeys always, but it could also help to create a future where this vision comes true the world over.

Sadly, Dr Elisabeth Svendsen MBE passed away in 2011, but her passion for donkeys lives on. With a gift in your will, you can let your care and love for these incredible animals be your legacy too.

MILESTONE MOMENTS

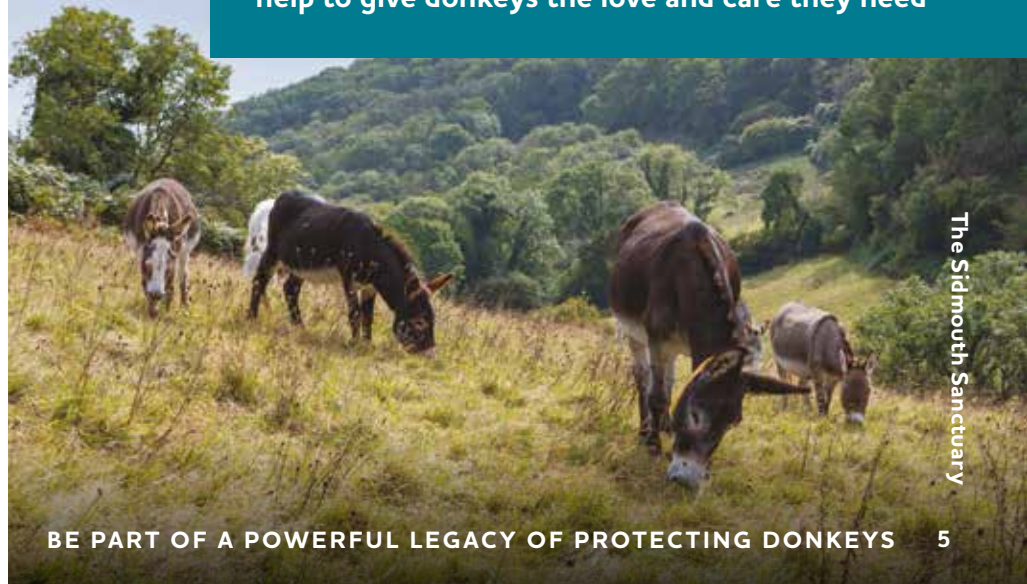
1969 – Dr Elisabeth Svendsen adopts Naughty Face

1983 – Our work with donkeys abroad starts thanks to your support

1994 – Adopt a Donkey begins

2016 – Generous donations fund the building of a state-of-the-art donkey hospital at Brookfield Farm

Today – **Thousands of dedicated supporters like you help to give donkeys the love and care they need**



The Sidmouth Sanctuary

Your kind gift can help make sure that donkeys like Thistle and her new foal, Windsor Jubilee, will always have a place where they will be safe, looked after and loved.



BE FOREVER BY THE SIDE OF DONKEYS FACING SUFFERING AND NEGLECT

Your gift, large or small, will help give donkeys like Thistle and Declan a safe and loving home.

Across the UK and Ireland, too many donkeys are suffering. A gift in your will could help us work towards the day when every donkey has the life they deserve.

When we first met Thistle, 16, and a seven-month-old foal named Declan, they had been terribly neglected. They had been left to shiver outside in the cold winter weather. Malnourished and

“ I could see Thistle’s bones even through her thick coat. Declan was so hungry he was trying to feed from her, even though he’s not her foal.”

– Charlie Wain, Donkey Welfare Adviser

painfully thin, their hooves had become overgrown and infected. It was simply heartbreaking to see them suffering like that.

Thankfully, Thistle and Declan were brought to The Donkey Sanctuary to get the urgent care they need. We also discovered an exciting surprise: Thistle was pregnant! She gave birth to a beautiful foal over the Jubilee weekend in 2022. We named her Windsor Jubilee, naturally.

Today, Thistle, Declan and little Windsor Jubilee are happy, cared for and loved –thanks to people like you.



A gift in your will means we can continue to be there for donkeys like Declan, Thistle and little Windsor Jubilee, far into the future.

BE THERE FOR DONKEYS, WHEREVER THEY ARE

Your gift could protect hardworking donkeys.



**ETHIOPIA HAS
THE LARGEST
POPULATION OF
DONKEYS IN THE
WORLD, WITH A
TOTAL OF 8.4 MILLION**

Wherever a donkey is in the world, whatever their story, you can help ensure they are properly cared for.

In Ethiopia around 80% of people depend on donkeys for their survival. Here, these loyal and hardworking creatures are the lifeblood of communities – generating income and carrying out essential tasks including fetching water and fuel.

Samuna lives in Harabafta Village in Ethiopia. Like many, her three donkeys play an indispensable role in her life. Samuna uses them to carry the vital water she needs to sustain her livestock and enable her family to eat, drink and wash.

However, you'll be pleased to hear that for Samuna, her donkeys are also much-loved members of the family. As Samuna says:

"Even when they are old and can no longer work, you'll find our donkeys in the backyard, where they will stay."

With the help of people like you, The Donkey Sanctuary can support programmes overseas that provide free healthcare

“ *We couldn't live without my donkey. She's like a member of the family."*

– Samuna, Ethiopia

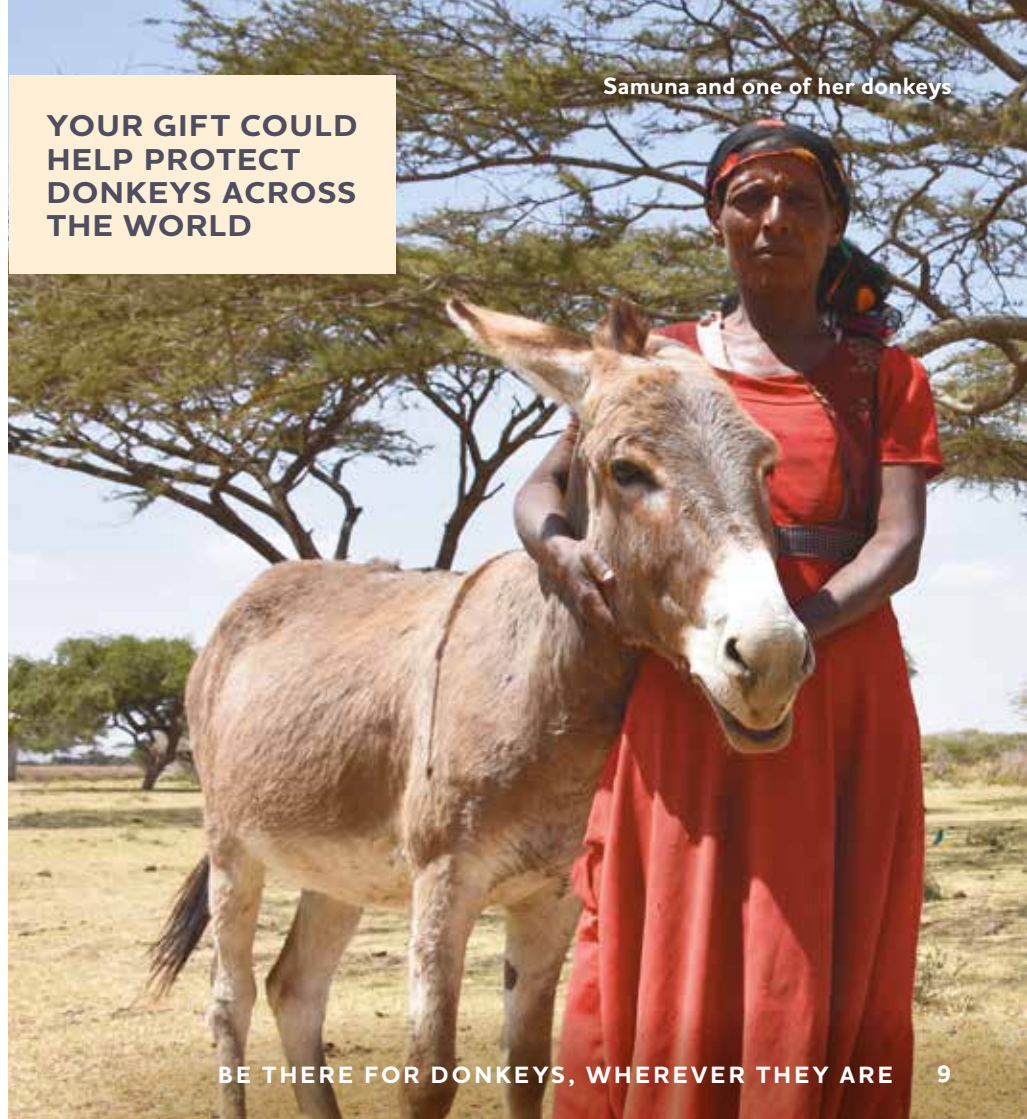
**YOUR GIFT COULD
HELP PROTECT
DONKEYS ACROSS
THE WORLD**

services for working donkeys and offer advice and education for donkey owners on areas like handling, hoof care and diet.

By leaving a gift in your will, you could help ensure that donkey owners across the world treat their donkeys with respect and love – just as Samuna and her family do.

**Your kindness could make
sure hardworking donkeys
get the love, care and respect
they deserve.**

Samuna and one of her donkeys



WHY I'M LEAVING A GIFT IN MY WILL

ANNE'S STORY



“

I have supported The Donkey Sanctuary for years. It's amazing to be a part of a unique group of people who feel the same way as I do about donkeys. We see how special they are.

Donkeys are the sweetest, gentlest and most intelligent and hardworking animals on the planet. Sadly, they are also some of the most ill-used and unappreciated.

The heart-wrenching photos of donkeys in distress and the stories of their recovery are what led me to become a long-term supporter of The Donkey Sanctuary. Knowing that I can help donkeys in their hour of need means the world to me.

So, here's hoping my monthly donations and my legacy will contribute in a small way to keeping donkeys and our civilization alive and well.

I'm so proud to be helping donkeys through my support. Leaving a gift in my will felt like a natural continuation of that really. Once I'd made that decision, changing my will couldn't have been simpler.

It truly gives me a warm feeling knowing that, after I'm gone, my love for donkeys will live on through the gift I'm leaving in my will. They've given me so much pleasure in my life, so it feels right that they should be a part of my legacy.”

Anne



Many of our supporters find that leaving a gift in their will is a natural way to continue their support. By leaving this special gift, you can help make sure suffering donkeys always get the care they need.

YOUR LASTING LEGACY IN FIVE SIMPLE STEPS

No matter how big or small, any gift left in your will can make a life-changing difference to the donkeys you love.

Your kindness will help us keep our promise to never turn away from donkeys and mules in need. Together we can care for more abandoned and abused donkeys and find them permanent, safe and secure homes in the UK.

When making or updating your will, we recommend you get professional advice from a solicitor.

These five steps will help with your preparation before seeing your solicitor.

1 Consider what you have to leave and who you wish to benefit

You need to consider the value of your estate including any assets held abroad and who you wish to benefit under your will. Your solicitor will require this information to fully advise you on the preparation of your will.

2 Decide which type of legacy is right for you

Deciding which legacy is right for you can be made simpler with the Jargon Buster and Frequently Asked Questions information included at the back of this leaflet. Your solicitor will advise you on the options available to you.

3 Learn about your tax options

Did you know you can leave a lasting legacy and benefit your estate at the same time?

Gifts to charities are currently exempt from inheritance tax and if you leave 10% of your estate or more to charity, the rate of inheritance tax reduces from 40% to 36%.

Your solicitor will be able to advise you further. See our Q&A insert for more information.

4 Talk to a solicitor about your will

Of course, your will is a very important and personal document and we would advise you to consult a solicitor about it.

For more information visit **lawsociety.org.uk** or **step.org**

If you would like to leave a gift to The Donkey Sanctuary in your will, we have provided suggested wording on page 16.

Your gift will be an everlasting legacy, enriching the lives of donkeys in the UK and around the world and ensuring you will be forever by their side. Also, as one of our kind legators you'll be remembered on the memorial walls at our Sidmouth sanctuary.

5 Share these details with your solicitor

If, after considering your loved ones, you decide you want to leave a gift in your will to The Donkey Sanctuary, all you need is;

- our address: The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0NU.
- and our registered charity number: 1207593.

Your legacy of kindness could change the lives of thousands of donkeys.

Write or update your will for free

If you live in the UK and your circumstances are straightforward, you may be able to use our free will writing service, with our expert will writing partners Farewill and the National Free Wills Network. You can choose to make your will online (England and Wales), over the telephone, (UK wide) or in person with a solicitor local to you, (UK wide).

For more information visit **thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/leavealegacy** or contact us on **01395 578222**.

If you would like more information, please contact Jane, Charlie or Wendy in our Gifts in Wills team on 01395 578222. They'll be happy to help. Or email **leavealegacy@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk**

OUR PROMISES TO YOU

Leaving a gift in your will is a personal, private and heartfelt decision. So we want you to know:



- Every day, we strive to improve the lives of donkeys.
- We know that your family and friends come first. We promise to treat you and your loved ones with sensitivity, respect and compassion.
- We are here to talk to and answer your questions. We can explain The Donkey Sanctuary's work in more detail and how your gift will make a difference.
- We will use your gift wisely and effectively, ensuring it has the greatest possible impact.
- You can change your mind about leaving a gift in your will at any time and we will respect your decision. Any personal information that you choose to give us will be handled securely and confidentially. Visit: **thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/privacy** for more information.
- We will always respect your privacy – you can decide when and how often we contact you. If you choose to stay in touch, we will always keep you updated about the donkeys you hold dear.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

These are some of the questions we hear most often from supporters considering a gift in their will:

Is it the right time to make a will?

Everyone should have a will. It allows you to ensure that those closest to you are looked after according to your wishes. If you die without leaving a valid will, the law will determine which of your relatives will share your estate, according to the UK Intestacy Rules. Friends, "common law spouses" or chosen charities will not benefit under these rules. It is particularly important to make or update your will if you are planning to marry or enter a civil partnership (which automatically revokes a will), have children, are going through divorce proceedings or have experienced another change in circumstances.

Visit **lawsociety.org.uk** or **step.org** for more information.

Is leaving a gift in my will to charity right for me?

Legacies are wonderful gifts. However, we much prefer that you look after your loved ones first – and then perhaps consider The Donkey Sanctuary for anything left over.

Aren't legacies supposed to be big gifts?

They can be. Some people leave everything they own to charity, while others leave small amounts of money. We are grateful for every gift, regardless of size, as we know that everyone's circumstances vary. To show our gratitude, every legator's name is inscribed on our Memorial Wall at The Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth.

How should I make a will?

Even simple wills must comply with legal formalities. We recommend using a solicitor to draw up your will. If there isn't one near you, then look online.

Your solicitor will need to know our registered charity number (1207593) and our address (The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0NU).

Can I use The Donkey Sanctuary's free will writing service?

If you live in the UK and your circumstances are straightforward, you may be able to use our free will writing service, with our expert will writing partners Farewill and the National Free Wills Network.

You can choose to make your will online (England and Wales), over the telephone (UK wide) or in person with a solicitor local to you (UK wide).

There's no obligation to leave The Donkey Sanctuary a gift, but if you choose to do so you will be making a huge difference to donkeys across the world. For more information visit

thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/leavealegacy or contact us on **01395 578222**.

Are there any tax considerations?

Any amount you leave to charity will usually be exempt from Inheritance Tax (IHT).

The standard Inheritance Tax rate is 40% but if you decide to leave 10% or more of the 'net value' of your estate to charity, a reduced rate of 36% may apply. The net value is the total value as at the date of your death of your assets minus any debts. Not all estates are subject to Inheritance Tax (IHT) but it is important that you consider and discuss your tax position with your solicitor. You can find more information on inheritance tax at gov.uk/inheritance-tax.

Can I change an existing will?

You may change your will at any time, provided you have the requisite mental capacity to do so. In order to make changes to your will, a new will is required (or in certain circumstances a codicil). You must seek the advice of your solicitor should you wish to change the terms of your will.

What kinds of gift can I leave in my will?

Your solicitor will help you decide what type of legacy is right for you, based on your wishes and circumstances. The three basic types of legacy are specific, pecuniary and residuary.

A specific legacy consists of a specific item of personal property. The suggested form of wording for a specific legacy is:

I give _ to The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0NU, Charity Registration No: 1207593, absolutely for its general charitable purposes and the receipt of the proper officer of The Donkey Sanctuary shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

A pecuniary legacy consists of a specified sum of money (which may be index-linked so as to hold its value). The suggested form of wording for a pecuniary legacy is:

I give the sum of £_ to The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0NU, Charity Registration No: 1207593, absolutely for its general charitable purposes and the receipt of the proper officer of The Donkey Sanctuary shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

A residuary bequest is a gift of your remaining estate (or a share of it) after your debts, estate administration costs and taxes have been paid and any pecuniary/specific legacies settled. Many of our supporters decide to leave this type of gift as it keeps pace with inflation, and allows them to ensure that their loved ones are looked after first and foremost.

If you wish to leave the residue of your estate to The Donkey Sanctuary, the suggested form of wording is:

I give the whole of my residuary estate (or _% of the residue of my estate) to The Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 0NU, Charity Registration No: 1207593, absolutely for its general charitable purposes and the receipt of the proper officer of The Donkey Sanctuary shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

If you wish to leave a share of the residue of your estate to The Donkey Sanctuary, your solicitor will explain how the bequest should be worded.

Will the Donkey Sanctuary act as my Executor?

In certain circumstances The Donkey Sanctuary will agree to act as your executor. The appointment of executor carries legal and moral responsibilities and duties, which we take very seriously to ensure your estate is administered in accordance with the law and that your wishes are fulfilled. For further information, please contact Jane, Charlie or Wendy in our Gifts in Wills team on **01395 578222** or email **leavealegacy@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk**

Can I choose how my gift is spent?

It is most helpful if gifts are made for the general charitable purposes of the charity, as this means they can be spent where they are most needed at the time they are received. However, if you prefer, you can specify that your gift is used for our rescue and rehoming work in the UK or for our work abroad.

Please note, however, that if a will specifies that a gift is for a particular purpose, we are bound by law to apply the gift for this use. If for any reason

we are unable to do so, we must forfeit the gift. We therefore recommend speaking to us first if you feel strongly about restricting your gift.

To avoid future legal issues, we also recommend using the following wording for all restricted gifts.

I express the wish, but with no obligation, that The Donkey Sanctuary use the bequest for [intended use].

What happens next?

Many people prefer to keep the contents of their will private and, of course, that is absolutely fine. But if you tell us that we have been named in your will as a beneficiary, it will allow us to thank you properly. Please do get in touch.

Read more about how we collect, use and protect any personal data you give us at: **thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/privacy**.

If you would like more information, please contact Jane, Charlie or Wendy in our Gifts in Wills team on **01395 578222** or email **leavealegacy@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk**

JARGON BUSTER

Here's a handy guide to some of the terms you might come across when talking about your will.

A specific legacy – a gift of a particular item, e.g. a house, a car, a boat, the contents of a specific bank account, or a piece of jewellery.

A pecuniary legacy – a gift of a specified sum of money, which can be index-linked so that it holds its value.

A residuary bequest – the the residue (or part) of an estate is what is left over after the payment of debts, funeral expenses, all taxes, administration costs and any legacies. The bequest would be expressed as the whole of the residue or as a percentage (e.g. 25%) or a share (e.g. 1/4).

Many people choose to leave a residuary gift because it keeps pace with inflation and allows you to ensure your loved ones are well looked after first and foremost.

A reversionary legacy – where the money left in the will reverts to the beneficiary (e.g. The Donkey Sanctuary) once a particular event takes place, e.g. once the life tenant in a house has passed away.

Beneficiary – a person or organisation who benefits from your will.

Bequest – a gift in a will.

Codicil – an amendment or addition to an existing will or codicil. We recommend getting legal advice from your solicitor whenever you change or amend your will.

Executor – the person, people or organisation you choose to appoint in your will to take on the legal responsibility of administering your estate, in accordance with the terms of your will and the law. This could be a close relative, a friend or your solicitor. In certain circumstances, we may agree to act as your executor.

For further information, please contact our Gifts in Wills team on **01395 578222** or email **leavealegacy@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk**.

Estate – everything that you own or have an interest in e.g. property, bank accounts, car, shares and debts owed by you.

Grant of Probate – the document issued by the Probate Registry, which the executors will use as their proof of authority to administer your estate e.g. closing bank accounts or selling property.

Inheritance tax (IHT) – a tax on the value of a person's estate upon their death. This tax may also apply to certain gifts made by an individual during their lifetime.

IHT is complex and your solicitor will be able to advise you fully on the threshold above which IHT is payable, your potential liability and any reliefs and exemptions, which may apply. Many estates are not taxable but if yours is, by bequeathing 10% or more of the value of your estate (net of any debts you owe) to charity, the rate of IHT may be reduced to 36%. For the most up to date information, please visit gov.uk.

Intestacy – to have died not having made a will, or without a valid will. UK law determines who receives your estate. This can only be your married or civil partner or your relatives. If none, then your estate passes to the Crown. There is no provision in UK Intestacy Rules for gift to charities, friends or partners.

Personal chattels – personal possessions inside one's home which are movable e.g. paintings, jewellery and furniture.

Probate – the legal process by which your will is “proved” as valid. Your executors make the application for the Grant of Probate and administer your estate thereafter.

Probate Registry – The UK legal court office dealing with the right to administer the estate and certain connected formalities of a deceased person.

Testator – a person who has made a legally binding will.

Trustee – sometimes it is appropriate to set up a trust in your will and appoint trustees to administer that trust until it comes to an end.

Will – a legal document in which you express how you wish your estate to be distributed on your death and who is to administer it (your executor(s)). Couples or spouses often make separate wills on similar terms or “mirror wills”. Marriage revokes wills made before marriage unless “made in contemplation” of that marriage. To amend the terms of a will, a new will (or a codicil) must be executed.

Witnesses – in order to be valid, your will (or codicil) must be signed by you in the presence of two independent adult witnesses, who each then sign in your presence and of each other. Homemade wills often fail if this is not carried out correctly. Your will must not be witnessed by any beneficiary or their spouse, as those gifts would be invalid.

GET IN TOUCH

Thank you for considering this incredible gift for donkeys.

A gift in your will could make a profound difference to donkeys in need. Wherever a donkey is, and whenever they need help, remembering The Donkey Sanctuary in your will means you'll be forever by their side.

If you would like more information please contact Jane, Charlie or Wendy in our Gifts in Wills team on **01395 578222** or email **leavealegacy@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk**

Photos by The Donkey Sanctuary.







THE DONKEY SANCTUARY

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W thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk

E leavealegacy@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk

The Donkey Sanctuary was founded by Dr Elisabeth Svendsen MBE in 1969. The Donkey Sanctuary (registered charity number 1207593) is a company limited by guarantee (company registration number 15150580) and has its registered office at Slade House Farm, Sidmouth, EX10 0NU. Linked charities: The Elisabeth Svendsen Trust for Children and Donkeys (EST); The International Donkey Protection Trust (IDPT); and The Donkey Sanctuary (TDS Trust).