



**Your Will guide**

# **A love that lasts forever**

# A gift in your Will. A lifetime of love for thousands of dogs.

If you've ever had a dog rest their head on your lap, or rush to greet you at the door, you'll know they make the most trusting and loyal companions. And it's a love that's as unconditional for us, as it is for them.

That's why, here at Dogs Trust, when a stray or abandoned dog comes through the doors of one of our 21 rehoming centres across the UK, they'll be well cared for. We'll do everything we can to get them back on four paws and find them a loving home. If we're unable to rehome a canine companion we will look after them for the rest of their life – we never put down a healthy dog. And it's all thanks to supporters like you.

**If dogs have had a special place in your life, a gift in your Will lets your love live on forever.**

Gifts in Wills from dog lovers like you account for a third of our total income. They're so important to us – and they transform the lives of over 14,000 stray and abandoned dogs every year. A special gift from you would help us continue to go the extra mile for dogs.

## Your generosity will:

- Provide life-saving operations, medication, treatments, and state-of-the-art veterinary facilities for sick and injured dogs.
- Give dogs vital behavioural training for however long it takes to prepare them for their forever homes.
- Build, equip and maintain our rehoming centres to keep dogs as happy and healthy as possible.

Above all, your gift means that we can continue to keep our promise to never, ever put down a healthy dog.

**By choosing to leave a gift in your Will to Dogs Trust, you are helping to give thousands of our four-legged friends a future filled with happiness.**



**Let our Legal Beagle lead you through the Will making process overleaf.**

"Hello, I'm your Legal Beagle.  
Let's go on a walkies  
through the process"



"Don't let these legal words get your tail in a spin,  
let me explain"

- A **residual legacy** is the gift of all, or part, of the value of your estate after debts, liabilities and other legacies have been paid. A residual legacy is the gift of all, or part, of the value of your estate after debts, liabilities and other legacies have been paid.
- A **pecuniary legacy** is the gift of a specific sum of money.
- A **gift in kind** is the gift of property or a piece of jewellery.
- A **codicil** is an addition or change to an existing Will.

**Will my gift be affected by Inheritance Tax?**

No, if you leave a gift to Dogs Trust in your will, its value will be deducted from your estate (your money, possessions and property) before Inheritance Tax is worked out. You can find out more online at: [gov.uk/inheritance-tax](https://www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax)

**Yes**  
please go to page 4

**Do you have a Will?**

**No**  
please go to page 5

**Yes**

**Is your Will up to date?**

**No**

Many people make a Will and assume that's all they need to do. But circumstances can change over the years. So it is worth taking a fresh look at your Will every few years to ensure it meets your current needs. Even if you are satisfied with the main provisions of your Will, you may still want to make additional gifts.

### **Would you consider including a gift to Dogs Trust by codicil?**

A codicil is a simple way to make specific changes or additions to your Will while leaving the remaining provisions untouched. If you decide to add a gift to Dogs Trust to your Will, a codicil is a good inexpensive way to do it. You will need to ask your solicitor to draw up a codicil for you, but you'll find an example of the wording that might be used below.

### **Suggested wording for a codicil**

"I (name) of (address) declare this to be my first codicil to my last Will, dated (date). I give (details of gift) to Dogs Trust, Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 and SC037843, Clarissa Baldwin House, 17 Wakley St, London EC1V 7RQ, 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. In all other respects I confirm my Will." Just like a Will, a codicil needs two independent witnesses to be present and sign when you sign.

There are many reasons why your Will may be out of date: your family circumstances may have changed; your financial circumstances may have altered; or you may simply have changed your mind. If these changes are significant, it may be best to make a completely new Will.

### **Would you consider including a gift to Dogs Trust in your new Will?**

If you want to leave Dogs Trust a gift, there are three types you can make. A 'pecuniary gift' is the gift of a specific sum of money. A 'gift in kind' is a gift of property or a piece of jewellery. But the most valuable kind of gift to Dogs Trust is a 'residual gift' – the gift of all (or part) of the value of your estate, after debts, liabilities and other legacies have been paid.

### **Suggested wording for a gift**

"I give all (or a X% share of) the residue of my estate to Dogs Trust (Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 and SC037843), Clarissa Baldwin House, 17 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7RQ, 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." If you're a dog owner, you may also like to register for a free Dogs Trust Canine Care Card. Once registered, you should include the following wording in your Will: "It is also my wish that Dogs Trust care for and rehome any dogs I own at the time of my death."

**Please let us know if you're leaving a gift to Dogs Trust, so we can plan for the future and thank you for your generosity.**

## I have not made a Will



### Your next steps

You may not have made a Will because you think you don't need to or because you simply haven't got around to it. Whatever the reason, you need to take action now. It is the only sure way to protect the interests of your family and pets. And if you have no immediate family, it is the only way to ensure that your money benefits the people or the causes you want to benefit.

Start by listing everything you could include in a Will including property, money and other assets.

Decide who you want to benefit from your Will (including Dogs Trust if you wish), and make a list of their names and addresses.

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

Take all these details along to the solicitor, who will draw up a Will for you. Don't attempt to 'do it yourself'. A 'home-made' Will can often lead to trouble; because if it fails to meet all the legal requirements it may be ruled invalid by the courts.

### Our Canine Care Service

#### Who will care for your dog when you're gone?

You can register for a free Canine Care Card, Dogs Trust will care for your dog (or dogs) when you pass away or become seriously ill.

Dogs Trust will look after your canine companion, help them get back on their paws, and find them a home.

You can find out more and sign up online by visiting:

**[dogstrust.org.uk/ccs](https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/ccs)**

Or to receive your application form by post please call

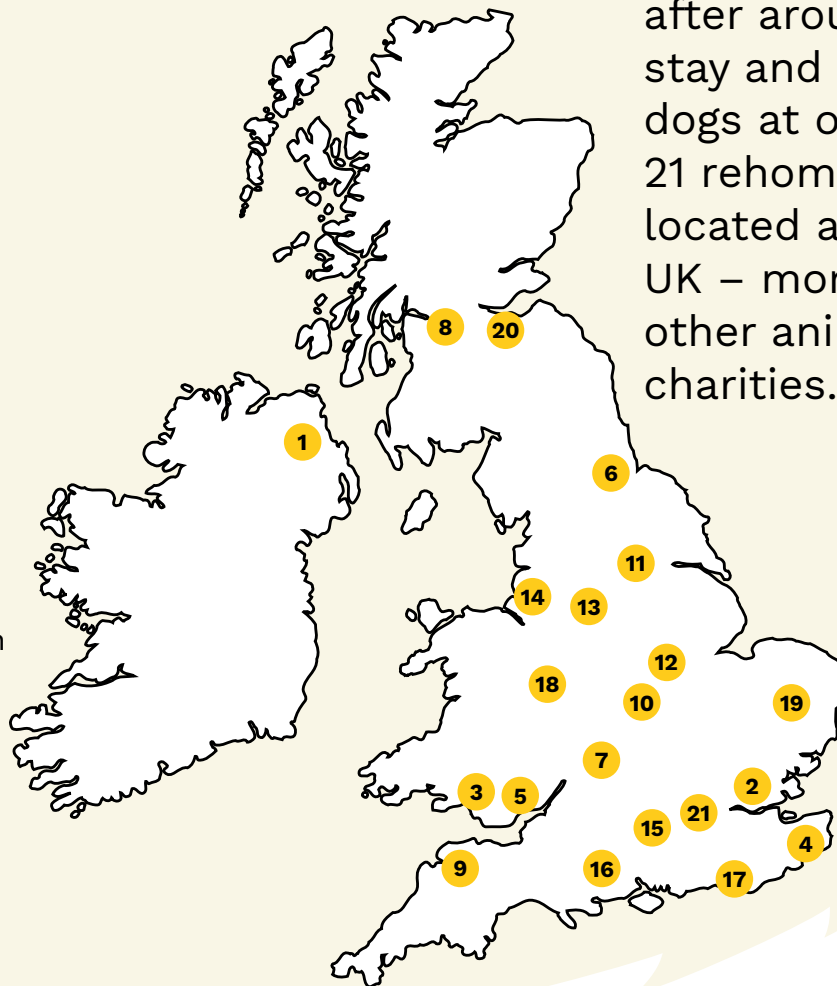
**T: 020 7837 0006** or **E: [ccc@dogstrust.org.uk](mailto:ccc@dogstrust.org.uk)**



# You can make tails wag across the UK

## Dogs Trust Rehoming Centres

- 1 Ballymena
- 2 Basildon
- 3 Bridgend
- 4 Canterbury
- 5 Cardiff
- 6 Darlington
- 7 Evesham
- 8 Glasgow
- 9 Ilfracombe
- 10 Kenilworth
- 11 Leeds
- 12 Loughborough
- 13 Manchester
- 14 Merseyside
- 15 Newbury
- 16 Salisbury
- 17 Shoreham
- 18 Shrewsbury
- 19 Snetterton
- 20 West Calder
- 21 West London



Thanks to dog lovers like you, we look after around 14,000 stray and abandoned dogs at one of our 21 rehoming centres, located all across the UK – more than any other animal welfare charities.



Dogs Trust, Clarissa Baldwin House,  
17 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7RQ

**Telephone: 020 7837 0006 or visit:**  
[dogstrust.org.uk/giftsinwills](https://dogstrust.org.uk/giftsinwills)  
**to learn more about a making a gift  
in your Will to us.**



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**

**A dog is for life®**  
**dogstrust.org.uk**

Registered charity numbers: 227523 & SC037843