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Cover photo: istock Virginira

# Thank you for considering OneKind in your Will...

We understand that writing or updating your Will is a very personal decision and one which will take time. You may also wish to talk about it with your family and loved ones beforehand. In this guide, we hope our practical tips and advice on writing or updating your Will are helpful as well as demonstrating how valuable gifts in Wills have been and continue to be in fighting against animal cruelty.

We've been protecting Scotland's animals for over a hundred years. While our remit has expanded over the years, now covering all animals, we are still driven by the same passion to protect animals that motivated our founders. We want to ensure that OneKind continues to stand up for and protect animals long into the future and we are very grateful that you are considering a gift to OneKind in your Will.

**\*54% of adults don't have a Will**

\*Source - [www.which.co.uk/news/2018/12/half-of-adults-dont-have-wills-but-what-happens-to-your-children-when-you-die/](http://www.which.co.uk/news/2018/12/half-of-adults-dont-have-wills-but-what-happens-to-your-children-when-you-die/)



Photo: Laurie Campbell

## Why OneKind?

In 1911 we made a promise to protect animals from cruelty and to work hard on preventing animal suffering. Legacy gifts are vital to ensure we can continue fighting for wild, farm and pet animals to have a life worth living.

We would be honoured to continue to work hard on your behalf, and thanks to gifts given to us in Wills have delivered some real changes for Scotland's animals. We are committed to continue doing so until animals are no longer harmed at the hands of humans.

OneKind needs to raise £300,000 each year to fund our investigations and campaigning work. Gifts in Wills contribute to half of our overall funding and is crucial in allowing us to see campaigns through and allowing us to plan long term. They have allowed us to complete some very lengthy campaigns and while we can plan and research for months for some campaigns; gathering evidence and writing supporting reports, others must be put together very quickly in response to developing or breaking news stories or requests for help.

**59% of parents  
don't have a Will  
or have one that is  
out of date**

# How legacies have helped Scotland's animals

Gifts in Wills allow us to plan our campaigns, widen our resources and strengthen our efforts. Our successes over the years are thanks to generous supporters leaving a gift in their Will. Here are some of the successes OneKind has had in recent times:

When we celebrated the passing of the fox hunting bill in 2002, we didn't think that 17 years on we would still be campaigning to ban fox hunting in Scotland. Since that bill was brought in, fox hunting has still continued under the guise of "pest control" and we have to redouble our efforts to not only expose the loopholes in the law that still allows hunting to take place and get it back on the political agenda. We also need to re-educate the public who think this so-called sport has already been banned.

In September 2018, the Scottish Government announced that close circuit television would be introduced into abattoirs in Scotland during their political

term. This was a great success for OneKind but our campaigning doesn't end there. As with any of our campaigns, it's vital that we keep monitoring the situation to make sure that the law is working correctly and ensure slaughterhouses are independently and properly monitored.

We know only too well how quickly things can change for the worse. In 2007, our campaign to ban the tail-docking of puppies helped to persuade the Scottish Parliament that this outmoded practice should be banned under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act. Yet just 10 years later, members of the same Parliament voted against veterinary organisations, animal welfare groups and the majority of the public, overturning the decision and sadly decided to allow the docking of Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies destined for use in the shooting industry.

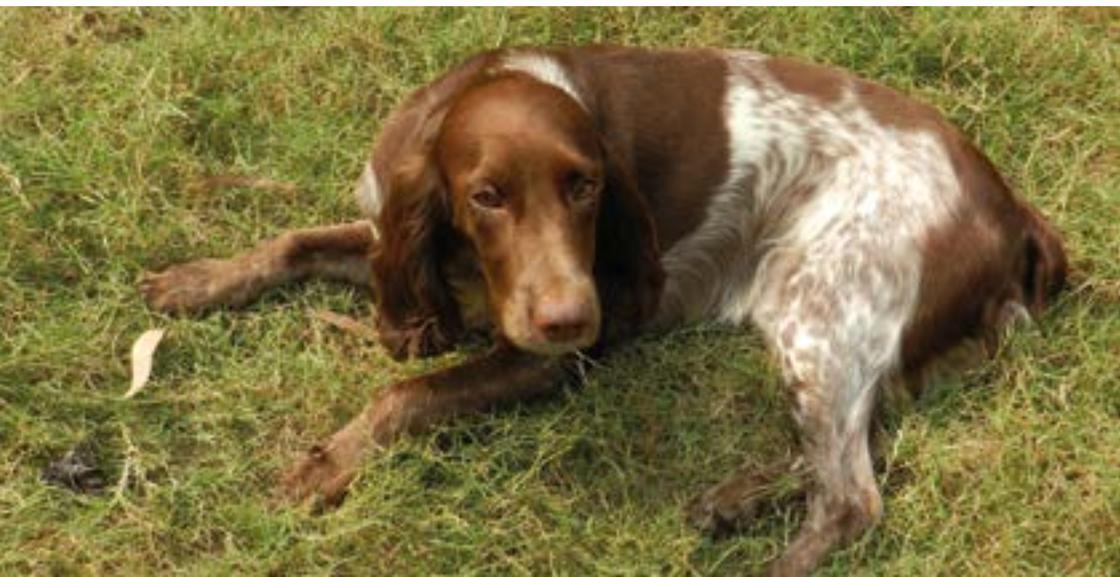


Photo: Laurie Campbell

## How they continue to help:

### Mountain hares

This has been one of OneKind's biggest campaigns to date and has had fantastic support from the public and supporters. It's easy to get signatures on a petition but not so easy in convincing the Scottish Government to make changes to the law. This campaign has required undercover investigations and research, which take meticulous planning in order to gather evidence to show that cruelty is taking place. This is then followed up with strategic campaign planning where timing is crucial. It's so important that we time our actions well in order to gain maximum exposure and response from the Scottish Government. Sometimes we need to hold back depending on what other issues arise and then identify when the best time is to take our petitions to the Scottish Government. Pulling together petitions and then having the resources to raise

awareness, gather momentum, speak with the public and supporters to gain their support all takes time and it wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our supporters.

We have made progress in our fight to protect mountain hares – through our exposure of the culling of mountain hares both for sport and so-called disease prevention, OneKind secured a commitment from the Scottish Government to improve the protection for this iconic species. In the meantime, the snaring of mountain hares has effectively been banned.

However, despite the movement on the campaign, 26,000 mountain hares are still persecuted in Scotland each year and it's clear that much more needs to be done. In order to secure protection for this iconic species we need to raise the profile of this ruthless killing even more among members of the public, and politicians who have the power to end it. We have lots more to do.

# Importance of having a Will

Over five million adults don't know where to begin when it comes to writing a Will and over half of adults don't have one. There are many questions you might have; whether writing your Will for the first time or having your existing Will updated and we hope that you find our guide helpful. A lot of people assume that when they die, their assets and possessions automatically pass over to their next of kin. Unfortunately, this isn't necessarily the case.

If you don't have a Will, then it means you have died "intestate" which means how your house, money and possessions will be distributed is decided by the state. Ultimately, your belongings could be passed to someone you hadn't intended or that family members you wanted to pass things onto end up with nothing. Having a Will can prevent distress, anxiety and stress for the people you love. It's also really important to ensure your Will is up to date and accurate, reflecting your current wishes and circumstances.

Having a Will is the only way to ensure your friends and family are taken care of in the way you would like and that your property and assets are distributed as you wish; this includes leaving a legacy to a charity of your choice.

There are also financial benefits in leaving money to charity in your Will. Leaving a gift to OneKind in your Will can benefit not only us, but your family and loved ones too. Charitable gifts in Wills are exempt from inheritance tax, meaning we receive the total sum you intended and can continue your compassion for animals. It can also lower the value of your estate, and depending on the amount, your estate could be valued below the nil-rate band, so that no Inheritance Tax is payable on your assets.

**5.4 million adults don't know where to begin when it comes to writing a Will**

# FAQs

## Where do I start?

There are lots of legal advisors who will be able to help you write your first Will or update an existing one. Our friends at McClure Solicitors will be happy to help you with this.

## Can I write a Will myself?

You can write your own Will but it will need to be witnessed and signed by a legal advisor to make it legally valid. If your Will isn't straightforward then you should seek legal advice. Working with a legal advisor is the easiest way to make sure your Will is legally valid and ensure all your wishes are taken care of. McClure Solicitor's will take care of your Will free of charge when you consider a gift to OneKind.

## Is it easy to update my existing Will?

If you want to make an update to your existing Will, a "codicil", you will need to make an official alteration. Contact your solicitor or legal advisor to update your Will.

## What happens if I die without updating my Will?

If you die without a Will then you die "intestate". This means that the law decides what happens to your belongings, possessions. It could mean those you love don't receive what you intended. Dying without a Will means it can also take longer and be more expensive to wind up your estate. Furthermore, having a Will ensures you pay less inheritance tax; so your loved ones benefit more.

## If I'm not married, will my partner automatically receive my belongings?

No, not necessarily. Couples who live together but are not married or in civil partnership do not automatically inherit from each other unless there is a Will in place. This can cause serious financial hardships for your partner because they are not entitled to inherit your possessions automatically. If you have children or grandchildren, then what they inherit depends on where you live in the UK.

# Types of gifts in Wills

There are three main types of gifts you can leave in your Will to OneKind. We would recommend that you take time and discuss with your family and your legal adviser to help you make your decision. Every single gift makes a difference to the work OneKind can achieve and allows us to continue campaigning on behalf of Scotland's animals.

## Residuary Gift

Many people choose this gift as it ensures that your loved ones are taken care of first. Once all of your debts, bills and taxes have been paid and all specific and non-specific gifts have been distributed, the remainder of your estate can be left to causes you care about.

## Pecuniary gift

This is a gift where you would choose to leave a specific amount to OneKind. Every single gift makes a difference to our campaigns and the animals we speak up for, but it's worth remembering that this type of gift is likely to be impacted by inflation meaning the eventual value may be lower than you intended.

## Specific gift

This is a specific, chosen gift or item left to OneKind. For example, it may be a property, piece of art or jewellery.

## Unrestricted gifts

Many people choose to leave an unrestricted gift in their Will. This kind of gift is the most flexible as it allows us to use your gift where it is needed most. As many of our campaigns need us to react to the Scottish Government, we don't always know the resources required in advance or need to respond quickly. With a general gift, we can have the most impact.

## Restricted gift

You can also tell us how or where you would like your gift to be used by leaving a restricted gift. If you would like to leave a restricted gift, please get in touch with us so we can discuss the area of our work you would like to support and ensure we carry out your wishes. Our contact details are on page 2.

# Suggested wording

When choosing to include a charity in your Will, there are some details which must be included. These are the name of the charity, the charity number and the full address. If you decide you would like to leave a gift to OneKind, here is some wording that you can use to in your Will.

## To leave a share of your estate (residuary gift)

"I give the sum of % share of the residue of my estate to OneKind Charity of 50 Montrose Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 5DL and registered charity number SC041299 for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the honorary treasurer or other proper officer of OneKind Charity shall be sufficient discharge for the said legacy.

## To leave a specific amount (pecuniary gift)

I give the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_ free of duty to OneKind Charity, of 50 Montrose Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 5DL and registered charity number SC041299 for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the honorary treasurer or other proper officer of OneKind Charity shall be sufficient discharge for the said legacy.

## To leave a specific gift:

I give \_\_\_\_\_ (name item) to OneKind Charity, of 50 Montrose Terrace, Edinburgh, EH7 5DL and registered charity number SC041299 for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the honorary treasurer or other proper officer of OneKind Charity shall be sufficient discharge for the said legacy.

Thank you for caring about Scotland's animals and for considering this very special gift. If you have any questions or need any more information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

**Gifts in Wills**  
contribute to half of  
our overall funding