

Animal Care Provision & Pet Trusts

We recommend that you make provisions to re-home your companion animals with friends and family in the event of your death. An animal shelter should be a last resort for placement of surviving animals.

Should you need assistance from WCHS in placing your companions after your death, you may consider the following wording in your will: "In return for the humane care, relocation and resolution of any animal belonging to me at my death, I hereby bequeath a gift or additional gift to Windham County Humane Society, located at 916 W. River Rd., Brattleboro, VT 05301, (here describe the details of the gift and any specific desires for the animal[s])."



Please note that while WCHS is able to re-home the vast majority of the animals in our care, we are unable to guarantee the placement of any animal, particularly those with histories of aggression or serious illness.

Consider speaking to your estate planner about a "Pet Trust" that would provide financial support for your companion animal after your death.

Consult Your Advisors

Please consult your legal/financial counsel as you plan your gift. They can help you make the largest possible gift at the least net expense to you. Personal financial circumstances may vary and must be carefully considered to receive maximum benefit from existing tax laws.

Thank You

The staff and Board of Directors of the Windham County Humane Society deeply appreciate your support of our work.

Through your caring and thoughtful planning for the future, you are enabling us to continue to help thousands of animals in need annually.

Contact Us

For more information about creating a gift that will help shape the future of Windham County Humane Society, please contact us:

Windham County Humane Society
916 W. River Rd.
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-254-2232
info@windhamcountyhumane.org

WWW.WINDHAMCOUNTYHUMANE.ORG



Planned Giving Guide

How to Create a
Legacy of Love...



Give the Gift of a Second Chance

What better way to honor the unbreakable bond with your best friend than by helping other animals in need. By designating the Windham County Humane Society as a beneficiary of your estate, you demonstrate your commitment to providing care and shelter for homeless, abused, and abandoned animals in Windham County, VT.

WCHS has a long and successful history of service. Since 1887, we have been an essential safety net for rescued animals, providing them with shelter, medical treatment, love, and a second chance at finding a permanent, caring, nurturing home.

Your planned gift to the Windham County Humane Society makes a powerful impact on our ability to maintain and expand adoption, education, and veterinary services for our region's companion animals and their caregivers.

Planned or deferred gifts can take many forms: life insurance proceeds, a portion of an estate, or income from a trust. Each type of planned gift provides unique tax benefits to you as the donor, and to your beneficiaries. Planned gifts should be made with the advice of your professional counsel.

Ways to Give

Planned gifts can take many forms, including **outright bequests** that can be **unrestricted** and therefore utilized at the discretion of WCHS, **restricted** for a specific purpose or program, or **contingent**, meaning that the bequest provides first for family and friends, only benefiting WCHS if other heirs do not survive.



Testamentary Trust

Declares that part or all of an estate be left in trust, with the income or some stated amount to be paid to one or more beneficiaries. Upon the death of the surviving beneficiaries, the principal will be paid to WCHS.

A Gift through Life Insurance

Premiums on a gift of life insurance are tax-deductible if WCHS is both owner and beneficiary, and the gift is irrevocable. If the gift policy is paid up, there is an immediate tax deduction equal to the policy's replacement value.

Life Estate Gifts

Life estate gifts, in which the donor conveys the remainder interest in his or her property, can be used with a residence, farm or vacation home. The donor receives a charitable tax deduction at the time of the gift and can use the property for their life as well as the life of a spouse or partner.

Irrevocable Deferred Gifts

Irrevocable deferred gifts are gifts in which the donor irrevocably transfers assets so that the remainder or other interest intended for Windham County Humane Society is vested at the time of the gift. You receive a charitable deduction equal to the value computed by an IRS calculation that may be based on age or on the number of years you receive income. Types of irrevocable deferred gifts include:

Charitable remainder unitrusts pay the beneficiary a fixed percentage of the trust assets, valued annually. The dollar amount paid to the beneficiary depends on the performance of the trust's investments.

Charitable remainder annuity trusts pay a fixed amount to the beneficiary annually, guaranteed as long as the trust has assets.

Charitable lead trusts allow you to combine a charitable donation with gifts to children or other family members. The lead trust pays income to WCHS for a specified number of years. At the end of the trust's term, the principal is transferred to family members. This type of trust is often used to make intra-family asset transfers with substantial gift and estate tax savings.

