



# **Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford & District Branch**

**Registered Charity 225575**

**Making a  
Will**

**Make your love  
of animals your  
local legacy**



# Contents

Why writing a Will is important Pg 1

How to make your Will Pg 2

About us Pg 3

What we're doing in your area Pg 4

Why gifts in Wills mean so much to us Pg 5

How to remember us in your Will Pg 5

Letting us know your intentions Pg 6

Need some more help? Pg 6



We're the largest animal welfare charity in the local region, covering Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford and surrounding districts.





# Why Writing a Will is Important

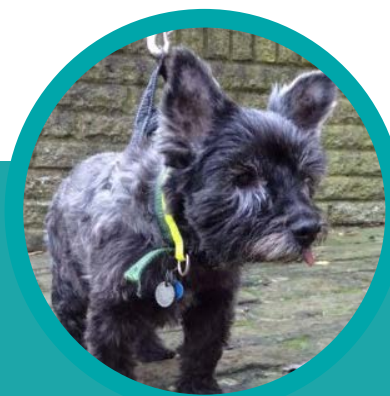
Throughout our lives, we manage our assets and income on a day to day basis, keeping our own lives and those of our loved ones as comfortable and secure as possible. The final stage of this is planning for what happens to it all when we pass away, which is done through a legal document known as a Will.

Statistics published recently suggest that more than half of UK adults do not currently have a Will drawn up. This means that if they were to pass away, standard rules apply to the estate they leave behind. In some cases, this means large sums of money are given to the Government or the Crown or divided in a way which doesn't follow the wishes of the person who has passed away.

For those of us with four legged family members, we also need to think about who will care for them when we're no longer around. In fact, our Willing to Care programme exists for this reason, allowing people to leave their pets in our care should anything happen to them.

Drawing up a Will gives you the control over what happens to anything you own when you've gone. This might mean specifying which relatives or friends will benefit from the Will or leaving gifts or a portion of your estate to the charitable causes which mean most to you.

In this guide you'll find information about how to have your Will drawn up and how a charitable gift could make helping local animals your legacy.



Max is a westie cross who was brought to us by one of the RSPCA inspectors, having been removed from his owners due to neglect.

Max was in a terrible condition when he arrived; so severely matted that you could barely recognise him as being a dog. He had a skin condition, an ear infection, bad teeth, overgrown nails and could barely walk.

Following a good clean up and rehabilitation work at our centre, Max has now found a permanent home with a lovely couple.

Max's former owners received a lifetime ban from keeping animals in January 2019.



# How to make your Will

## The legal jargon

A **'pecuniary legacy'** is the gift of a specific sum of money.

A **'gift in kind'** is the gift of property or a specific item such as jewellery.

A **'residual legacy'** is the gift of all, or part of the value of your estate after debts, liabilities and other commitments have been paid.

A **'codicil'** is an addition or change to an existing Will.

While it is possible to create your own Will, this is usually done through a solicitor. A Will is a complex legal document so using a solicitor helps to ensure that no issues arise. If you don't have a solicitor, The Law Society offers a free service to help you locate one in your area. Visit [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk) or call 020 7320 5650.


On making your Will, you should choose two or more individuals (these could be friends, relatives or a solicitor) to act as executors of the Will. These people are responsible for making sure the Will is executed as you intended.

Once you've chosen a solicitor and your executors, you'll need to think about what assets you need to include in your Will and the beneficiaries you'd like to receive them.

Your assets will include any property, savings, investments, digital assets or valuables such as jewellery and antiques. In deciding how to divide them up, you'll need to value your estate as a whole so must also consider any debts, such as a mortgage, credit card balance, loans or overdrafts and remove these from the total.

Another thing to consider is inheritance tax. Currently, if an estate has a value of more than £325,000 then it is required to pay 40% inheritance tax on anything exceeding that amount when the individual passes away.

This can be reduced to 36% if 10% or more is bequeathed to a charity. Once you've had your Will drawn up, you should review it at least once every 5 years and make any changes via a codicil. You'll also need to update your Will should you marry, separate or divorce from a partner.



## How to Remember RSPCA Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford & District Branch in your Will

If you'd like to leave something in your Will to your local RSPCA branch, to help care for animals in your local area, then it's important to get the details right.

If the correct local branch details aren't specified, then your legacy might be transferred to the RSPCA National Society instead.

Our local branch is the RSPCA Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford & District branch, registered charity number 225575.



# About Us



RSPCA Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford and District Branch is one of 156 local RSPCA branches in the UK. All local RSPCA branches are independently run charities, tasked to raise their own funds in order to rehabilitate and rehome animals in their area. We were founded in Halifax in 1925, going on to run an animal clinic at Woolshops (left) in 1948. In 1980, we moved to our current animal centre at Wade Street. In recent years we've also joined up with the Huddersfield and Bradford branches, covering a much larger branch area.

A self-funded charity in our own right, we work with the National Society Inspectorate to rehabilitate and rehome animals which have been rescued. The RSPCA National Society receive a call about an animal every 30 seconds and when animals are rescued, they must be placed at an appropriate RSPCA branch. This is where we come in; taking as many animals as possible for rehabilitation and rehoming.

Animals come to us for a variety of reasons, such as their owners being unable to care for them or because they've been subject to abuse or neglect. We see some truly heart-breaking cases but with the hard work and commitment of our staff and volunteers, we're able to transform the lives of these animals and find them the loving homes they deserve.

Each year, we care for hundreds of animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, birds and other small animals. Going forward, we are planning to build a larger animal centre for our branch, which would allow us to take in more animals in need.



We need £1.5m each year to keep our branch running, which we currently raise through donations, our eleven charity shops and our fundraising events. To achieve our goal of opening a new centre, we'll need to raise a large amount of money. Work is already underway to identify a suitable site and we'll need to invest several million in the construction of a centre once a location and planning have been approved.

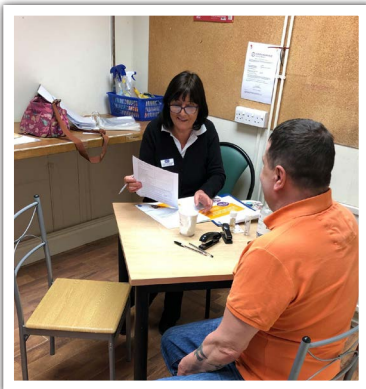


Roxy arrived at our Halifax centre emaciated and with some major behavioural issues. Roxy and another dog had been left to fend for themselves at an abandoned allotment and had to fight amongst themselves for the small amounts of food and water available.

Sadly, it was too late for Roxy's friend but we were able to take Roxy, returning her to excellent physical condition. Following months of behavioural work we could finally rehome Roxy as an only animal in an all-adult household where she's enjoying the spoilt life she deserves.

# What we're doing in your area

Every regional RSPCA branch is different but at Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford & District we do several things which we believe set us apart as a branch. Firstly, we operate a strict 'non-destruction policy', meaning we will never put a healthy animal to sleep. The majority of animals we take in come from the RSPCA National Society Inspectors and have been rescued in the region.

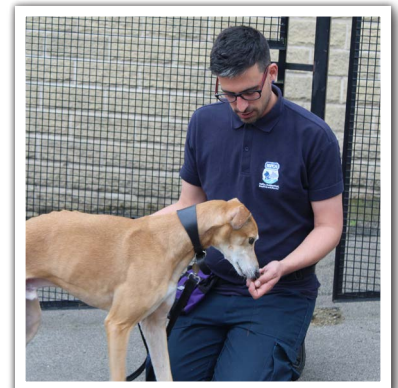


Once an animal is safely in our care, we do all we can to rehabilitate them and help them to find their perfect forever homes.

Our unique Elderly Animal Rehoming Scheme (EARS) has been running since 2004 and we have now rehomed thousands of cats and dogs over the age of 10 years. This includes reduced adoption fees and free or heavily discounted treatment for the remainder of the animal's life. Finally, our Willing to Care initiative encourages members of the public to leave their animals in our care when they pass away.



Another important part of improving animal welfare locally is education. We have regular fundraising and outreach events where members of the public can meet some of the animals at our centre and find out more about how to properly care for them. We also try to build relationships with local businesses and figures such as local councillors and MPs, who help us further promote our animal welfare aims and objectives. To assist local pet owners, we also run several welfare events each year, providing vouchers to neuter and microchip pets; thereby reducing unwanted litters and helping lost pets to be reunited with their owners as quickly as possible.



As a branch, we receive particular recognition for our behaviour work. We are often given quite complex cases where a great deal of behavioural rehabilitation is required in order to prepare a dog for rehoming. With an excellent team of behaviour experts, we also work with the animals in our care to prepare them for rehoming. With some of our complex cases, this includes providing continued support for the new owners at no cost.

Beatrix was seen being dumped from a car in the BD4 area of Bradford in June 2019. She was immediately brought to our centre where we appealed for an owner to come forward, suspecting she might have been stolen and dumped.

Nobody came forward for Beatrix and we soon discovered she had a number of health issues, in addition to being around 16 years old. We now think this might be the reason she was abandoned. Following costly surgery for a mammary tumour, Beatrix is enjoying a pampered retirement with one of our longtime fosterers.





# Why gifts in Wills mean so much to us

Bat was brought into our care by one of the inspectors after he was found as a stray. Bat was extremely matted and smelly. We soon discovered that Bat had bad kidneys and arthritis and was around 18 years old. Bat was put out to foster where he was given a prescription diet to help with his kidneys and was brushed and combed as frequently as he would allow.

Bat is now settled in his forever home with adopter Ann, who gives him all the extra care a cat of his age needs. He looks a million dollars compared to the street cat we first met!



Around 20% of our annual income comes from legacies left to us by our supporters in their Wills. This is equivalent to the cost of caring for 100 of the animals we take in each year; including their medical treatment, training work and any other rehabilitation support required. This type of donation makes a huge difference to the number of animals we're able to help and at times is essential to keep our charity up and running. As we continue to grow, we also need to expand our facilities and donations will be instrumental in helping us to achieve this.

Throughout this booklet, you can find a number of stories of animals we've helped recently, many of which we'd be unable to fund without the generosity of our legacy donors. Particularly with complex behaviour cases, the hours of work required to make an animal suitable for rehoming can make this work unaffordable to some smaller animal rescue charities so without our legacy donations, we might be unable to handle cases like these. Large donations are also vital in helping us to grow, undertaking projects like creating a new cattery or adding air conditioning or heating to keep our animals more comfortable.

Below are the stories of some of our amazing legacy donors, to whom we are eternally grateful.

Michael and Lynn were lifelong supporters of the RSPCA and passionate about animal welfare, they made it known to the



branch that they intended to leave their estate to their local RSPCA. When Michael passed away, Lynn amended her Will accordingly to ensure that upon her death, aside from a couple of personal bequests, the residuary of the estate was left to the RSPCA Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford & District Branch. Lynn passed away in 2007, leaving the branch around £350,000.

Judith was a member of the former RSPCA Huddersfield & District Branch. When the Branch merged with RSPCA



Halifax & District Branch, Judith requested a visit from the RSPCA Branch Treasurer as she wanted assurance that any bequest in her Will would be put to good use. Our treasurer was able to give Judith all the information she required, and her Will was made accordingly. Judith passed away in 2015 and left a pecuniary legacy to the branch of £20,000.

David adopted his cats from the branch, and he wanted to make sure that upon his death they would be cared for, so he signed



up to join the branch's Willing to Care Scheme. When David passed away the cats came into our care, where they were rehomed under our Elderly Animal Rehoming Scheme, which ensures that they will live out their twilight years in the comfort they deserve. David left a pecuniary legacy to the branch of £500.

# What else do you need to know?

## Letting us know your intentions

While a Will is of course a personal document, if you do intend to include RSPCA Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford & District, it would be really helpful if you could inform us of your intentions. You can do this by contacting one of our support staff via our branch office on 01422 341160, [branchoffice@rspcahalifaxhuddersfieldbradford.org.uk](mailto:branchoffice@rspcahalifaxhuddersfieldbradford.org.uk)

## Need further help and guidance?

We are always on hand to assist our supporters with any queries they might have. If you'd like more advice or guidance with your Will and how to leave us any type of legacy or other type of donation then you can contact us at our branch office on 01422 341160, [branchoffice@rspcahalifaxhuddersfieldbradford.org.uk](mailto:branchoffice@rspcahalifaxhuddersfieldbradford.org.uk)

## Willing to Care

If you need to know how to leave your pets in our care if something should happen to you, please contact us above and ask for a 'Willing to Care' form.

'I've decided to leave my local RSPCA in Halifax a gift in my will because I've always been a huge animal lover and I really wanted my donation to be used in my local area.

I'm really pleased to know that if anything happens to me, something good will come of it through the money I'll be passing on to the charity. I've had a number of cats which I've adopted from the Wade Street animal centre and they've brought me so much joy.

If my legacy can help to save even one animal in need then it will have been worthwhile.'

Sarah Hinchcliffe



**Halifax, Huddersfield,  
Bradford and District**

[www.rspcahalifaxhuddersfieldbradford.org.uk](http://www.rspcahalifaxhuddersfieldbradford.org.uk)