

Remember wildlife in your will



Registered charity no. 306077

Frequently asked questions

By remembering wildlife in your Will, you can leave a world where animals, plants and people have a stronger future.

To make things easier for you, Solicitor Katie Brassington from Walker Smith Way gives answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Q. I need to make a Will. Can I make a homemade Will?

A. I would always recommend that you consult a Solicitor when preparing a Will. In my experience homemade Wills can often be disastrous and vital details are often omitted. If important information is not included within the Will then there is a risk that your wishes will not be followed or that the Will may not be valid.

Q. I don't think I need a Will and just want my family to benefit from my estate. This will happen automatically, won't it?

A. The law of intestacy determines who benefits from your estate following your death if you do not prepare a Will. This law varies depending upon your family circumstances. However there are many reasons to make a Will. Whilst a Will looks after passing on your assets following your death, you can also set out other wishes in your Will. For example, you can include your specific funeral requests, you can appoint legal guardians to act for your children should you die before they reach the age of 18, you can decide who should deal with the administration of your estate and you can include specific legacies to friends, neighbours or to a charity. You can leave personal items like jewellery or household contents and you may wish to include Inheritance Tax planning within your Will. All these matters are not dealt with following your death if you do not prepare a Will.

Q. I would like to benefit a charity, for example Chester Zoo, following my death. How do I do this?

A. Chester Zoo and all charities rely heavily on donations from supporters during their lifetime and from legacies in Wills. As the Zoo continues to develop its expenses continue to increase and the Zoo would not be able to continue without its supporters. Your solicitor can determine the correct wording to benefit the charity within your Will. As a general rule, however, the Will should state the full name, address and Registered Charity number of the Zoo.

Q. The elephants are my favourite animals. Can I benefit them specifically in my Will?

A. You can ask that your funds be assigned specifically to benefit one species. However the Zoo does not like to discriminate between the various animals and a more general legacy can mean that the Zoo continues its good work in looking after all animals equally. If at the time of your death the Zoo no longer looks after the animals you specify, there is always a risk that the Zoo will be unable to accept your gift.



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Q. I don't feel as though I have enough money to benefit a charity, what can I do?

A. From experience, any legacies left to a charity are greatly appreciated, whether they be large or small. It is possible to either leave a specific sum of money or alternatively a percentage of your total estate if you feel that your finances may change significantly in the future.

Q. What happens if my circumstances change in the future?

A. As long as you have the capacity to make the decision about changing your Will, you can change your Will at any time. In fact we would recommend that you review your Will on a regular basis to ensure that your family circumstances, financial circumstances, and the relevant law mean that you will still be benefiting the correct people.

Get in touch

You can find out more by speaking to the Development team on 01244 650229 or email development@chesterzoo.org