



Durban & Coast SPCA

YOUR

WILL

TO PROTECT

ANIMALS



THINKING ...

Caring for your family and friends – and other people and organisations that are important to you – means thinking about what will happen to them after you are no longer here ... and planning for their future wellbeing.

That means making a Will.

Regardless of the size of your bank balance, your age, or your state of health, if you are over the age of 18 you should have a Will.

If you die intestate (i.e. without a valid Will) your affairs could take years to sort out, and incur huge legal costs. During this time, your assets will be frozen, which could leave your loved ones in financial difficulty. Your possessions will be shared out among your next-of-kin according to the laws of intestacy, and the right people might not benefit.

For example, you may have promised a loyal domestic helper or a lifelong friend a sum of money or cherished item. But if it's not stipulated in a Will, they won't receive it.

If you are separated but not divorced, your spouse could inherit most of your assets, while a new partner gets nothing. If both you and your spouse die at the same time, leaving young children, the Master of the Court will decide who will look after them. Although this is usually the closest relative, you are the best person to know who will bring up your children the way you planned.

If you have no living relatives, everything you own could go to the State.





PLANNING ...

Before drawing up your Will, there are some important decisions to be made:

WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF THINGS AFTER MY DEATH?

You can nominate a grown up son or daughter, or trusted friend as your executor (get their permission first). Or you could choose a bank, life insurance company, law firm or financial advisor. These cost more, but have the advantage of experience and perpetuity.

WHO WILL CARE FOR MY CHILDREN?

If you have children under the age of 18, you should appoint a guardian for them – someone who shares your views and lifestyle, and who is willing to take on the responsibility of raising your children should the need arise.

WHAT ABOUT FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS?

Include clear instructions in your Will regarding your preference for burial or cremation. If you are an organ donor, make sure close family members know, as organs need to be harvested as soon as possible after death.

DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS

Who will take care of your pets in the event of your death? Remember, the person you ask will have full discretion over what happens to the animal – including humane euthanasia. So choose someone you trust to act in your pet's best interests.

GIVING ...

Organisations you have supported during your lifetime, such as the Durban & Coast SPCA, will miss that help when you are gone. Your Will offers the opportunity to continue your support through a charitable bequest.

There are several different types of bequests you might like to consider:

A SPECIFIC SUM OF MONEY OR ITEM OF VALUE

This is the simplest bequest, but needs to be reviewed regularly as your circumstances change.

A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR ESTATE

Dividing your assets among your beneficiaries on a percentage basis ensures a fair distribution, regardless of whether your estate increases or decreases in value over the years.

THE RESIDUE

After all other bequests and taxes have been paid, you can leave whatever remains (the residue) to one or more beneficiaries.

A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

Policies taken out early in life to safeguard a young family may no longer be necessary. You can cede the policy to a worthy organisation, or take out a new policy, naming the organisation as the beneficiary.

USE THE CORRECT WORDING

Whichever type of bequest is right for you, be sure to use the correct legal name of the beneficiary organisation. Writing 'the SPCA' could result in confusion; you need to stipulate **the Durban & Coast SPCA** to ensure your gift comes to us.



YOUR WISH FOR THE FUTURE

If kindness to animals is one of your guiding principles, it could give you great satisfaction to know that your voice against cruelty, neglect, exploitation and suffering will continue to be heard beyond your lifetime.

By leaving a bequest to the Durban & Coast SPCA in your Will, you ensure that there will always be someone to act when an animal is hurt, frightened, hungry or lost. In years to come, this thoughtful gesture could save the lives of many dogs, cats and other animals.

Our SPCA has been rescuing, sheltering, healing and re-homing dogs, cats and other animals for 130 years – thanks entirely to support from animal lovers like you. We receive no State funding for the work we do.

That's why your legacy gift is so important. It keeps alive your vision of a kinder, more compassionate world and serves as a lasting memorial. Bequests to charity are also exempt from tax, and may reduce the amount payable on your estate.

If you have made a bequest to the Durban & Coast SPCA – or are thinking of doing so – please let us know. We would like to thank you, and discuss how your gift will be used.



The information contained in this leaflet is intended for guidance only, and should not be used as a substitute for legal advice.

You are strongly advised **not** to attempt to draw up your Will yourself – consult an attorney or financial advisor who will make sure the document is correctly worded and witnessed.

For more information on leaving a bequest to the Durban & Coast SPCA, please call 031 579 6538 or email admin@spcadbn.org.za



Durban & Coast SPCA

2 Willowfield Crescent, Springfield Park
Tel 031 579 6500 • admin@spcadbn.org.za
www.spcadbn.org.za