



## General Information Regarding Naming The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust in Your Will

Thank you for considering The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust in your estate planning. Information regarding the Trust can be found at [www.wlt.org](http://www.wlt.org) or by calling our office at 301-258-3036. As to specific language to include in your Last Will and Testament, we suggest the following language if you want to leave money to the Wildlife Land Trust:

*I hereby give, devise, and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust ("the Trust"), a District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation, with offices at 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.*

If you wish to give a portion of your estate to The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust, you can define that portion in a number of ways, including as a percentage, residuary or contingent bequest:

### Percentage Bequest

*"I give, devise and bequeath to The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust ("the Trust"), a District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation, with offices at 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, \_\_\_\_% of the rest and residue of my estate."*

### Residuary Bequest

*"I give, devise and bequeath to The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust ("the Trust"), a District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation, with offices at 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, the rest and residue of my estate."*

### Contingent Bequest

*"In the event that (name or names; i.e., spouse, children, sibling, heirs) shall not survive me, or shall die during the administration of my estate, within \_\_\_ days from the date of my death, or as a result of a common disaster, then I give, devise and bequeath those beneficiaries' shares of my estate to The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust ("the Trust"), a District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation, with offices at 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.*

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If you wish, you can specify how the gift is to be used by the Trust. This can be stated in broad terms, such as the following:

*This gift, devise, and bequest is to be used by the Trust for the protection of wildlife and their habitat in accordance with the Trust's Mission and Statement of Principles including the purchase of title to or conservation easements on properties to be permanently protected as wildlife sanctuaries and on which properties recreational and commercial hunting and trapping shall be permanently prohibited.*

Alternatively, you can make this more specific if you wish, changing the preceding sentence to read:

*This gift, devise, and bequest is to be used by the Trust for the protection of wildlife and their habitat in accordance with the Trust's Mission and Statement of Principles and is restricted to the purchase of title to or conservation easements on properties to be permanently protected as wildlife sanctuaries and on which properties recreational and commercial hunting and trapping shall be permanently prohibited.*

We will also honor even more specific conditions on the gift (for example, specifying that we are to purchase habitat in specific geographic areas) but, in that case, we ask that you advise us of those conditions in advance. That is simply to be certain that we understand exactly how you would like us to use the gift and can be certain that we can in fact honor your intentions as stated.

If you are considering transferring property to the Trust through your will and provide for the property's permanent protection, this can be addressed in several ways. The principal ones we suggest are as follows:

**NOTE:** *If you are considering leaving your property to the Trust as a wildlife sanctuary, we encourage you to submit a Land Preservation Information Form so that we can work together to understand your goals for the land and determine its suitability as a permanent sanctuary.*

In the first alternative, your intentions could be stated generally, such as the following directive:

*It is my intention to preserve the Property [as otherwise identified and described in will] as a permanent wildlife sanctuary, subject to a conservation easement and certain restrictions on the uses to which the Property can be put. To accomplish that intention, prior to any transfer of title to the Property to my heirs, my personal representative shall and he/she is directed to convey a conservation easement on the Property to The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust (the Trust), a District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation, with its offices at 2100 L Street,*

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*N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. Such conservation easement shall require the Property to be used as a wildlife sanctuary consistent with the Trust's Mission and Statement of Principles. The conservation easement shall be in substantially the same form and contain substantially the same restrictions as are normally set forth in conservation easements that the Trust accepts at the time of my death.*

In the second alternative, you can provide as much additional detail as you wish as to the specific restrictions and permitted uses that the easement would contain. For example:

*It is my intention to preserve the Property [as otherwise identified and described in will] as a permanent wildlife sanctuary, subject to a conservation easement and certain restrictions on the uses to which the Property can be put. To accomplish that intention, prior to any transfer of title to the Property to my heirs, my personal representative shall and he/she is directed to convey a conservation easement on the Property to The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust (the Trust), a District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation, with its offices at 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. Such conservation easement shall require the Property to be used as a wildlife sanctuary consistent with the Trust's Mission and Statement of Principles. It shall provide for the following specific restrictions as to the use of the Property:*

*The Property shall be maintained in its natural and undeveloped state in order to provide habitat for wildlife and in order to maintain the condition of the Property as open space. Any activity on or use of the Property that is inconsistent with the purpose of this Easement shall be prohibited, except where specifically allowed by any provision of this conservation easement. Without limiting the general application of the foregoing, the following activities and uses are expressly prohibited upon the Property:*

- (a) Recreational and/or commercial hunting of any animals; and*
- (b) Recreational and/or commercial trapping of any animals; . . .*

*\* \* \**

*The conservation easement shall provide that the following uses will be permitted subject to the following specific conditions:*

- (a) [IDENTIFY ANY PERMITTED USES SUCH AS NEW CONSTRUCTION]*

*\* \* \**

*The conservation easement shall otherwise be in substantially the same form and contain substantially the same restrictions as normally set forth in conservation easements that the Trust accepts at the time of my death.*

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In the third alternative, if we have already agreed upon the exact terms of the conservation easement, a copy of that easement (including any exhibits) could itself be attached as an exhibit to will with the directive to your personal representative to execute and deliver it to the Trust before the transfer of title to the property to your heirs.

*It is my intention to preserve the Property [as otherwise identified and described in will] as a permanent wildlife sanctuary, subject to a conservation easement and certain restrictions on the uses to which the Property can be put. A copy of a conservation easement, containing terms and restrictions that are acceptable to me is attached to this will as Exhibit 1. To accomplish my intention, prior to any transfer of title to the Property to my heirs, my personal representative shall and he/she is directed to properly execute and deliver said conservation easement to The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust (the Trust), a District of Columbia Nonprofit Corporation, with its offices at 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. My personal representative is further directed to take to take such other steps, execute such other documents, and provide such further assurances as may be necessary to ensure that the conservation easement is properly recorded and that the Property is permanently protected by it.*

In general, to avoid any confusion and unnecessary disagreements with your personal representative and/or your heirs, we prefer that a will contain as much specificity as to your intentions as you are comfortable with including. Thus, from the Trust's perspective, the third alternative is most preferable, followed by the second, then the first. Regardless of how you would choose to proceed, we encourage you to discuss your entire estate plan with an attorney who is familiar with the requirements involved and who fully understands your wishes. Because the Trust also will assume ongoing stewardship responsibilities, we also ask that you provide some financial bequest to assist us with those efforts.

Thank you for considering The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust to receive a gift through your estate. We very much appreciate the confidence in our work that your generosity demonstrates. Our general counsel can work directly with you or your legal representative, if you wish, to assure that your wishes are understood. Call 301-258-3036 or send email to [wildlifelandtrust@hsus.org](mailto:wildlifelandtrust@hsus.org).