

Birmingham
**Dogs
Home**

est. 1892

**Leaving a gift
in your Will**



“

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will to Birmingham Dogs Home. Our charity has been caring for lost, abandoned and neglected dogs for over 130 years across the Midlands and South Staffordshire.”



Welcome

Here at Birmingham Dogs Home, we believe that every dog matters, which is why our teams work tirelessly, every day, often in emotional and challenging situations, to relieve suffering and help every dog we can.

We are very proud of all we have achieved but we are only able to continue providing these life-changing and life-saving services, thanks to the very special people who kindly remember us in their Wills.

Some may have fond memories of a childhood pet, others have welcomed one of our rescue dogs into their homes and families, whereas many simply wish to celebrate their lives as animal lovers in the knowledge that their compassion can continue to benefit others when they are gone.

By leaving a gift in your Will to Birmingham Dogs Home you are helping to support our mission, to provide the best standards of animal welfare we can to the region's most vulnerable dogs and support adopters to help them provide the special life-long care rescue dogs need.

Your generosity and foresight will also help us to realise our future vision to provide the best facilities, the best



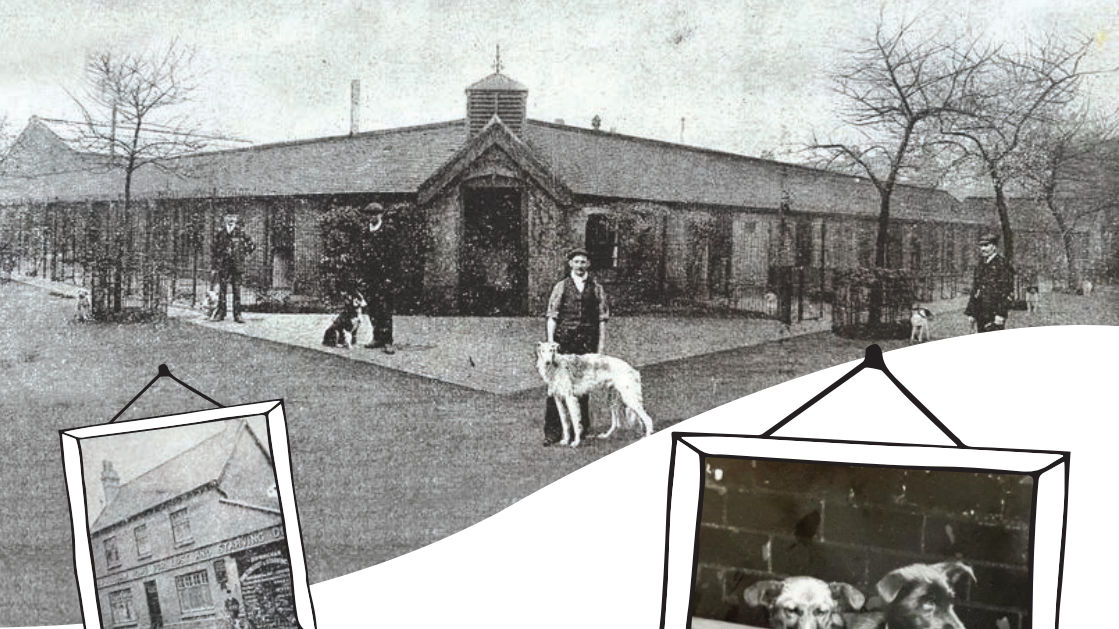
rehabilitation services and to work collaboratively with others to prevent cruelty and neglect, influencing and changing attitudes to responsible dog ownership.

That is why leaving a gift to Birmingham Dogs Home is so special. Your kindness will help provide financial stability and give us the power to ensure our work can continue for years to come.

“Thank you for walking with us on this journey and being part of the Birmingham Dogs Home family.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Giles Webber'.

Giles Webber, Chief Executive



our history and heritage

Birmingham Dogs Home has been at the heart of the local community for generations. Established in 1892 in the heart of Birmingham, the charity's history is interwoven with decades of change for the Midlands, providing a vital service through two World Wars, times of economic hardship and most recently a pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis.



Today

We have come a long way since our humble beginnings, and we now look after around 2,000 dogs every year at two centres to the north and south of Birmingham. However, the need for our services is as great as ever.



Our charity is always on the frontline dealing with the impact of the world around us. The unprecedented demand for dogs during pandemic 'lockdowns' was swiftly followed by an influx of young female dogs coming to us, exhausted and ill, due to over-breeding in poor conditions. We have also seen an unprecedented number of dogs coming into our care with medical congenital issues, caused by profit fuelled breeding at the expense of welfare. It was unsurprising that so many 'pandemic puppies' and their mistreated mothers ended up in our rescue centres in desperate need. Dogs with health issues take longer to recover and with this comes escalating veterinary costs.

In recent times we have also experienced a sharp increase in the number of unsocialised dogs relinquished to us by inexperienced owners, struggling to cope with the demands of dog ownership as well as the life-long financial commitment. With more than 200 full kennels at our centres near Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and with many of our residents needing to be with us for longer than usual, the costs of daily care, medical bills and kennel heating bills for our charity is a constant challenge.

We do not receive any government funding.

FOUNDED IN
1892

2000+
DOGS IN OUR
CARE EVERY
YEAR

60%
OF LIFESAVING
WORK PAID
FOR BY GIFTS IN
WILLS

our life saving and life changing work



Lacey's Story

Lacey's life was in the balance when she was brought to Birmingham Dogs Home, having been abandoned in a local park on a freezing night in December. Thanks to the swift thinking of a member of the public and the immediate care provided by our veterinary team we were able to provide the support she needed as a young, vulnerable pup. One of our staff fostered her to provide round the clock care and she soon started to thrive and show her sweet nature.

Unfortunately, Lacey had a deformed left hind paw (which may have been the reason she was abandoned) and as she grew bigger the problem grew with her. The malformation was causing her pain and discomfort, and she was unable to do all the things she wanted to do as a young energetic pup and she was very distressed.



WE PREPARE OVER
100,000
MEALS EVERY YEAR



The BDH veterinary team were able to perform a successful left hind leg amputation which has been the start of a whole new lease of life for this lovely girl. She has now settled into her new three-legged life with a loving family and is full of all the puppy exuberance and mischief she should be at this stage of her young life. We are all fondly waiting to see if she grows into her distinctive ears!

It would not be possible for our charity to provide life-saving medical procedures and rehabilitation for dogs like Lacey without the generosity of dog lovers remembering us in their Wills.

Remembering our charity in this way is truly a gift of life.



Pippy's Story

I think Pippy is the perfect example of why Birmingham Dogs Home is such a vital charity here in the Midlands. She is an amazing little dog who was homeless through no fault of her own, having been relinquished to Birmingham Dogs Home by her previous owners during lockdown.

We love having her in our lives, particularly trips to the beach which she loves."



Pippy is a big character in a little dog."

Raj and family with Pippy

Tomorrow

We are determined to always be here to provide a lifeline to our canine companions for as long as there is a need, and with the care and compassion of our generous supporters, we will continue to rescue thousands more lives.

But there is so much more we need to do beyond providing rescue services.

Many of the dogs we receive from dog wardens across the region have sustained injuries or are emaciated and suffering from untreated medical conditions due to neglect.

Thanks to gifts in Wills left to us already we have achieved our vision to create our own on-site veterinary clinic to provide sustainable, high-quality 24-hour vital medical care.



However there is much we still need to do. Our buildings require constant upkeep and maintenance and one of our rescue centres is in need of imminent investment to carry out a large-scale refurbishment and renovation project. This will ensure we can continue to provide the best levels of animal welfare to every dog that needs care across all our facilities.

Meanwhile, our longer term vision is increasingly focussed on preventative care, to tackle issues around dog abandonment and relinquishment at their root cause here in the Midlands. Our ambitious plans include programmes to support concerned owners to help keep their pets with them in their home rather than handing them in, as well as supporting new adopters through breed and rescue specific education and training programmes. By providing a wide range of additional, preventative support services, we will give every dog and family the very best chance of long term adoption success and a long and happy life together.

WE HAVE
MEDICAL COSTS
EACH YEAR OF OVER
£250,000

A teal stethoscope icon is positioned to the right of the text in the footer, partially overlapping the text.



“

It is very humbling to know that people remember our dogs in their Wills. Without their kindness we wouldn't be able to help dogs like Teddie.”

Hayley Gee,
BDH Assistant Manager
and Behaviourist



**ON AVERAGE
WE RESCUE
ONE DOG
EVERY HOUR**



“ Beowulf’s Story

We adopted little Beowulf from Birmingham Dogs Home when he was just nine weeks old. His mother was a stray and pregnant when she arrived at their Solihull rescue centre.

When making the decision to adopt we knew that there were lots of things to consider. We didn’t know what breed the puppies were or how big they would grow and we expected that our new pup might be nervous and find it difficult to adapt to a home after spending his early weeks in a kennel environment.

However, Beowulf has taken everything in his stride. From house-training to socialising, he has done incredibly well. He has brought a new lease of life to our family and especially our older Labrador, Winston. They are now best of friends, sharing a bed and snuggles, despite the size difference.

We are so grateful to Birmingham Dogs Home for bringing Beowulf into our lives – he has brought us so much joy and laughter and he had the best possible start in the caring hands of the charity’s canine carers and veterinary team. Without the vital work of this Midlands charity it would have been a very different story for Beowulf, his Mum and his siblings who are all now in loving homes.”





He's a little mischief
and we love him."

Charlotte Cross



Let your Love Live on

So many kind people support our work at Birmingham Dogs Home by leaving a gift in their Wills, after remembering their loved ones.

Meet Franc, Sheila, Gillian and Valerie...



Franc

When I retired, I was adamant that I would continue supporting all the charities that are close to my heart. Animals have always been a really important part of my life and I support quite a number of animal welfare charities. I decided to leave a number of charities a gift in my Will, including Birmingham Dogs Home.

Most of the charities I support are local or regional charities because I want to know that my support is making a real difference on the ground and I want my donations to make the maximum impact to the lives of the animals.

I know that Birmingham Dogs Home will put my gift to the very best use for the benefits of the dogs that really need help. By planning my giving and including charities in my Will it has also been a tax efficient way for me to ensure my legacy lives on for the benefit of others.

As and when the time comes, I have the peace of mind of knowing that I will be leaving a legacy behind through my Will, to help animals in the future."

“

Sheila

I have actively supported Birmingham Dogs Home for over 50 years, through regular monthly Direct Debit donations, collections and fundraising. When the time came to make a Will, I had no hesitation in including Birmingham Dogs Home as a beneficiary.

I know that in years to come my money would still be helping and supporting this wonderful charity.”



“

Gillian

My Godmother, Gillian was a dog lover all her life, and she was particularly fond of Corgis. She supported the work of Birmingham Dogs Home, a charity local to her and close to her heart, for many years, always making donations at Christmas. She decided that when she passed away, the charity would benefit from her estate and therefore she made a provision, which as a family we were very happy to support.

Gillian's legacy is her love of dogs and her support of Birmingham Dogs Home which never wavered during her life.”



Valerie

Valerie lived with her beloved husband John and their many pets in Sutton Coldfield for all their married life. Together they set up a concrete construction company in the 1970s and they led a successful, busy and interesting life of entrepreneurship, providing employment to the local community and sharing their bond of love for animals.

As a lifelong animal lover and dog owner, Valerie chose to remember Birmingham Dogs Home and a number of other animal welfare charities in her Will.



In turn we will always honour their memory and remember their generosity with a permanent dedication at our rescue centre."



To show our gratitude every legator's name will be inscribed forever on our memory walls at Birmingham Dogs Home."



By trusting
Birmingham Dogs
Home to use
their legacies wisely,
our supporters are
helping us to continue
developing our
services in the future
and ensuring we can
continue to operate
in times of crisis.”



3 IN 5 DOGS
RECEIVE CARE THANKS
TO GIFTS IN WILLS

Your Questions

about pledging a gift in your Will



Is it the right time to make a Will?

Everyone should have a Will. If you die without making a Will, the law decides what happens to your property and possessions and this may lead to difficulties for your loved ones.

Having a Will gives you and your family peace of mind and it leaves them clear about your wishes, which is one less thing for them to worry about. It is particularly important to make or update your Will if you have recently married, had children, become ill, been bereaved or experienced a significant change in your circumstances.

Life can be unpredictable so reviewing your Will periodically is a sensible precaution.

Is leaving a legacy right for me?

Legacies are very special gifts and provide a lifeline for charities like ours, but we would like you to look after your loved ones first, and then perhaps consider how you might support Birmingham Dogs Home.

Aren't legacies supposed to be 'big' gifts?

They can be. Some people leave everything they own to a charity. Others leave small amounts. We are equally grateful for every gift, whatever the size and even a small gift will truly make a huge difference to us as a local charity. Remembering shows you care, whatever your circumstances.



How should I make a will?

Speak to a Solicitor

It is a very straightforward process to leave a gift in your Will to Birmingham Dogs Home. You can instruct a solicitor to prepare your Will for you, or update your existing Will.

A solicitor will help you make informed decisions and ensure that your wishes are carried out.

A solicitor can also provide advice about favourable tax exemptions and reliefs for gifts bequeathed to registered charities. If you wish to amend an existing Will, original contents can be changed or added to by a codicil and will not involve re-writing your Will.

There are several types of gift you can make to a charity:

- A gift of a fixed monetary amount (known as a 'pecuniary' gift).
- A gift of a share of your estate where a percentage of what is left from your estate after other gifts and debts have been paid (known as a 'residual gift'). Residual legacies benefit Birmingham Dogs Home more as they keep pace with inflation increases in property and share values.
- You may choose to leave a 'specific gift' which is a particular item which can either be used, or sold by the charity to help to raise funds.

It is helpful if bequests are made for the general charitable purposes of the charity, as this means your gift can be spent where it is most needed at the time it is received, however if you have a favourite area of our work you would like to support, please contact us to discuss your wishes further.

Your solicitor will need our registered charity details which are:

Registered charity name:

The Birmingham Dogs Home

Registered address:

Catherine-de-Barnes Lane, Catherine-de-Barnes, Solihull, West Midlands, B92 0DJ

Registered charity number:

222436 England and Wales



Make a Free Will with Farewill

Birmingham Dogs Home has teamed up with Farewill to give you the opportunity to write your Will for free, using their online or telephone service.

Farewill is the largest Will writer in the UK and has won multiple awards for its service. **You can write your Will from the comfort of your own home** with expert support available if you need it.

You can make a legally binding Will online in as little as 15 minutes, with live expert help and the option to update it at any time.

There is no obligation to leave a gift to Birmingham Dogs Home when writing your Will, but we will be honoured if you choose to.

Using Farewill's free Will writing service, you can make sure your loved ones are looked after according to your wishes, as well as making a gift to causes close to your heart.

“No matter the size, leaving a gift in your Will is an incredible way to help Birmingham Dogs Home to be here to relieve suffering, providing emergency life-saving care and shelter and give every local dog in need the best chance of a happy future.”



It's easy to get started

Write your Will free online today:

farewill.com/bdh_web

or

Write your Will for free over the phone by calling:
020 8050 2686



 Farewill

If you would like to discuss leaving a gift in your Will to Birmingham Dogs Home please contact:

Birmingham Dogs Home, Legacy Department,
Catherine-de-Barnes Lane, Catherine-de-Barnes,
Solihull, West Midlands B92 0DJ

legacies@birminghamdogshome.org.uk

0121 643 5211 (option 3)

www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk



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**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**