

Humane Legacy



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

A practical and profound way to give back

In the dog-versus-cat debate, Misty Reddington doesn't hesitate to take sides. "My poodles have been a big part of my life," she says. "They've given me immense love and joy and laughter."

As an exercise instructor for older adults, many of whom have pets, Misty sees firsthand the positive influence those animals can have on their owners' lives. Her passion isn't limited to dogs, however. "I'd like to see the end of puppy mills and the end of dog fighting, and I like that The Humane Society of the United States is working on these issues," she says. "But I want to make sure that all animals have a good advocate."

Ten years ago, Misty decided to honor her best friends through several charitable endeavors. First, she found that a gift annuity offered a way to support The HSUS and receive secure, lifetime payments. "As I got older and started to think about dog matters again," she notes, "I decided to contact The HSUS again to buy a much bigger CGA, to help in a much bigger way."

Misty's additional way of giving back took a less conventional form. The proceeds from her mystery novels, which feature a crime-solving canine, fund poodle rescue.

To learn more about how a charitable gift annuity can benefit you as it helps animals, please contact Ann Kolakowski at akolakowski@humanesociety.org or 800-808-7858, or visit humanesociety.org/giftannuities.

Misty and her current poodle pal, Jeremy

The Homes for Horses Coalition:

Providing support to the equine rescue community

The Homes for Horses Coalition (HHC) is a national alliance of horse rescues and sanctuaries dedicated to ending horse slaughter and other forms of equine abuse, while promoting growth, collaboration and professionalism in the equine rescue and protection community. Founded in 2007, the coalition is a unique partnership of The Humane Society of the United States, the ASPCA and Animal Welfare Institute.

HHC members receive training opportunities, including webinars and a national conference, at little or no cost. The organization also provides information about establishing and running a rescue, emergency planning, innovative adoption programs, sound financial and management practices and working with law enforcement.

"So many wonderful horses end up in rescue facilities through no fault of their own, and we want them to find the homes they deserve," says Cindy Gendron, HHC manager. "We wish that no horse had to be rescued. But, if they do, we want them being rescued by excellent organizations offering exemplary care." The HHC promotes the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries' accreditation program and helped develop their standards of excellence for equine facilities.

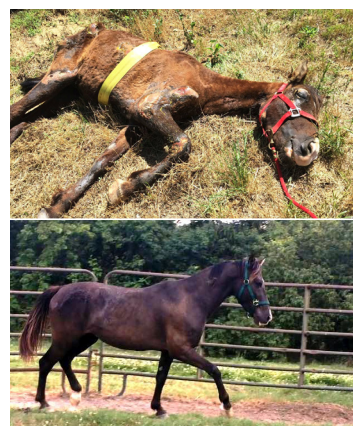
Through the hundreds of HHC member organizations, thousands of at-risk horses have received second chances. One such horse was discovered after a woman in Louisi-

ana's St. Landry Parish reported fish jumping out of the flooded levee behind her house. Local responders discovered that the commotion was actually caused by an abandoned horse trying to keep his head above water.

Before HHC's existence, a lack of local resources might have sent this horse straight to local auction—and possible slaughter. Instead, St. Landry Parish reached out to the HHC, and "Fish" (as he was later named) was among 17 horses that were then taken in by coalition member Mississippi Horse Rescue. At the time of his rescue, Fish was so weak that he had to be lifted in a sling for three weeks. After a complete recovery, Fish now has a forever home.

"Our reach is so much greater, and we can help so many more equines, because of the community of care that we have established through the Homes for Horses Coalition network," says Gendron.

For more information on HHC, visit homesforhorses.org.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOMES FOR HORSES COALITION

Make your bequest intentions clear

Here are some tips on how you can create a will or trust that provides the greatest assurance that the charities you intend to support will, in fact, benefit from your generosity.

- Make certain that your will or trust is carefully crafted. The best way to accomplish that is to work with experienced and qualified legal counsel to craft detailed language that clearly and unambiguously states your wishes.
- Correctly identify the organization(s) you want to receive a gift. Many worthwhile charities have similar names and, in particular, many share the "Humane Society" name in some fashion. Including the organization's address and/or tax identification number is useful to avoid any confusion.
- Specify how the amount of the gift is determined, whether a specific amount, a designated percentage or some variation.

- Clearly state any requirements or restrictions on how the organization may use the gift. Before you finalize your will or trust, speak to the Philanthropy staff of the organization(s) you want to help to verify that they will be able to implement your requirements.
- Keep your original will or trust in a safe place that's easy to locate, and let your family know where it is.

Last, but not least, once your will or trust is signed, it should be reviewed periodically and changes should be made with the same level of care and formality that you used in preparing it originally. These steps will help ensure that your intentions are carried out.

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