A Favorite Childhood Tale Inspires a Legacy for Animals

Many of us fondly recall a childhood book long after reaching its final page. For Enid Goldenberg, such an enduring tale is Charlotte’s Web, E.B. White’s classic about a spider whose spun messages of praise for Wilbur the pig save her good friend from a certain trip to the slaughterhouse.

“Something clicked,” Enid recalls, “about how important it was to be kind to animals.” A compassionate person who advocates for both animals and people, Enid is a social worker who helps homeless individuals in Los Angeles County access needed services. The Brooklyn native shares her life with three rescues: two cats and the recently adopted Dalia, a 12-year-old miniature Doberman pinscher. “I’d like to think I’ve made a small contribution to making an animal’s life better,” she notes.

While setting up her 401(k) at work, Enid needed to name a beneficiary. “I have always adored animals and wanted to help them in any way possible,” she says. “I spoke with my retirement plan company and asked if I could leave my money to an organization and was told that I could. Since I am not married, nor do I have any children, I thought leaving money to The Humane Society of the United States would be a lovely idea.

“I donate small amounts of money throughout the year. But now I hope to make a big impact in the lives of animals all over.” As memorable a story as Charlotte’s Web has proved to be, Enid reminds us that literate spiders don’t actually exist.

“Always remember,” she observes, “that humans must be the voice for animals!”

We encourage you to contact the planned giving team of Ann, Joan, Marni, Patricia and Steve so they can help you develop your personal legacy for animals in need. To learn more, call 800-808-7858 or visit humanesociety.org/legacy.

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 the 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 organizations 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.
Nearly 300 Puppies and Dogs Rescued from Arkansas Puppy Mill in March

Thanks to the help of a concerned citizen who contacted our puppy mill and animal cruelty hotline, The Humane Society of the United States with the help of the Madison County Sheriff’s Office rescued nearly 300 puppies and dogs housed in deplorable living conditions. Many of the animals were living in filth with no access to clean water or food.

Jessica Lauginiger, puppy mills response manager for The HSUS’ Animal Rescue Team, said: “Arkansas’ lack of a law regulating commercial dog breeding makes the state a hotbed for puppy mill operators, and this case is no exception. No animal should ever be forced to live in conditions like we’ve seen today. We’re thankful to the Madison County Sheriff’s Office for taking action to help these animals.”

The HSUS, Saline County Humane Society, Madison County Pet Shelter, Animal League of Washington and Jones Mobile Veterinary Service assisted authorities with the rescue and removal of the animals.

The HSUS’ Animal Rescue Team safely transported the animals to a temporary emergency animal shelter. Once at the shelter, the dogs were thoroughly examined by a team of veterinarians and received any necessary immediate medical treatment.

Responders from RedRover assisted with the temporary caretaking of the animals. Greater Good and Rescue Bank are providing food and medical supplies for the animals at the temporary shelter.

The HSUS has established a reward program to offer up to $5,000 to anyone who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of a puppy mill operator for animal cruelty. Persons wishing to report a valid tip are encouraged to call 1-877-MILL-TIP and will remain anonymous.

To learn more, visit humanesociety.org/issues/puppy_mills/.

A Humane Retirement

You may not be aware that you can help animals in need while at the same time providing yourself with a retirement income for life. A charitable gift annuity allows you to make a donation now, and in return you will receive an income for life based upon your age. Part of your donation is tax-deductible, and some of your income could be tax-free.

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Rates effective 1/1/16, subject to change

We encourage you to consult your financial adviser to determine whether a charitable gift annuity complements your financial objectives. Charitable gift annuity rates are determined by age and set by the ACGA. Please note that The HSUS does not offer gift annuities for residents of Alabama, Arkansas, Hawaii or North Dakota. The minimum donation is $10,000.

To learn more or to receive a customized illustration, please contact Ann Kolakowski at akolakowski@humanesociety.org or 301-548-7782 or you can explore humanesociety.org/giftannuities.

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