and absolutely dedicated leadership and support personnel,” says Dawn.

“My research found that the Humane Society of the United States scored exceptional marks in each area. We were convinced that the HSUS would be good stewards and use the funds wisely. We have no doubt that our decision was the right one for us!”

The Hardins encourage others to name the Humane Society of the United States in their plans. “Any gifts and tokens of kindness, large or small, will make a difference,” notes Jim, “if together we do what we can.”

A legacy for all animals

WHEN JIM HARDIN MARRIED HIS WIFE, DAWN, more than three decades ago, it was a package deal. “I became father to a poodle mix with anger problems and a cheerful corgi,” he recalls.

As more dogs wagged their way into the couple’s home over the years, other animals also took up residence in the Hardins’ hearts. Jim has a special concern for such animals as elephants, whales, polar bears and gorillas, while Dawn dreams of a day when pet overpopulation and cruelty don’t exist. “Animal cruelty in all forms—from dog-fighting to factory farms—isn’t just an animal issue,” she observes. “It speaks to our values and character as a species.”

The Hardins’ estate plan accordingly reflects their shared love for pets, respect for all creatures and connection with nature. “We wanted to include an organization with an impeccable reputation, a history of documented results, a tradition of cost-effectiveness and absolutely dedicated leadership and support personnel,” says Dawn.

“My research found that the Humane Society of the United States scored exceptional marks in each area. We were convinced that the HSUS would be good stewards and use the funds wisely. We have no doubt that our decision was the right one for us!”

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→ LEARN MORE: To create your own legacy for animals, contact the HSUS Planned Giving team, smaughan@humanesociety.org or 1-800-808-7858, or visit humanesociety.org/legacy.
HSUS public affairs adviser and special assistant to the chief operating officer Sarah Barnett spent three days with the equine team in December and vividly remembers a group of eager young locals who played a pivotal role in her team’s success. “What was incredible was that these guys had no idea how to help but wanted to learn, and by the end of the week they were well trained and recruiting friends to help,” she says. “It was nice to see them proud of the work they were doing. When my team left, we knew we had made the animals’ lives better, but we also helped make the lives of these teenagers a little better, too.”

A lifeline for hurricane-affected horses on Vieques

ON THE SMALL ISLAND OF VIEQUES IN PUERTO RICO, the Humane Society of the United States has long helped local officials and residents with their ever-increasing horse population, providing veterinary care, community education and population control. Life was challenging for the island’s 2,000-plus equines before Hurricane Maria hit last September, but the storm exacerbated conditions for animals and people alike.

Just days after the disaster, teams from Humane Society International and the HSUS rushed to Vieques to deliver humanitarian aid to residents and food and medical help for the animals. Since then, our work to help island animals has continued, including desperately needed equine aid. Our teams provide hoof and dental care, remove parasites, perform wound triage and attend to severe injuries.

The work has been “extremely difficult,” says Tara Loller, HSUS senior director of strategic campaigns and special projects. After Maria, “the poverty and animal abandonment level increased exponentially. People had to flee their homes because there was no power or water, and half the island is still without resources. It’s amazing we were able to do what we did.”

CREATING A MORE HUMANE WORLD just became more rewarding: Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) rates are increasing on July 1, 2018. CGAs offer a way to create a legacy for animals now and receive payments for life, in exchange for a gift of at least $10,000 in cash or appreciated securities to the Humane Society of the United States. The rate of the payments is determined by age. Part of the donation is tax-deductible, and part of the payments could be tax-free. Rates are set by the American Council on Gift Annuities and are subject to change. Please note that the HSUS does not offer gift annuities for residents of Alabama, Arkansas, Hawaii or North Dakota.

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<th>Age</th>
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Rates effective 7/1/2018; subject to change.

→ TAKE ACTION: Visit humanesociety.org to learn more about our work in Vieques and other Hurricane Maria disaster relief efforts across Puerto Rico.

→ LEARN MORE: To receive a customized illustration to review with your financial adviser, please contact Ann Kolakowski, 301-548-7782 or akolakowski@humanesociety.org, or you can explore more at humanesociety.org/giftannuities.