A gift that keeps love going

Charles Yoichim has long hoped for the day when no animal loses their life because they are unwanted. It’s a wish first kindled by his grandmother, who introduced him to the HSUS in the 1960s. “She supported the organization,” he reflects, “and showed me that you give charity to causes that are close to your heart.”

Although Charles has welcomed dogs and cats into his home (and heart) over the intervening years, he reserves special affection for felines—from Axl, who was declawed by a previous owner, to the recently adopted foursome of Abyssinians Duncan and Max and bonded sisters Sandy and Casey.

Securing future support for all animals, regardless of species, is important to Charles, a retired middle school math teacher and radio engineer.

“Since I have no children, I feel that the best way to help my strong feelings for animals to continue after I’m gone is to include the HSUS in my will,” he says, “so that I can keep my love for all creatures going.

“With the unconditional love they give us, it’s the least we can do.”

—CHARLES YOCHIM, HSUS SUPPORTER

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→ NAMING THE HSUS in your will is an easy and flexible way to extend your support for animals far into the future. To learn more about this and other ways to create your humane legacy, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at humanelegacy@humanesociety.org or 800-808-7858, or visit legacy.humanesociety.org/request.

The Fund for Animals merges into the HSUS

For the past 15 years, the Fund for Animals and the HSUS have enjoyed a close collaboration and a shared mission, providing lifesaving care and sanctuary for animals in the greatest need. Now, we are excited to announce plans to fully integrate the FFA into the HSUS, allowing for greater efficiencies in core operations and expenses. The merger will bring Black Beauty Ranch, Duchess Sanctuary and Rural Area Veterinary Services within the HSUS’s “big tent.”

Legacy gifts to support FFA will continue to be used for these three animal welfare programs and facilities. If your estate plans currently name FFA, you may not necessarily need to take any action at this time, but we encourage you to consult with your attorney to ensure that your estate plans reflect your charitable intentions. Your attorney may recommend that you execute a codicil to your will.

Please contact the Planned Giving team if you have questions, would like sample legal language or wish to restrict your gifts to one of our care centers or RAVS.
CONTRARY TO WHAT MANY PEOPLE THINK, estate planning isn’t only for the very wealthy. It’s important for everyone to document what should happen with their home, savings, pets and other cherished possessions after their lifetime. Without a written plan in place, state law dictates how your property will be passed on.

We recommend that you work with an attorney to formalize your wishes. In addition to writing your will or living trust, your lawyer can help you designate an individual to carry out your plans and empower someone to act on your behalf if needed for medical and financial matters.

Once your plans are in place, revisit them on a regular basis, as tax laws change and may affect your plans. The modest investment you make to establish and review your documents periodically can give you peace of mind.

If you would like to include a gift to help animals after your lifetime, we invite you to consider naming the Humane Society of the United States. Please use this information:

The Humane Society of the United States
1255 23rd St. NW
Washington, DC 20037
800-808-7858
Federal Tax ID: 53-0225390

Why now is a great time to make your will (or review the one you have)

EVERYTHING, THE SAYING GOES, IS BIGGER IN TEXAS. Candy Parker Thompson’s heart for dogs is no exception. The Irving resident grew up surrounded by them, including one notable stray. Only two weeks after then-16-year-old Candy successfully lobbied her mother to keep him, the dog alerted her sleeping parents to a house fire and saved the family’s lives.

Candy has since repaid the favor by adopting senior and other hard-to-place shelter dogs. Her current companions are Parker, a 3-year-old pit bull-type dog, and 12-year-old Hopalong, who has thrived despite a missing leg.

She became aware of the Humane Society of the United States during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. When a friend in New Orleans sought help for foreign medical students stranded with their pets, Candy called the HSUS for help. She then joined the first wave of volunteers at the organization’s temporary shelter in Gonzales, assisting with intakes and orchestrating reunions. “There were thousands eventually housed there, and without the HSUS most would have died,” she says. “While I never shed a tear during the 10-day stay—because I was too busy—I did cry the entire eight-hour drive home.

“I am grateful to the HSUS for what they did there and what they do every day for animals,” says Candy, who has included the organization in her estate plans. “I believe the HSUS is the ‘best bang for my buck’ to continue this work worldwide after I am gone.”

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Please share your plans

If your plans include the Humane Society of the United States, please let us know. We would like to thank you for your generosity and discuss your intentions to ensure that they can be followed. For IRA or other beneficiary designations, it’s important that you notify us beforehand so that we can track and ensure receipt of your gift.

→ LEARN MORE: If you would like more information about how to create your legacy for the HSUS, contact your regional representative or the Office of Planned Giving, humanelegacy@humanesociety.org or 800-808-7858.