




**Just like us,
she wants a
better world
for her babies**

A guide to remembering
The Aspinal Foundation
with a gift in your Will



**“Is there a
place for me
in your will?”**

Legacies are very important to The Aspinall Foundation. Our work is funded from a combination of supporter donations and visitors to our two parks in Kent.

Making a Will, or updating an existing one, is something we should all think about, and is often easier than we imagine. This brochure is designed to answer some of the most common questions we are asked about leaving a gift to The Aspinall Foundation.

If you have any further questions, or would like to talk to someone please contact us on **01303 234 187** (Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm) or e-mail [**supportercare@aspinallfoundation.org**](mailto:supportercare@aspinallfoundation.org)

When it comes to your Will there may be a number of people who come first in your thoughts. But that doesn't mean you can't also leave a gift to a good cause close to your heart.

A gift in your Will is one of the most important ways you can support the work of The Aspinall Foundation. It is a way of expressing your caring and compassionate commitment to help protect rare and endangered species. And it supports our dedication to release animals into the wild wherever possible.

Your gift will help in our work to protect and preserve the natural world, safeguarding this beautiful and diverse planet for future generations.

A Will is a personal thing. We always love to hear you've left a gift, as it gives us the opportunity to acknowledge your generosity - but we respect your privacy and there's no pressure to say so.



Gifts in your Will are vital to our work



Relocating animals back to the wild takes time, experience, and collaboration with conservation colleagues across the world. There are always associated costs, not least suitable transportation.

The right to roam free

When you leave a gift in a Will you become part of that process, a process which leads endangered animals to a life of freedom, as it already has for some of our European bison now enjoying a life in the wild in Romania. Less than three years after release the first four calves have been born. A good sign for the future, and evidence that captive bred animals can thrive in the wild, producing the next generation able to live free.



Saving a species

Captive breeding can also save a species. The ancestors of Przewalski's horses once roamed widely over the steppes of Central Asia, China and Europe. Yet the last wild stallion was sighted in 1969. Fortunately a small group of this truly wild horse had previously been taken into captivity, as by the early 1970s they were declared Extinct in the Wild.

It was due to a captive breeding programme that the species has survived. A programme in which The Aspinall Foundation continues to take part at one of our parks in the UK, and which has led to these horses living free in the steppes of Mongolia once more.

Q & A

Making or updating a Will

Why make a Will?

A Will is the opportunity to have a final word. It lifts the burden of tidying your affairs from family and friends. It is the chance to make a final statement and show your support for what is important to you. A way to ensure your wishes are carried out, and your loved ones and chosen charities are recognised the way you want.

I don't think I'm wealthy enough to bother with a Will

Often people have more wealth than they realise, especially when you take into account all your assets. You don't have to be rich to make a difference. Anyone can leave a gift to charity in their Will and even a small amount can have a huge impact on our work.

I'm not the right age to make a Will

There's no wrong age. Many people consider Wills for the first time when they have children, or they experience a life-altering event. A Will is not set in stone. It can be changed if your circumstances change or your wishes alter. You don't have to remake your Will, just make amendments as needed.

Do I need a solicitor to make a Will?

We strongly recommend you seek professional advice. A solicitor, or professional will writer, will ensure your Will is legally accurate and meets your wishes.

Is a Will complicated and expensive?

The vast majority are not, and if you prepare beforehand it will save you money and help ensure all your requirements are met. Our checklist can help guide you on the things you need to consider.

What if I've already made my Will, or if I want to change it later?

It is not unusual for people to make changes over the years. Small changes can be made in a Codicil, which is read at the same time as your Will.

How do I find a professional advisor?

You can find a qualified solicitor via the law society directories.

England & Wales

<http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk>

Scotland

www.lawscot.org.uk/find-a-solicitor

Northern Ireland

www.lawsoc-ni.org/solicitors

Professional will writers are often members of associations such as <https://www.willwriters.com>



Life is about making an impact

Q & A

About The Aspinall Foundation

Why does The Aspinall Foundation need my support?

Established in 1984 we are a charity with a view to long-term conservation. We operate two wildlife parks in the UK and also have extensive projects in Congo and Gabon, Indonesia and Madagascar. In addition we support other organisations around the globe. Without the backing of individual supporters this work would not be possible.

Remembering The Aspinall Foundation in your Will can help us work towards a future in which animals live in their natural environments, free from persecution by humans – from hunting, trapping and loss of their habitat.

What is different about The Aspinall Foundation?

We have much in common with other conservation organisations, but we also believe we offer something a little different.

We take a holistic approach, combining captive breeding in the UK, the reintroduction of endangered species to their native homeland wherever possible, and habitat protection at our overseas projects. We also believe in supporting local communities, aware that only when humans and wildlife are able to live alongside each other will conservation be effective.

What information about The Aspinall Foundation will my professional advisor need to know?

You will need the following information:

**The Aspinall Foundation
Port Lympe Reserve
Lympe, Nr Hythe
Kent
CT21 4PD**

Registered Charity Number: 326567

How will my gift be used?

Given the number of projects we are working on across the globe it is difficult to predict the area of our work that may benefit from your gift. What we can guarantee is that it will be allocated to a key priority when the time comes, and used wisely to protect our most endangered wildlife, our most fragile habitats, and some of our most vulnerable human populations.

If your Will contains a general preference, such as a desire for your gift to be allocated to our work in the UK or overseas, we should be able to accommodate such a request.

We have included case studies on the next two pages to show how some legacies have been used.



Keeping Pudu safe!

Location: **Port Lympne Reserve**

Species: **Pudu**

Pudu are the world's smallest deer. They have suffered a rapid decline in recent years due to the common threats of poaching and habitat loss. Given their size they also suffer predation by domestic dogs.

Native to Chile and Argentina, our climate can be a little harsh for them - particularly during the winter months. When a new enclosure was built for them in 2016 it was thanks to a legacy gift that our keepers were able to incorporate a heated shed to provide the necessary protection from the worst of our weather in the UK.



With a young pair of Pudu now in residence we hope to achieve breeding success in the future.

Protecting animals in the wild

Location: **Gabon**

Species: **Western lowland gorilla**



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In 2016 we ran an appeal to raise funds for the purchase of camera traps to be used at our Gorilla Reintroduction Project in Gabon.

Tracking the post-release progress of gorillas as they adjust to their new surroundings is crucial. The vast forest area of the reserve cannot be monitored successfully without the additional observations afforded by the use of camera traps, and many sightings would go unnoticed if they were not caught on camera.

Thanks to a legacy gift we were able to add to the donations received during our appeal. We were able to purchase 27 camera traps, memory cards, protective cases and a new hard drive. This additional equipment has not



only increased our sightings of the gorillas, but also added to our research of other species in the Batéké Plateau National Park.



Once you have decided to make or update your Will... ...there is no need to rush!

Taking the time to plan what you want will help to make sure your Will meets your requirements and may save you money.

Decide who you would like to benefit from your estate

Make a list of everyone you would like to be included in your Will. You can choose to share your estate between anyone you like, such as family, friends and charities.

Include basic details, such as name, address, etc.

You can also record any particular funeral wishes.

Assess your estate

Make a list of all your significant assets, including your house, car, savings, etc. and a list of major liabilities such as mortgage, loans, etc.

Decide what sort of gift you would like to leave

There are three main types of gift.

(a) Specific items, such as jewellery, to gift to named individuals or organisations.

(b) Pecuniary bequests - where you would like to gift a set amount of money to named individuals or organisations.

(c) Residuary bequests - where you would like to gift a percentage, or all of the remainder of your estate, to named individuals or organisations.

Choose your executors

It is customary to choose trusted family members or friends. It is also common to ask a solicitor to act as an executor, although there would normally be a charge for such a service.

Make a list of questions

You may find you have a number of questions to ask your solicitor/professional advisor. Creating a list will ensure you don't forget to ask something when you meet.

Arrange to see your solicitor/professional advisor

It's important to involve a legal professional. This ensures your Will meets your wishes and that it is executed properly.



Relax and enjoy life

You don't need to worry about what will happen to your assets when you are gone, you can be assured your family, friends and valued charities are catered for, and that your final wishes will be carried out.

Just take a few minutes now and again to make sure there is nothing you want to add or change as the years go by.



A final word...

“ I first visited Howletts in the 1980's, later also making trips to Port Lympne and I was struck by the pioneering nature of the work that John Aspinall was doing. I think, for me, it was that the animals being cared for were not here for the entertainment of others, although they are fun to watch, but that their conservation was, and still is at the heart of everything the charity is doing, whether this is in Kent or overseas.

I genuinely believe that nature is our inheritance; as nature's heirs we should do everything we can to conserve the natural habitat and animals with which we share this earth.

This is why I would like to ask you if you would consider doing something that I have done - leaving a gift in your Will to The Aspinall Foundation. Even if you don't think you will have much to leave, you would be surprised how little it takes to transform an animal's life. ”

Mr C Peacher *Legacy Pledger*

The Aspinall Foundation, Port Lympne Reserve, Lympne, Kent CT21 4PD
Registered Charity Number: 326567