

## WHY CONSIDER THE ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY?

- The AWL is a non-profit organization that exists solely through generous contributions of concerned citizens like you. Our vision is to achieve a community void of homeless animals.
- We take in over 5000 animals per year. This means over 400 local domestic pets suffer undeserved cruelty, injury or are discarded by humans they trust each month. That is a staggering number. The shelter is our county's only emergency refuge for any and all animals that arrive at its doorstep.
- We provide a second chance for all adoptable animals in our care. As you read this, three hundred or more pets are waiting patiently in our shelter to find a new home.
- We have served your county continuously since 1963. For the past twenty years the AWL has enjoyed a partnership with Charlotte County which saved the lives of countless animals in our care, not to mention millions of dollars over the years for county taxpayers. Relationships such as this are increasingly rare.
- Regardless of any animal's injury, illness or physical distress, shelter staff and volunteers treat all with respect and compassion as they evaluate their condition; provide veterinary care, food and a safe kenneled area on their way to a hoped-for new home.
- We celebrate not only large bequests and gifts but also smaller bequests and gifts. You make a real difference to us. Your money stays in our community.
- Local shelters are dependent on local funding. Yet, they are too often bypassed by people drafting wills and donations because they aren't as big and visible as the national advocacy groups whose appeals continually stuff your mailbox or cram the airways.
- Without a Will, government may take a significant percentage of your estate. If you think government is the answer for our county's animal, then do nothing. If you believe our staff and volunteers near 50 year history of providing the county's sheltered animals a better quality of care and second chance in life is the better option, please consider the Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County in your estate planning.

## Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County



### ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE

OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FL, INC.

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*Where There's a Will  
There's a Way*

# What legacy will you leave?

## A BEQUEST TO FURTHER WORK

Denise and Paul Smith were volunteers for many years with the Animal Welfare League of Charlotte County (AWL). They made annual gifts, but wanted to do more. The Smith's learned that they could help by making a Bequest. Their attorney revised each of their Wills to include a provision gifting a percentage of their estate to the AWL. The Smith's liked the fact that the Bequest was easy to do, they could continue to use all their assets during their lives and their estate would be permitted a charitable deduction at their death. Best of all, the Bequest would help achieve their goal of bettering the future lives of countless animals right here in their own community.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We all desire significance...to lead happy and fulfilled lives surrounded by family and friends. For many of us, there is a compelling need to make a difference...to leave a lasting impact on the people most dear to us and the community in which we live. The search for significance and desire to plan for the future leads many to ponder their legacy.

## LEAVING A BEQUEST

What kind of legacy will you leave? A bequest, while not the only solution, is perhaps the easiest and most tangible way to have a lasting impact on the people and organizations that mean the most to you. It can be large or small and make a difference. A bequest may also be an effective way to make a charitable donation and lessen the burden of taxes on your family and estate.

A charitable bequest is a bequest written in a Will or Trust that directs a gift be made to a qualified charity when you pass away. It could be a dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, a specific asset or assets, even life insurance.

One benefit of a Charitable Bequest is that it enables you to further the good work of an organization you support long after you are gone. Better yet, a Charitable Bequest can help you save estate taxes by providing your estate with a charitable deduction for the value of the gift. With careful planning, your family may also avoid paying taxes on the assets they receive from your estate.

Other options include: Gift Annuities • Charitable Remainder Trusts • Charitable Lead Trusts

Consult an attorney who specializes in trusts and estates, a financial advisor or accountant for the plan that most effectively handles your needs. It is easy to do. It is tax efficient. It is NOT TRUE that only wealthy people need to make bequests or plan charitable giving.



(One tip: If you name the AWL or any other charity in your will, please advise the charity you have done so. Most do not, sometimes with unintended consequences.)