



Planning a will to help protect the future of Exmoor ponies

Some thoughts for you to consider before visiting your solicitor



Some helpful tips for making your will

We all need to make a will to provide for loved ones after we've gone. We need to ensure that our wishes are carried out otherwise promises we have made may not be fulfilled and loved ones may be left with legal and financial problems to be resolved.

The following information is a guide to help you plan for your will before visiting a solicitor.

- Choose the executor(s)

One of the first things you need to do is decide who you would like to administer your will as executor(s). This can be a partner, close friend or a solicitor. Generally people choose two executors to share the responsibility. There is no restriction on an executor being a beneficiary of your will.

- Guardians

If you have children under the age of 18 (16 in Scotland) or pets, it is important to choose and ask a guardian to look after them in the event of your death.

- Your possessions

Spend some time making a note of your assets and their approximate value. Your estate value will be your assets minus any monies owing e.g. mortgages, loans, credit card debt etc.

- Who will benefit

Make a list of family, friends and charities who you would like to benefit from your will. Decide what you would like them to receive. There is no limit to the number of different gifts you can make. Once you have provided for your loved ones please consider giving a gift to charity which can make a real difference.

- Choose a solicitor

Your solicitor will discuss your wishes with you and advise on how best to word your will. If your estate is large, your solicitor will also advise you of any arrangements you should consider for tax planning.

How a gift to The Moorland Mousie Trust can help the Exmoor ponies

The Moorland Mousie Trust relies on donations, grants and legacies to continue its work to promote and conserve the rare-breed Exmoor pony.

A gift in your will, large or small, would make a big difference to the life of a young Exmoor foal or one of the older ponies in our care.

Each autumn the Trust takes in surplus unhomed, and unwanted, foals born onto Exmoor that year. The Trust works with these foals to ensure that they can be handled and receive veterinary and farrier care before finding them new homes with fosterers or on conservation grazing schemes in other parts of the country.

The number of foals taken in each year varies and has ranged between 10 and 50 youngsters in recent years. Since its establishment the Trust has helped to secure a happy future for over 500 Exmoor ponies.

The total costs involved for each foal we take in are approximately **£1,500** in the first year. This excludes staff time spent on handling the foals, general stable duties and pony transportation.

£500 will generally cover the veterinary costs involved in the first year of a foal's life

£500 will cover costs of feed and bedding for a foal for a year

£150 will cover transport costs for a year

£120 will cover farrier costs

£100 will buy a headcollar, lead rope, feed-bucket and grooming kit for each pony in our care.

There are three main ways you can leave a gift in your Will

- a share of your estate (residuary legacy)
- a specific sum (pecuniary legacy)
- a specific item

Your solicitor or other professional adviser will help you with the wording of your Will and any gifts that you wish to leave. Below we give some example wording which may be helpful if you are considering leaving a gift to The Moorland Mousie Trust.

For a residuary legacy:

I give free of inheritance tax XX% of my residuary estate to The Moorland Mousie Trust, Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset TA22 9QE, registered charity number 111670, absolutely for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the treasurer or other proper officer shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

For a pecuniary legacy:

I give free of inheritance tax £XX to The Moorland Mousie Trust, Exmoor Pony Centre, Ashwick, Dulverton, Somerset TA22 9QE, registered charity number 111670, absolutely for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the treasurer or other proper officer shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

Legal terms glossary

An administrator - someone who is appointed by law to settle your affairs if you die with no will.

A beneficiary - is anyone who receives something from a will.

A bequest or legacy - is a gift left in a will which can be either specific (a definite object or property); pecuniary (a gift of a particular sum of money); residuary (a gift of money or assets left when other legacies and expenses have been paid, normally expressed as a percentage of the residue of your estate).

A codicil - is an addition or amendment to an existing will.

Estate - is the total value of everything you own at your death, less any outstanding commitments.

Executor - this is the person or persons you choose to make your will happen. They can be friends, family or your solicitor.

Guardian - the person or people chosen by parents to look after their children in the event of their death.

Intestacy - the term used for the situation that arises when someone dies without making a will.

Inheritance tax— this is a tax deducted from estates with a value, currently, of more than £325,000. Money left to your spouse or a charity is not taxed.

Probate - this is the legal process to establish whether your will is valid. If not then an administrator is appointed.

Please let us know

The Moorland Mousie Trust is highly dependent upon grants, legacies and donations to continue its work. It is helpful to us to know of your intentions, so we would be grateful if you would let us know if you are leaving us a legacy so that we can keep you informed of news from the Trust.

Any questions about our work

The Moorland Mousie Trust would be happy to talk to you about the work we do and how any gift you may consider leaving to the Trust might be used. Please do contact us if you have any questions - our full contact details are given below.

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