



YOUR  
DECISION  
TODAY  
SAVES  
LIVES+  
TOMORROW

A GUIDE TO LEAVING  
LORT SMITH A GIFT IN WILL



**Lort Smith**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL



Pets give us so much love and companionship and ask so little in return, here's a chance to give something back. A chance to help literally thousands of animals.





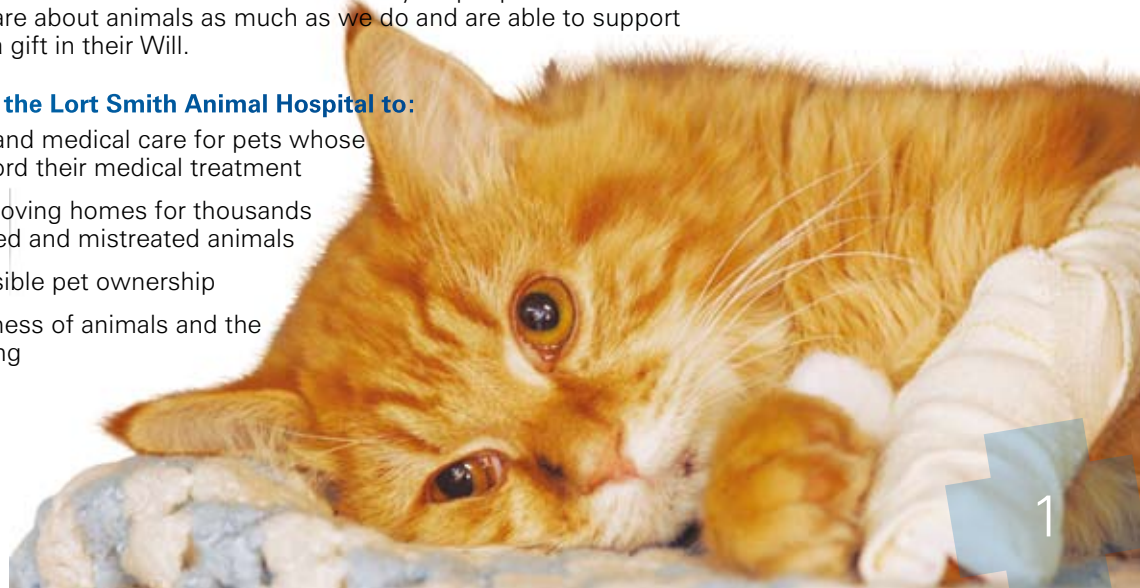
# LORT SMITH ANIMAL HOSPITAL

The Lort Smith Animal Hospital, established in 1935 by Louisa Lort Smith, is now the largest animal hospital in the Southern Hemisphere. For over 75 years we have been at the forefront of animal welfare. During this time we have provided veterinary care to over five million animals whose owners love them but cannot afford their medical expenses and found loving homes for over 200,000 lost and abandoned animals. The Lort Smith Animal Hospital and our dedicated veterinary and animal management staff deliver this service day and night, every day of the year with professionalism, commitment and incredible compassion.

Our vision is to continue this vital work and expand our services to help even more animals in need. To do so we will continue to rely on people in the community who care about animals as much as we do and are able to support our work through a gift in their Will.

## **Gifts in Wills help the Lort Smith Animal Hospital to:**

- Provide surgery and medical care for pets whose owners can't afford their medical treatment
- Shelter and find loving homes for thousands of lost, abandoned and mistreated animals
- Promote responsible pet ownership
- Foster an awareness of animals and the benefits they bring



# WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT LORT SMITH ANIMAL HOSPITAL?

Owning a children's animal farm, we'd always been animal lovers but Diamond, my Son Rory's dog, was extra special - a constant companion and best friend to Rory.

It had been a pretty tough year with the drought, losing many of our animals and experiencing real financial difficulties, so when Rory found Diamond at the front door with a badly broken leg, we just didn't know what to do.

Thankfully, we turned to Lort Smith. Diamond was seen straight away as an emergency case. We were really worried, but the staff were so reassuring.

They made sure he wasn't in any pain, splinted his leg and made him comfortable. X-rays showed that his leg was broken in several places and the vet explained that the extensive surgery costs needed to get him well again would be nearly \$2,000. We were devastated, knowing that we just couldn't raise this amount of money. But Lort Smith talked everything through with us and carried out the surgery at a hugely reduced cost that we are able to pay off in instalments.

The look of complete joy on Rory's face when we collected his best friend from Lort Smith, knowing that he was going to be ok, was indescribable. After all we'd gone through, Lort Smith gave me renewed faith that there are people who care. We just don't know what we would have done without Lort Smith.



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ANIMALS IN YOUR WILL

Louisa Lort Smith left a legacy of 61,382 pounds that continues, to this day, to make a real impact on improving the quality of life of animals in our care.

The Lort Smith Animal Hospital receives no Government funding and we rely on the generosity of our supporters to fund our work. Five bequests left to Lort Smith enabled us to build our new Animal Hospital in 2000, and current bequests help us to continue providing quality veterinary care, essential diagnostic equipment, medical supplies and shelter services needed by thousands of animals. As this need increases annually, so does our reliance on bequests to maintain the quality of care for all animals that come to Lort Smith. Gifts in Wills are a vital source of income and pay for one in every two animals in our care.

Give something back to the pets that offer us such unconditional love. Your act of generosity today will make a difference to hundreds of thousands of animals in serious need tomorrow.



**IT COSTS OVER  
\$8 MILLION  
EACH YEAR TO DELIVER  
THESE VITAL SERVICES**





# THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING A WILL



Everyone over the age of 18 should have a valid Will. A Will is the only way to ensure that your assets are distributed according to your wishes.

A bequest is a clause within a Will relating to a particular gift, or share of your assets, that you specifically wish to make and this could include a gift to an animal charity.

Almost half of all Australians are estimated not to have a will. If you die before making a Will, the Supreme Court will determine the distribution of your personal assets according to a legal formula. This formula does not include making provisions for your pets. By having an up to date Will, relatives won't need to make difficult decisions about the distribution of your estate. Many people find having an up to date Will gives them peace of mind. It allows you to maintain control of your affairs and leaves no uncertainty about what will happen to your estate.

Your assets can include money, property, shares, insurance policies, furniture, paintings, and personal effects. All the assets of a deceased person are described as their 'Estate'. The people who will receive assets from your Estate are known as Beneficiaries. By clearly stating your wishes and ensuring that the people and animals you care the most about are provided for, you can avoid any potential legal conflict.

If you already have a Will, you might want to review it to make sure it continues to reflect your concerns for family and friends, as well as your loyal animal companions.

## **Making changes to an existing Will**

With your Solicitor you can make minor changes or additions, this can be done by adding a Codicil, which is an additional document that becomes part of your Will. You can use a Codicil to include a bequest to the Lort Smith Animal Hospital in your existing Will.







# TELL US ABOUT YOUR BEQUEST AND JOIN OUR COMPANION CLUB

Animals give us so much love and companionship and ask so little in return. A bequest is a special way to give something back, a gift of life to literally thousands of animals. To show our appreciation for this incredible life giving gift we have established the Companion Club. Once you have advised us that we are included in your Will, we will invite you to become a Member of the Companion Club. You will receive regular invitations to our special functions, designed to inform you of the work we continue to do on behalf of animals.

## You can advise us by:

- Writing a letter to Lort Smith advising of your intention to make a bequest,
- Providing a copy of the relevant extract from your Will,
- Providing a confirming letter from your solicitor.

Being part of our Companion Club also means we have the opportunity to discuss with you our re-homing services and the options that

are available to you to ensure your pet or pets, who are much loved members of the family, have a wonderful caring home for life.

Please ring to discuss the type of home environment that most suits your pet or pets or to give simple instructions about their care.

Companion Club Members make a significant investment in improving the quality of life for future generations of animals.

## A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR WORK

If you would like to see first hand how a gift in your Will could make a real difference to animals in Lort Smith's care, we would be delighted to have you visit the Hospital. During your visit you will be able to see behind the scenes and also meet our dedicated staff.



# I HOPE MY BEQUEST CAN GIVE SOMETHING BACK

Lizzie, my dog, has given me unconditional love for four years now. I was going through a bad time personally and it was suggested that I needed a companion that I could rely on. It was only natural to think of a pet, as our family used to take in strays, and the love of animals has always been in our family.

So, in April 2003, I went to the Lort Smith Animal Hospital Shelter because when I was a child, my Dad used to bring stray cats from the Williamstown wharf to the Hospital, as he knew they would take really good care of them. I adopted Lizzie, a seven month old Jack Russell cross Chihuahua. I picked her out because she was a little dog, trembling in her kennel. Before I knew it, she was on my lap, licking me to death. She still does that.

I know that the Hospital does not get support from Government grants and that they require donations from the public to help care for injured and sick animals every day. Through supporting Lort Smith, others can experience the same joy I have with Lizzie.

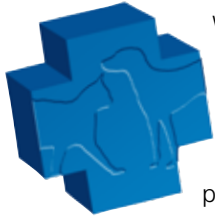
I hope my bequest can give something back because without Lort Smith I wouldn't have Lizzie.



Testimonial by Linda Bowcett, Lort Smith Pet Adoption owner



# HOW CAN I INCLUDE THE LORT SMITH ANIMAL HOSPITAL IN MY WILL?



When considering your family and friends and the things that mean a lot to you, you might consider leaving a bequest to us. Whether large or small, your bequest will help us to fund animal welfare programs that otherwise might not be possible.

## Types of Bequests

When making your Will, it is important to seek the advice of an expert such as a Solicitor or Trustee Company. They will be able to advise you about the different types of bequests available. These include:

- **A specific dollar amount**

The exact amount of your Estate you wish to leave us.

- **Residue-whole**

After you have allocated specific bequests, the residue (remainder) of your Estate will be left to us. The value of your gift will not be affected by inflation.

- **Residue-percentage**

After you have made specific bequests, a percentage of the residue (remainder) of your Estate will be left to us. The value of your gift will not be affected by inflation.

- **Specific item**

You may wish to leave a specific gift, for example property, shares or artwork.





# HOW TO WORD YOUR BEQUEST

Should you decide to include a bequest to us, we suggest you provide the following wording to your Solicitor. All bequests to the Lort Smith Animal Hospital need to be made to our registered name of the "Animal Welfare League of Victoria".

## Specific legacies

"I

*(name)*

Of

*(address)*

give and bequeath to the Animal Welfare League of Victoria (ABN 87 004 238 475) trading as the Lort Smith Animal Hospital for the use and purposes of the said Hospital, the sum of \$..... free of all duties and taxes payable at my death (if any), and the receipt of the Administrative Officer of the said Hospital shall be sufficient discharge for my Executors after the payment of all my just debts, funeral expenses and testamentary expenses and all duties, taxes and charges payable on my Estate at my death."



## Residuary bequests

"I \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

Of \_\_\_\_\_  
(address)

give and bequeath to the Animal Welfare League of Victoria (ABN 87 004 238 475) trading as the Lort Smith Animal Hospital for the use and purpose of the said Hospital, rest and residue of my Estate free of all duties and taxes payable at my death (if any), for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of its Treasurer or authorised officer shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors."

OR

### **Include care for your Animal/Animals in your Will**

'I give and bequeath to the Animal Welfare League of Victoria (ABN 87 004 238 475) trading as the Lort Smith Animal Hospital for the use and purposes of the said Hospital, the sum of (a specified sum or percentage of the value of the Estate) free of all duties and taxes payable at my death (if any), and the receipt of the Administrative Officer of the said Hospital shall be sufficient discharge for my Executors after the payment of all my just debts, funeral expenses and testamentary expenses and all duties, taxes and charges payable on my Estate at my death. This legacy is subject to the Lort Smith Animal Hospital ensuring that they will guarantee care for my animals at my death.'



# NEED MORE INFORMATION

## Please complete and return the form to the Lort Smith Animal Hospital

- I have made a bequest to the Lort Smith Animal Hospital in my Will
- I plan to write or change my Will to include the Lort Smith Animal Hospital
- I would like more information about leaving a bequest to the Lort Smith Animal Hospital.



Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home \_\_\_\_\_

Business \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Language spoken at home \_\_\_\_\_

### Preferred contact method (PLEASE TICK)

Home     Business     Letter     Mobile     Email     Home visit

Reply paid  
The Lort Smith Animal Hospital  
24 Villiers Street  
North Melbourne, VIC. 3051

# PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOU

There is no obligation to answer these questions, but the information you provide may help us to help other Lort Smith Animal Hospital supporters.

What prompted you to make your first Will?

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What are your main reasons for supporting Lort Smith?

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Why have you decided to include a gift to Lort Smith in your Will?

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Do you currently own Pets?  Yes  No

If you don't own any pets, have you done so in the past?

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Have you ever used the services of Lort Smith?

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Are you married?

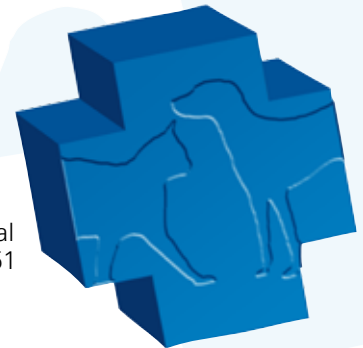
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Do you have children?

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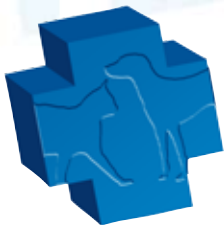
If you think that one of your friends might find this booklet useful, we would be happy to send you a copy for them.

The Lort Smith Animal Hospital  
24 Villiers Street, North Melbourne, VIC. 3051





# THANKYOU



Lort Smith Animal Hospital  
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Telephone: 9321 7213 Facsimile: 9321 7211  
[www.lortsmith.com](http://www.lortsmith.com)