

Humane Slaughter Association

Improving the welfare of food animals around the world

Spring 2020



Credit: Tim Scrivener/AgriPhoto

HSA announces largest award in its history to improve the welfare of aquatic species

Due to the generosity of an anonymous benefactor, we have just awarded £1.93 million to improve the welfare of farmed fish, and farmed or wild-caught crustaceans (eg crabs and lobsters) and cephalopods (eg octopus, cuttlefish and squid) at slaughter.

The funding has been awarded to three separate consortiums which will each be focusing on a specific area – humane stunning of finfish (Ace Aquatec Ltd in Scotland), stunning and killing commercial species of crabs and lobsters (Nofima AS) and humane slaughter of cephalopods (Association for Cephalopod Research, CephRes).

The award comes as concern for the welfare of these animals has grown. Worldwide, billions of farmed finfish are slaughtered for human consumption, far greater than any mammal or bird, and many of these fish are not humanely stunned before slaughter. Finfish are considered capable of experiencing fear and pain and the most common methods of slaughter are likely to expose them to

substantial suffering over a prolonged period of time. Many species of farmed fish are typically killed by being taken out of water and left to asphyxiate in air – or fish might be frozen or gutted whilst conscious.

Legislation exists in some parts of the world (eg the EU) to protect finfish welfare, but many crustaceans and cephalopods are slaughtered for food without stunning and there is a lack of practical and scientifically validated humane stunning methods for these species.

Nathan Pyne Carter, Managing Director of Ace Aquatec Ltd in Scotland said: *“Our project is a collaboration between Ace Aquatec, Silsoe Livestock Systems, the Universities of Bristol and Stirling and Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (Catalonia). The three-year project will implement electrical stunning in large volume finfish industries where current killing methods fail to protect fish welfare.”*

continued overleaf...



CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

As we start a new decade we enter an exciting time for the HSA. We have a new Chief Executive (see page 3) and, as you'll read elsewhere on this page, we have just announced the largest research award in the charity's history.

Throughout its history, the HSA has led on improvements in the treatment of animals during transport, marketing and at slaughter, as well as innovation in terms of developing more humane methods of slaughter. 2020 will be no different. Many crustaceans and cephalopods are slaughtered for food without stunning. Similarly, farmed finfish are slaughtered in very large numbers and many are not stunned before slaughter. Whilst humane stunning methods have been developed for some commonly farmed species, for others there are, as yet, no validated methods of humane stunning. Given the scale of this industry, the importance of this work to animal welfare cannot be understated.

Our work would not happen without your support and your commitment to improving the welfare of animals farmed for food. On this occasion, a generous benefactor has enabled such a large grant to be made, but the HSA needs your support in order to continue. Our day-to-day work providing training, welfare assessments, visits to markets and slaughterhouses, and the expansion of our international reach through education, training and animal welfare activities in other countries, depends on your support. Thank you.

Alick Simmons BVMS MSc MRCVS
Chair

Credit: gfrfx from Pixabay



Credit: gfrk4 from Pixabay



Bjorn Roth, Senior Scientist at Nofima in Norway said: *“Our project aims to develop and validate equipment designed for the stunning and killing of all commercially important species of crabs and lobsters in the northern Atlantic. Focus will be on the assessment of the welfare impact of the stunning method using electrical, physiological and neurological measures to evaluate responsiveness, loss of consciousness and death for each species. This knowledge will then be disseminated into commercial practice and developed into a series of different systems that can humanely stun and kill all commercially decapods.”* The project is expected to take up to four years to complete.

Dr Giovanna Ponte, Director of Operations at the Association for Cephalopod Research in Napoli, Italy said: *“Cephalopods for human consumption are mainly caught through large-scale fisheries or in smaller operations and the development of humane slaughter methods should take this into account. We will determine differences between animals that are alert, unconscious or dead in cuttlefish, squid and octopus and, using this information, will design both electrical and mechanical stunning methods. Once the humaneness and efficiency of these methods have been assessed the final phase will test the feasibility of applying the stunning methods in a real-world setting.”* The project is expected to take five years to complete.

The substantial funding represents significant steps forward in advancing understanding of these species and improvements to their welfare at slaughter. HSA’s Chief Executive Officer & Scientific Director Dr Huw Golledge said: *“There is a growing body of evidence which suggests that fish, crustaceans and cephalopods are all sentient animals which deserve as much protection for their welfare as other commonly farmed species. This has already resulted in the introduction of limited legislation to protect fish welfare at the time of slaughter. In the case of crustaceans and cephalopods, I fully support recent attempts to extend legal protections to these species.”*

However, in order to meaningfully protect the welfare of these animals we need more than just legislation, we need to know how to treat them to ensure that they do not suffer. The research we’re supporting is designed to produce exactly this kind of crucial, practical knowledge.

I am delighted that we have enabled our colleagues in industry and the animal welfare research community to come together to undertake this work.”

Separately, the HSA has also announced funding of up to £200,000 to investigate the feasibility of the development and adoption of humane slaughter methods for finfish caught in the wild.

Billions of wild fish are caught for food every year, the vast majority of which are not stunned before killing. Again, there is good evidence that many wild-caught fish may experience significant suffering between the time they are captured and their death. Dr Huw Golledge said: *“We have recently run a call for a review and feasibility study into the possibility of the routine use of humane stunning techniques for fish caught in the wild. We hope that this review will show that, in at least some cases, it would be practical and commercially feasible to rapidly and humanely stun fish as they are brought aboard ships. This could offer an enormous animal welfare benefit to a vast number of animals. We are currently in the process of reviewing applications with a view to awarding the funding in April.”*

Further information on the welfare of farmed fish and how consumers can make more informed choices is available as a video on the homepage of our website. The video is also available to watch in nine other languages via the publications page. ■

Code of Practice for the Disposal of Chicks in Hatcheries

The third edition of this HSA publication has been recently updated and is now accessible as a downloadable PDF document on our website using the following link: www.hsa.org.uk/chickcode – it will no longer be available as a printed hard copy. The new edition has been produced to bring it into line with current slaughter legislation.

Although a relatively small publication, it deals with a difficult subject and is widely used as a reference by writers of standards, hatchery managers and auditors. ■

Message from our new CEO Dr Huw Golledge

Credit: H Golledge



I am delighted to be taking over as Chief Executive Officer and Scientific Director of the HSA. My predecessor, Dr Robert Hubrecht OBE, has led the charity with great skill and diplomacy for the previous five years, expertly navigating many difficult and emotive animal welfare issues that have arisen during his tenure. I would like to thank him for his dedication and wish him the very best in his retirement.

The HSA fulfils a unique role in promoting the humane treatment of animals 'beyond the farm gate' – not just at the point of slaughter, but also during transport, marketing and when livestock has to be killed in emergencies: all times when farmed animals can be at risk of poor welfare. Through research, education and training, and by offering independent, evidence-based advice, the HSA makes a huge difference to the welfare of countless animals around the world and I'm proud and excited to be taking this work forward alongside my expert colleagues.

I'm keen to ensure we have a strong and authoritative voice on the many animal welfare issues that face farmed animals during transport, marketing and slaughter. We will continue our invaluable work as a trusted advisor to the meat and livestock industry, which regularly seeks our advice on best practice. We will also continue to have dialogue with policymakers and regulators to promote the highest standards of welfare for farmed animals between the farm gate and slaughter. I also want to ensure we play a central role in explaining animal welfare issues to the public. There is a great deal of misinformation and confusion about the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter, but also amongst many a real desire to understand how to make choices which maximise animal welfare, so I'm excited by the opportunity we have to help people make informed choices and to dispel some common myths.

As a forward-thinking charity, a principal focus of the HSA's work is to support fundamental scientific research into advancing humane slaughter methods. Over the coming year, the HSA will be committing the largest sum it has ever awarded for research which will be aimed at developing or improving humane slaughter processes for neglected species including crustaceans (crabs and lobsters), cephalopods (octopus and squid) and commonly-farmed fish species which currently lack well-validated stunning methods. As we move forward, I will be looking to support more ground-breaking research that directly benefits millions of animals.

The HSA is an international charity and I am keen to support and expand our work to develop our overseas outreach. The HSA already makes a huge difference to the welfare of countless animals around the world and it is my ambition that this work will not only continue but expand.

Of course, all of this takes money, so to those of you who already support our work as members or supporters, thank you! To those of you who don't, please consider helping us continue our invaluable work – we cannot do this without your support.

I look forward to working with our expert and dedicated staff and our stakeholders to continue to bring major improvements to the welfare of farmed animals over the coming years. ■

Hot Topics 2019 – Animal Welfare at Slaughter

Following the success of the CCTV seminar in May 2018, the HSA ran a similar event for the meat and livestock industry on 9th October 2019 at Jurys Inn, East Midlands Airport. Unlike the previous three such seminars, this one didn't deal with a single issue, but covered many subjects currently relevant to animal welfare between the farm gate and slaughter, hence the title of the seminar. Ten speakers from the realms of industry, research and legislature covered topics including seasonal poultry slaughter, CCTV update, low atmospheric pressure stunning, measuring captive-bolt velocity during use and a novel

method for neck-dislocation of poultry. Following the presentation of papers, the panel of speakers then took part in a lively hour-long discussion forum chaired by Steve Wotton, formerly of the University of Bristol. This was a very successful event: the previous three seminars had attracted approximately one hundred attendees but, with three months to go, we had to book a bigger room due to demand for places, the final attendance being nearly 140! Some of the presentations can be obtained in PDF format from our office. ■

The HSA publishes free animal welfare advice for small-scale and/or seasonal poultry producers and processors

In response to numerous enquiries from existing and prospective producers, we have produced new guidance aimed at small-scale and/or seasonal poultry producers and processors.

HSA's Technical Director, Charlie Mason, said: "This guidance highlights and explains the particular requirements applicable to those carrying out small-scale and seasonal slaughter, which is subject to animal welfare legislative requirements in a similar way to large-scale, commercial poultry producers and processors. However, in relation to welfare at the time of slaughter, the application of certain requirements, such as licensing, is dependent on the nature and scale of the operation."

Small-scale and seasonal slaughter is also subject to regulations additional to those relating to animal welfare at slaughter in general. These include registration with the environmental health department of the relevant local authority, to ensure compliance with animal health, animal by-product licensing and collection and disposal requirements.

The guidance, which is available to download free of charge from the charity's website, is primarily aimed at producers and processors in the UK but may also be useful to producers elsewhere. ■



Dr McKeegan being presented with her award by former CEO Dr Robert Hubrecht

Glasgow scientist Dr Dorothy McKeegan recognised for her work to improve the welfare of farm animals

At the *Animal Welfare at Slaughter – Hot Topics 2019* seminar, Dr Dorothy McKeegan from the University of Glasgow was awarded the 2019 Humane Slaughter Award for her groundbreaking research into the welfare impacts of controlled atmosphere stunning (CAS) and her outstanding and sustained contribution to protecting animal welfare at slaughter or killing.

As well as her extensive research career, Dr McKeegan has been at the forefront of educating future generations in animal welfare and ethics, both in under- and post-graduate study. Professor Malcolm Mitchell, who was one of the people who nominated Dr McKeegan for the award said: "She is an inspirational scientist, in a demanding area of welfare research, motivating and training the next generation of scientists to work in this challenging field."

When asked about her hopes for the future in terms of animal welfare improvements, Dr McKeegan said: "My work aims to improve welfare conditions at slaughter. Poultry are especially challenging given the very large numbers of birds involved and their low individual value, but we have a responsibility to protect their welfare."

I hope we can continue to make progress towards the goal of a good death for all farmed animals. ■



Credit: HSA

Credit: HSA

GRANTS

The HSA offers funding ranging from small grants for pilot studies to major projects costing hundreds of thousands of pounds to support research and other projects to improve welfare beyond the farm gate. We are currently supporting a number of projects and here you can read about some of the ones we have supported recently.



Credit: Herbert Aust from Pixabay

Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning as a potential alternative to high concentration carbon dioxide

The use of high concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂) to stun both pigs and poultry is controversial because there is a body of evidence which suggests it may be aversive. A non-aversive alternative to CO₂ could offer significant animal welfare benefits. One such alternative is Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning (LAPS) which kills animals by depriving them of oxygen by gradually lowering the atmospheric pressure in the chamber. Over the last two years the HSA and Defra have jointly funded work by Dr Dorothy McKeegan and colleagues to test whether LAPS is less aversive than CO₂ for pig slaughter. The project is due to finish in 2020 and the results are likely to inform the debate about whether LAPS is likely to be a viable and humane alternative to CO₂ for pig slaughter.

LAPS has recently been approved in the EU for the slaughter of broiler chickens. However, there is still some debate about the degree of aversiveness of LAPS in poultry. We have recently awarded funding to Drs Mike Toscano and Thom Gent at the Universities of Bern and Zurich in Switzerland to use behavioural tests to try to establish whether chickens exposed to low atmospheric pressures experience a sensation of aversion and whether this is to a greater or lesser degree when birds are stunned with CO₂ or the inert gas nitrogen. This work is also supported by the Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office.

Our new CEO Huw Gollidge also recently co-authored a paper with a number of scientists from around the world which sets out a research strategy which we hope will help guide the search for more humane alternatives to carbon dioxide for a range of species.

Paper Reference: Steiner, A *et al.* (2019). Humanely ending the life of animals: research priorities to identify alternatives to carbon dioxide. *Animals*, 9(11):E911. <https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/9/8/482>. ■

Travel Award update

The HSA offers occasional Special Travel Awards to allow researchers to travel and undertake studies or other activities that may lead to significant developments in the humane treatment of animals during marketing, transport or slaughter.

Dr Claire White from Bristol University recently travelled to New Zealand to investigate the system used there to provide reassurance that animals slaughtered for the production of Halal meat are reversibly stunned. Stunning methods can either kill the animal instantaneously or render it unconscious requiring it to be killed by another method. The use of such a potentially recoverable stun is considered by many Muslims to be acceptable, whereas a stun which kills the animal is not. To provide assurance to Halal authorities and consumers, New Zealand allows a very small number of animals to briefly enter the first stages of recovery to demonstrate that the stunning process does not cause death. Claire is examining the 'New Zealand model' and whether it could be adopted in the UK to increase the number of animals humanely stunned prior to Halal slaughter.

Claire presented a summary of her work at our *Animal Welfare at Slaughter – Hot Topics 2019* meeting in October and is preparing a report which will inform the debate as to whether this method should be adopted in the UK. The HSA is delighted to support studies such as Claire's which have the potential to outline changes that could benefit large numbers of animals by ensuring they undergo prior stunning at the time of slaughter. ■



Credit: Alexos_ Fotos Pixabay

Research Training Scholars update

The HSA is currently funding the work of Awal Fuseini at the University of Bristol, and Carlos Rebelo at the Royal Veterinary College. In 2015 Awal and Carlos were funded to undertake research leading to the award of a PhD as part of our Research Training Scholarship scheme.

Awal is attempting to develop a novel type of electrical stunning referred to as SPUC (single pulse ultra-high current), which has the potential to improve the welfare of cattle undergoing Halal slaughter. SPUC stunning may benefit animal welfare at slaughter by producing a technically-reversible but extended duration of unconsciousness (enabling death to occur by exsanguination but with less risk of recovery of consciousness). This method could therefore potentially be considered Halal-compliant.

One of the papers Awal published in 2019 (*Animal Welfare* 28 (2): 165) was about the different Islamic scholarly definitions of death and how they impact the interpretation of Halal slaughter rules. Awal described how '... increasing numbers of Islamic jurists ... approve stunning on condition that the method of stunning must not cause the death of animals prior to exsanguination. ... stunning is now widely accepted in many Muslim-majority countries (eg The UAE, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Indonesia)' but 'there is less clarity as to which methods of stunning are acceptable due to confusion as to the true definition of death; ... some authorities accept irreversible stunning based on the presence of a beating heart, others are of the view that only reversible stunning should be approved. ... Proponents ... generally accept head-only electrical stunning'. Awal also referred to how 'In some countries, demonstration of the reversibility of the stunning method is required by the halal certification bodies'. You can read more about the concept of demonstration of life on page 5 in our Travel Award update.

Carlos is exploring how to further develop the design of dry electrical stunning systems used for small-scale, on-farm slaughter of turkeys to improve animal welfare and produce acceptable product quality. Recently, he has expanded his survey of equipment used by UK poultry processors and is finishing his analysis of the effects of electrical parameters on the duration of unconsciousness and the quality of the meat.

Stop Press: In November 2019 Awal's completed PhD thesis was formally approved by the University of Bristol, although Awal's research on the SPUC prototype stunner is ongoing and we look forward to following the research team's progress in 2020. This year, he has also published a book entitled *Halal Meat Production and Market Opportunities: a 21st Century guide to the Halal Market*. ■



Dr Craig Johnson (R) is presented with his award by Professor Christopher Wathes

From the Archives: the first Humane Slaughter Award

As 2019 drew to a close and a new decade beckoned, we looked back to the end of the last decade, 2009, when the HSA awarded its first Humane Slaughter Award. The award was established by the HSA to promote and recognise significant advances towards the welfare of livestock at

slaughter. The first award was given to Dr Craig Johnson and his colleagues at Massey University, New Zealand, for ground breaking research investigating pain in cattle slaughtered without prior stunning.

At the time of the award, Dr Johnson was Associate Professor of Veterinary Neurophysiology at the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences at Massey University in New Zealand. Along with co-researchers Dr Troy Gibson, Professor Kevin Stafford and Professor David Mellor, he used new electroencephalogram (EEG) analysis technology to investigate the effects of slaughter of cattle by ventral neck cut without prior stunning. The results were reported in a series of five papers published in the *New Zealand Veterinary Journal* in April 2009, and concluded: 'This... demonstrates clearly for the first time that the act of slaughter by ventral neck cut incision is associated with noxious stimulation that would be expected to be perceived as painful...' Animals were anaesthetised so that no pain was felt during the experiments – the EEG analysis showed that, had no anaesthetic been administered, it would have been painful. The researchers' work was a very substantial contribution to efforts to change attitudes to preslaughter stunning.

The then CEO of the HSA, Dr James Kirkwood, commented, "Scientific advances have resulted in major welfare improvements in livestock slaughter methods during the past century, by leading to both better understanding of the impacts of various procedures on animals and to better technology. However, a great many animals around the world are slaughtered without prior stunning. This work provides significant support for the value of stunning animals prior to slaughter to prevent pain and distress, and the HSA hopes that it will help to change attitudes to the importance of stunning." ■

Chinese translations of publications continues

A generous grant has enabled us to translate a variety of our existing publications into Chinese over the last 18 months, including guidance on handling systems in slaughterhouses and group-stunning systems for mammals. Most recently, we translated eight Technical Information Posters ('HSA TIPS') on humane moving and lifting of animals, their loading and unloading during transport, and the stunning of cattle, sheep and pigs. The translated publications are available to view, free-of-charge, on a dedicated page on our website. We hope these translations will enhance the accessibility of publications to the Chinese agricultural and veterinary industry and to audiences in other countries where Chinese is spoken. ■

Lectures, training activities and welfare assessments

Lectures

In November 2019 the HSA provided a lecture on finfish welfare at slaughter for veterinary medicine students at the University of Liverpool, describing the cognitive abilities of finfish and their capacity to suffer fear and pain, and the types of humane stunning methods suitable for fish.

HSA staff also recently gave an MSc lecture on Human-Animal Interaction at the University of Stirling which covered the importance of good interactions and relationships between stock people and their animals on and off farm. Other lectures to students included animal science and agriculture students at Newcastle University and trainee livestock auctioneers and animal health and welfare students at Harper Adams.

Training

Our staff have given six training courses since August 2019. These have included emergency slaughter training for World Horse Welfare field staff, captive-bolt training for livestock rangers in Surrey, poultry welfare officer training for a broiler processing business in southern England and captive-bolt training for staff at two research establishments and a local authority-owned country park in the UK.

Welfare assessments

Our staff have also carried out nine animal welfare assessments in the UK covering cattle, deer, sheep, pigs, poultry and Atlantic salmon.

Our staff have also represented the HSA at several events and shows including the AgriFood Charities Partnership (AFCP) Forum at the East of England Showground, the World Horse Welfare conference at the Royal Geographical Society, the Winter Stock Fair at the East of England showground, the Hall CPD course at Markfield Institute for Higher Education and the Association of Independent Meat Suppliers (AIMS) conference in Huntingdon. Staff have also given talks, including two presentations of the market survey carried out by our staff between March 2017 and July 2018. These were given at the Association of Meat Inspectors Seminar in September and at the Veterinary Public Health Association (VPHA) Autumn Conference in October 2019. ■

English Winter Fair

On the 16th and 17th November last year, our staff exhibited at the English Winter Fair, which took place at the Bingley Hall, Stafford. This was the first time for many years the HSA has exhibited at this event which, since the ending of the Royal Smithfield Show, has become the premier winter livestock show in England, complementing the Scottish and Welsh Winter Fairs. Both days saw a steady stream of visitors to the HSA stand, many seeking us out with specific questions relating to slaughter. Of particular interest was the HSA's new guidance for seasonal poultry producers and processors. In total, the HSA stand received over 60 visitors during the event.

Some shows have already been booked for this year, including the Pig and Poultry Fair at Stoneleigh on the 12th and 13th May and the National Sheep Association Event, at the Malvern Three Counties Showground on the 28th July. Other shows currently under consideration include the English Winter Fair, the Royal Welsh Spring Smallholders and Countryside Festival and the Scottish Smallholder Festival. ■

An unusual request

A piece of the HSA's history came to light a few months ago in the shape of Dorothy Sidley's car. Dorothy was the charity's first General Secretary – a role she undertook from 1930 until her retirement in 1978. The 1947 Armstrong Siddeley Lancaster 16 HP saloon was purchased by Dorothy new in 1947 and was owned by her until her retirement. At the time of Dorothy's purchase, the HSA was campaigning for the construction of new municipal slaughterhouses (as many had been closed during the Second World War), and for new and improved livestock markets. The car would have been used by Dorothy to travel around the country visiting various markets and slaughterhouses, as part of her role checking the welfare of the animals passing through them.

The car's new owner had been researching its history and had found Dorothy's name and an address in London in the log book. He contacted us and, on viewing photos of the logbook, it was clear that the car had indeed originally been Dorothy's as the signature in the log book was undoubtedly hers and other details matched. Dorothy's car now has a new lease of life as a wedding car – a far cry from its original vocation. ■



Credit: Niall Julian

Please support our Spring Appeal to provide assistance in China

China is currently experiencing outbreaks of African Swine Fever virus (ASFV) and Avian Influenza.

Our technical staff have been working to adapt, and have translated into Chinese, our guidance on emergency killing for disease control to assist our colleagues in China in dealing with these devastating outbreaks. The advice is designed to help minimise the risk of further spread of disease and maximise animal welfare during the process of culling diseased stock.

Our CEO Dr Huw Gollidge said: *“Killing for disease control is an area in which the HSA has significant practical expertise which I am keen for us to make available to our Chinese colleagues and partners as part of our working together to share knowledge and resources to benefit animal welfare.”*

This guidance will cost in the region of £3,500 to have translated and so, for our Spring Appeal, we are asking our members and supporters to help us by donating to the appeal. You can do this by completing the appeal form enclosed with this newsletter, or online at www.hsa.org.uk/springappeal.

Remember A Charity Week

In September, the HSA was proud to join over 200 charities across the country to celebrate all the amazing individuals who support vital services by leaving a gift to charity in their Will. Remember A Charity Week shines a light on the importance of legacies to charities, and how this year's theme aimed to challenge some of the most common misconceptions around gifts in Wills, inspiring people to consider their favourite charity in their Will. Legacies constitute a huge tranche of our income, and have the power to make a difference to a significant number of animals worldwide. Every day, millions of animals around the world are transported, marketed and slaughtered for food. The potential for distress and suffering for these animals is immense and comes at a time when they are most vulnerable. Last year, gifts in Wills helped us to continue our unique programme of research, education and advice which is helping to improve farmed animal welfare around the world.

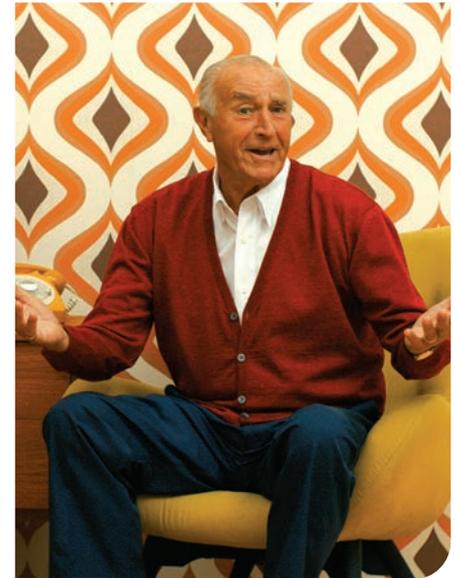
Some of the most popular misconceptions around making a Will were highlighted, including:

Myth: Leaving a gift in your Will is only for the rich and famous

Reality: Every single person can leave a gift in their Will.

Myth: Most people in the UK assume that you can't leave money in your Will to family as well as your favourite charity

Reality: This is simply not true. After taking care of your loved ones, you can do both. And it doesn't have to be money you can leave to charity, it can be a small percentage of your estate or an item.



Myth: Leaving a small gift in your Will to your favourite cause won't make any difference.

Reality: The truth is, when combined with other people's gifts, it could make a huge difference. In fact, many charities wouldn't exist if it were not for gifts in Wills. Large or small amounts left to any charity in a Will really could make all the difference.

Myth: Leaving a gift in a Will is complex and difficult

Reality: Leaving a gift in a Will is easier than you think, whether you are considering revisions to an existing Will or making one for the first time. A professionally written Will ensures that your wishes are clear and your affairs are in order and you could also save your loved ones from additional administrative demands at a difficult and stressful time.

Our work is only possible because of the generous support of those who leave a legacy. Gifts left in Wills make up over 50% of our income and have enabled the charity to grow from simple beginnings in 1911 to become an organisation that has led and/or contributed to major changes in attitudes towards animals. Every gift is extremely valuable to us.



Please see <https://www.hsa.org.uk/support/leaving-a-gift-in-your-will> to find out more about leaving a gift to the HSA. ■



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