



The Washington  
**ANIMAL  
RESCUE  
LEAGUE**

Rescue • Rehab • Rehome

## Major and Planned Gifts Fact Sheets

### Major and Planned Gifts Overview

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[warl.org/PlannedGiving](http://warl.org/PlannedGiving)

## Gifts of Life Insurance Policies

Many people may not think about using a life insurance policy or a commercial annuity contract to make a charitable gift, but the fact is there are terrific ways these instruments can be harnessed to support charitable initiatives, including the Washington Animal Rescue League's broad array of programs as well as our endowment.

### Three Ways to Support the League Through Insurance-Related Gifts

1. You can name our organization as an end-of-life beneficiary of an existing annuity contract or life insurance policy—including life insurance offered by an employer. You can arrange to have 100 percent of the benefit come to the Washington Animal Rescue League, or divide the benefit so that we share it with other charities or people. This method of giving is completely flexible—you're free to change beneficiaries at any time, as often as you like. You (or your employer, if applicable) own the policy or annuity contract, as the case may be, and pay any premiums directly to the insurance company. The primary tax benefit of this method is that the proceeds that come to the Washington Animal Rescue League will not be subject to an estate tax. In addition, amounts we receive from a commercial annuity upon death are not subject to income tax.
2. You can take out a new life insurance policy on yourself and have it be owned from the start by the Washington Animal Rescue League. You pay the premium directly to the insurance company or to the Washington Animal Rescue League, and because each such payment benefits the League, you can take a tax deduction for the premium amount. Proceeds after death will come directly to us free of estate tax.
3. You can also transfer ownership of an existing life insurance policy to the Washington Animal Rescue League. Ideal for this sort of gift is a policy that provides protection no longer needed by you and your family. You receive an income tax deduction for the lesser of its current value or what you have paid for it over the years. Furthermore, if premiums are still owed on the policy, you pay the premium directly to the insurance company or to the League, and because each such payment benefits the League, you can take a tax deduction for the premium amount. Proceeds after death will come directly to us free of estate tax.

*Note: Under either option 2 or option 3, the Washington Animal Rescue League might elect in later years to surrender the policy for its cash value or convert it to a paid-up policy with a lower death benefit, although we would first attempt to discuss these possibilities with you.*

## **Join Our Legacy Society with Your Planned Gift**

If you designate the Washington Animal Rescue League as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, you become a member of our legacy group: the 1914 Society. The League was established in 1914—imagine that, almost a century of helping animals in need! Our hope is that you will let us know about your planned gift so we can thank and recognize you. You will receive these privileges of membership in the 1914 Society:

- Washington Animal Rescue League’s annual report,
- Updates on League news through our *Animal Report* newsletter,
- Invitations to special events, including our annual 1914 Society reception, and
- Recognition of your planned gift in the League’s publications (unless you prefer to remain anonymous).

## **Special Considerations**

Please contact us about restricting your insurance gift to the specific League program(s) of your choice.

Unrestricted contributions are preferred; however, we also welcome a conversation if funding a specific program is critical to you. We have many projects – both short-term and ongoing – at the Washington Animal Rescue League for which we seek support. We can tell you about all the available options today – and tomorrow, when a new generation of animals in need will look to us for aid.

Gifts to the League may be made in memory of any deceased person(s) or pet(s) or in honor of any living person(s) or pet(s).

## **Other Types of Planned Gifts that May Interest and Benefit You**

If you are considering a life insurance gift, be aware that other gift types – such as an outright donation of securities or real estate, a charitable gift annuity, a charitable remainder trust, or a retained life estate arrangement involving a personal residence – may be suitable or preferable, taking into account your goals and needs.

Of course, arranging a gift for the Washington Animal Rescue League through a will or through some other element of an estate plan – e.g., including our organization as a beneficiary of a financial or retirement asset – is also an act of considerable generosity that many people can afford even if a large lifetime gift is not realistic.

Our development staff can help you plan the right gift in light of your assets, income, family, and other estate or financial obligations. You may be able to be a greater philanthropist than you realize. Would you consider making the gift of a lifetime to the League if we can show you how?

### **We Invite You to Contact Us**

The Washington Animal Rescue League neither requests nor accepts government funding. We are a 501(c)(3) charity and our programs and endowment depend on your support. Our tax identification number is 53-0162440.

Direct your confidential inquiries and notifications about legacy gifts for the benefit of the Washington Animal Rescue League to:

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*Information also available at [warl.org/plannedgiving](http://warl.org/plannedgiving).*

**This information provided by the Washington Animal Rescue League is not financial, tax or legal advice.  
You should consult your advisors before making your charitable giving decisions.**