



The Washington
**ANIMAL
RESCUE
LEAGUE**

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Major and Planned Gifts Overview

Consider the Washington Animal Rescue League for the Gift of Your Lifetime

Our professional development staff can help you plan the right charitable gift in light of your assets, income, family, and other estate or financial obligations. With a well conceived charitable gift arrangement, you may be able to become a greater philanthropist than you realize.

Outright Gifts that Immediately Fund Our Programs

- **Donations of cash, securities, and other assets.** Gifts of cash and publicly-traded securities go to work right away supporting our efforts and can be fully deducted from your taxable income. Gifts of other assets (real estate, closely-held stock) also finance our operations; these gifts may require qualified appraisals. Donating long-term appreciated assets eliminates capital gains taxes, so we suggest using assets with the lowest cost basis. Note: Gifts of tangible personal property (artwork, jewelry, etc.) are usually better made through your estate than during life.
- **Foundation grants.** Contributions from foundations of all types provide invaluable operating funds. Please let us know if your foundation is interested in animal rescue and rehabilitation, humane education, and/or community support through low-cost veterinary care for income-qualified pet guardians in Washington, DC.

Planned Gifts that Provide Funds Now—And In the Future

Certain assets you possess may make you a good candidate for a charitable gift plan, which can be designed to further your own personal planning goals and support charities that you care about, such as the Washington Animal Rescue League.

What Are Some of the Most Commonly Used Assets for Funding Planned Gifts?

- **Long-term appreciated securities or real estate.** If these assets produce a low yield and are highly appreciated, some or all could be given to the Washington Animal Rescue League as an outright gift or to fund a life income arrangement—a potential savings of both capital gains and income taxes.

- **IRA and qualified retirement plan assets.** These are among the most heavily taxed assets to pass on to loved ones, so other assets are best to left to them. Retirement plan assets are the optimal assets to direct, after lifetime uses, to charity. These assets can be used first to support both the plan owner and spouse, before some or all is designated by percentage to the Washington Animal Rescue League and other charities you care about—a simple, revocable choice made on a change-of-beneficiary form.
- **Real estate.** Part or all of a real estate asset can be deeded directly to the Washington Animal Rescue League or used to fund a charitable remainder trust, with favorable tax and income advantages. Personal residences, vacation homes, and farms can also be deeded to the Washington Animal Rescue League while retaining a life estate (the lifetime right to live in the property) for the donor and spouse. Please *always* contact the Washington Animal Rescue League or any other charity first before completing any gift of real estate.
- **Life insurance.** Ownership of a life insurance policy that an individual no longer needs can be given irrevocably to the Washington Animal Rescue League at any time during life. The League also can be included as a beneficiary of an insurance policy. This is a revocable option.
- **Savings bonds.** These often are no longer paying income to an individual, who can redeem or cash them in and, then, make an outright gift of all or some of the proceeds to the League. The proceeds also can be used by older individuals to fund charitable gift annuities, which provide fixed payments for life to one's self and/or another, in addition to supporting the Washington Animal Rescue League.
- **Closely held business interests.** Such assets can sometimes be used to fund a charitable remainder trust, which benefits individuals first and then charity, or even a charitable lead trust, which makes payments to charity for a period of time and then returns its assets to the family, usually children or even grandchildren, with favorable estate and gift tax consequences.

These and other assets can be suitable for philanthropic use, providing many advantages to the donor and sometimes others, in addition to charity.

We invite your questions about how any of these or other assets could be used to benefit the Washington Animal Rescue League and other organizations you care about.

What Are the Most Attractive Types of Gift Planning Options?

- **Bequests.** A bequest is the most common type of planned gift in America today, but it requires special language that must be included in a properly executed will or trust. Our suggested language for an unrestricted bequest to the Washington Animal Rescue League is provided on the Bequests and Legacy Gifts fact sheet and our website. If you wish to restrict how the League uses your gift, that language may also be included; please contact us for an amendable gift agreement that documents your intent.

- **Beneficiary designations on IRAs and qualified retirement plans.** IRA and retirement plan assets often result in multiple taxes after the death of the plan owner and spouse, so they are best suited for charitable giving—with other assets given to family. Designating a charity to receive all or a portion of what remains is easy to accomplish.
- **Charitable gift annuities.** These appealing plans, known as CGAs, have been around for over 150 years and provide payments at attractive rates for one or two older individuals. They are simple contractual arrangements and can be funded by cash or other assets. Many donors like these uncomplicated plans so much that they fund several of them over time. Only charities can offer these plans, which feature a number of tax benefits.
- **Retained life estates.** An older couple or single individual can deed a personal residence, vacation home, or farm to the Washington Animal Rescue League or any charity, retaining the right to continue occupying the premises for life. This gift type results in a current income tax deduction and simplified probate, while not changing lifestyle. Probate is the sometimes cumbersome, lengthy and expensive legal process of settling the estate of a deceased person, specifically resolving all claims and distributing the decedent's property.
- **Charitable remainder trusts.** This option has existed in its current form since 1969 and offers either fixed (a charitable remainder annuity trust) or variable (a charitable remainder unitrust) income to a donor, spouse, or others such as siblings, partners, children, or grandchildren. The unitrust has an annual revaluation feature and can, with a good trustee, be a hedge against inflation. More than one charity can share the trust remainder after the life income beneficiaries' interests end. Both kinds of trusts offer attractive tax benefits, too.
- **Charitable lead trusts.** The income generated during a charitable lead trust term is paid to one or more donor-designated charities, so that the donor can witness how the charities use those dollars. When the trust term ends, the assets are returned to the donor's family, often children or even grandchildren. These taxable trusts are created to support charities and to stretch out the value of federal gift and estate tax exemptions—not for income tax purposes.

You can support the Washington Animal Rescue League's programs and its endowment with one or more of these giving options. They have proven both popular and effective in having a deep impact on the League's timeless mission, one that is important to every animal lover.

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Unrestricted contributions are preferred because the Washington Animal Rescue League can use those funds today for its programs. We welcome a conversation if you would like to fund a specific program, as we have many at the League that we wish to finance today—and to ensure the future care of animals coming through our doors.

In addition, the League may benefit from your gift beyond the level of your donation, because we sometimes have matching gift opportunities that increase the value of contributions we receive. Check with your employer to see if it offers such matching contributions.

Gifts may be made in memory of any deceased person(s) or pet(s) or in honor of any living person(s) or pet(s)—a wonderful gift and meaningful commemoration of a special loved one.

Consult your own financial, tax, and legal advisors when making any significant giving decisions; we are pleased to work with you and your advisor to integrate a charitable plan within your overall planning.

During the planning process, we want to help maximize the attainment of your personal goals, like supporting loved ones and minimizing taxes, while also providing for the League and your other charities.

The League reserves the right to refuse gifts that we deem not to be in our interest.

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The Washington Animal Rescue League neither requests nor accepts government funding. We depend on the generous gifts of animal lovers to fund our timeless mission. Your planned gift entitles you to become a member of the 1914 Society for our legacy donors. We use this name because the League was founded almost a century ago in 1914. We intend to be here to help similar animals for yet another century—and beyond— and you are helping to make that possible.

We Invite You to Contact Us

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

Robert Blizard, Chief Development Officer
Washington Animal Rescue League
71 Oglethorpe Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

rob@warl.org | 202.375.7754

Information also available at 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.**

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