



Petey on AVHS's couch with a volunteer

# Leaving a gift bequest in your will

If you could leave one gift for your community, what would it be? Have you considered a gift through your will? A Charitable Bequest to Ark-Valley Humane Society is one of the simplest ways to profoundly support the future of animal welfare in Chaffee County, Colorado, and the perfect legacy of your love of animals.

## Why consider a bequest to Ark-Valley Humane Society?

As a humane society our mission is to ensure the welfare of companion animals with compassion and care. Your gift will strengthen our ability to build a community that gives animals the shelter, veterinary care, and loving homes they need. By naming Ark-Valley Humane Society in your will or living trust, you will help continue our local work far into the future.

## How it works

1. Work with a professional financial advisor or attorney to include a bequest in your will or living trust that states you want to provide a future gift to Ark-Valley Humane Society.
2. Ark-Valley Humane Society will receive the gift after your death and apply it to the purpose(s) you specified.

## Benefits of a Bequest to Ark-Valley Humane Society

- Your assets remain in your control during your lifetime; bequests do not reduce your current assets.
- Family comes first. You can support animals in need through a bequest after providing for your family.
- You may direct your bequest to a particular purpose.
- A bequest to Ark-Valley Humane Society may decrease the size of your estate and reduce your estate taxes. Your attorney, accountant or financial planner can advise you.
- You can modify your bequest during your life if your circumstances change.
- You know that your gift will benefit Ark-Valley Humane Society in the future just as you intend it to.





Alan in AVHS's Adoptable Cat Room  
with a volunteer

## Endorsement Statement

One of our legacy society member  
has this to say...

I love animals, and high on my priority list is concern for their care and welfare. I live in Buena Vista and have volunteered for the Ark-Valley Humane Society in a number of ways, allowing me to see all they do for companion animals and our community. AVHS is a fiscally sound, responsible organization with a caring and compassionate staff. They have become family, and I hope my legacy donation helps them continue to thrive. - Judy H.

### Types of Bequests

Making a charitable bequest is a very personal choice. There are a number of options for instructing your family and friends on what to do with the assets that you have accumulated in this life. You might consider the following examples when making a bequest to Ark-Valley Humane Society:

- **Outright Bequests**

Give a specific amount, asset or estate percentage.

- **Residuary Bequest**

Give a percentage or 100% of "my residual estate" after taking care of all other gifts and taxes.

- **Contingent Bequest**

Plan a contingency such as "a specific dollar amount or a percentage of my residual estate goes to Ark-Valley Humane Society if I should outlive my spouse or partner."

- **Retirement Fund Gift**

Name Ark-Valley Humane Society as a beneficiary of your IRA, retirement and/or profit sharing plan.

- **Insurance**

Name Ark-Valley Humane Society as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy.

The best way to begin this discussion is to talk with Ark-Valley Humane Society and your professional advisor.

### Contact

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# Sample language for a BEQUEST to Ark-Valley Humane Society



Emma in AVHS Cat Meet N Greet Room

## *Describe bequest:*

*Options include naming AVHS to receive a percentage of the estate, a specific dollar amount, or the remainder of the estate after other beneficiaries and expenses have been paid.*

## *Choose a or b and name the fund:*

*The NAME of the fund will sometimes appear in AVHS printed materials and/or on its Website.*

## *If 2(b) is chosen:*

*It is strongly recommended that donors permit AVHS's Board to allocate 25% or more of the Fund's annual distributions to programs selected by the Board. This enables the Board to respond to the community's most pressing needs from year to year.*

**AVHS EIN Tax ID #84-116-1648**



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[www.ark-valley.org](http://www.ark-valley.org)

**1** I give and bequeath \_\_\_\_\_  
[describe bequest] to Ark-Valley Humane Society, Inc.  
("AVHS") for its charitable purposes as defined in and subject  
to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws  
as they exist on this date or as they may hereafter be  
amended.

**2** To indicate purpose and name of the fund, choose (a) or (b)

(a) Unrestricted: "This bequest shall be used to create a  
component fund to be known as the \_\_\_\_\_  
Fund. This Fund shall be used for such of  
AVHS's charitable purposes as AVHS's Board may from  
time to time determine."

(b) Field of Interest: "This bequest shall be used to create a  
component fund to be known as the \_\_\_\_\_  
Fund. It is my/our desire that  
distributions from this Fund be used for the support  
of \_\_\_\_\_ [name particular charitable area of interest, i.e.  
spay/neuter, veterinary care, capital improvements, dogs,  
cats, etc]."

**3** Recommendation for 2(b) above:  
It is agreed that \_\_\_\_\_% of the distributions from the Fund  
may be used for such of AVHS's charitable purposes as  
AVHS's Board, in its discretion, may determine.

Another consideration/option:

When leaving a bequest to Ark-Valley Humane Society,  
keep language in the will as general as possible – perhaps  
just naming the Fund – and indicate that additional details  
pertaining to the charitable purpose are contained in a letter  
of understanding on file with Ark-Valley Humane Society.  
That way, the letter of understanding can be updated at any  
time without re-writing the will.