

Viva! Making a Will

Viva!'s step-by-step guide to making a Will



Viva! is a registered charity: 1037486

How to contact Viva!

Email: legacy@viva.org.uk

Tel: 0117 944 1000 (Mon-Fri, 9-5)

Write: Legacy Team, Viva!, 8 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QH

More information on legacies is on our website.

Please see viva.org.uk/legacy

Viva! is a registered charity: 1037486



Contents

Message from Juliet	4
About Viva!	6
Why make a Will?	8
• What a Will covers	8
• Is it time to change or amend your Will?	8
• Adding Viva! to your existing Will (codicil)	8
• Your estate	9
• Inheritance tax	9
• Your executor(s)	9
• Beneficiaries of your Will	10
A gift for life	11
Wording of your Will	12
Making your Will	13
Keeping your Will safe	15
Legal jargon in plain English!	17
Why Viva!?	18
• Viva! Health, Publications, Festivals	18
• The Viva! Shop	18
• Vegan Recipe Club	18
Confidential pledge	20

*Message from
Juliet Gellatley,
Founder & Director
of Viva!*

If, like us, you believe that animal suffering should never be tolerated, then leaving a gift in your Will means you can make a lasting legacy for animals facing cruelty every day.

For over 30 years, Viva! has been dedicated to exposing the appalling conditions of farmed animals and transforming Britain's approach to animal protection.

During this time, Viva! has released countless undercover investigations, produced the multi-award-winning documentary *HOGWOOD: a modern horror story* broadcast on Netflix; aired a national TV advert seen by over 50 million people and two hugely impactful cinema ads shown to two million! We continue to fight for animals, promote plant-based solutions and engage the public with creative campaigns.

Today, up to nine million UK adults, including 2.5 million vegans, don't eat meat, a further seven million rarely eat it and over six million are planning to go meat-free in the future reflecting a significant shift in dietary habits. The reasons behind this growth are clear: many cite ethical concerns about animal slaughter and factory farming, alongside a desire to protect the planet and improve their health.

At Viva!, we're proud to lead the vegan revolution, standing against animal abuse and advocating for their rights. Our work is made possible solely through the generosity of supporters, like you, who donate or leave us gifts in their Wills. These gifts are crucial for our ongoing campaigns and activism.



Leaving a legacy to Viva! is a commitment to supporting animals in need, ensuring that we can continue our vital work for years to come. Every legacy gift, no matter the size, helps us maintain our promise to animals and advance their protection.

We are deeply thankful to everyone who includes Viva! in their Will. In return, we pledge to handle your legacy with the utmost care, honouring your wishes to make the greatest impact for animals, the planet and public health.

As a token of our gratitude, Viva! will cover the cost of a simple Will for you and your partner or spouse.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Juliet Gellatley'.

Juliet Gellatley



About Viva!

Thank you for considering leaving a legacy to Viva!, the UK's leading vegan campaigning charity, renowned for undercover investigations and impactful campaigns to save animals.

Founded in 1994 by Juliet Gellatley, Viva! has spent more than 30 years advocating for a kind, sustainable world for both people and animals. We operate independently and rely solely on donations and legacies from supporters, without government funding.

Viva! focuses on four main areas:

Viva! Animals

Viva! Animals exposes the harsh realities of factory farming, where animals endure immense suffering in cramped, filthy conditions. Through undercover investigations, we reveal the truth behind the industry and urge people to adopt a vegan lifestyle.



Viva! Planet

Viva! Planet highlights the environmental impacts of industrial animal farming, a major contributor to climate chaos, environmental destruction and the leading cause of wildlife loss. Our campaigns promote veganism as a sustainable choice, supported by scientific research.



Viva! Health

Viva! Health provides evidence-based information to support individuals transitioning to a vegan diet. We debunk myths about vegan nutrition and promote the health benefits through resources like the *Incredible Vegan Health Report*.



Viva! Lifestyle

Viva! Lifestyle shows how easy and positive it is to embrace vegan living. From our popular Vegan Recipe Club to the Viva! Shop offering vegan products, we provide practical tools and support to help people go vegan.



Why make a Will?

This guide aims to simplify the process of making a Will, ensuring your wishes are followed after your death and avoiding complications for your loved ones.

Not having a Will means the law decides how your estate (property, belongings, money) is distributed, which may not align with your wishes. For instance, without a Will, unmarried partners may receive nothing. Making a Will ensures your assets go where you intend, including gifts to charities like Viva!.

What a Will covers

Your Will outlines how your entire estate should be distributed. It can also include instructions for your funeral and care for your companion animals.

Is it time to change or amend your Will?

Life changes such as marriage, divorce or having children should prompt a review of your Will. You can easily and quickly update it with a codicil (an addition to your existing Will), which must be witnessed by two people.

Adding Viva! to your existing Will (codicil)

If you already have a Will and wish to support Viva!, you can add a codicil. Viva! can post or email a simple codicil form. Please contact us on email legacy@viva.org.uk (or call 0117 944 1000 Mon-Fri, 9-5). Or download the form at cdn.viva.org.uk. Also, you can visit viva.org.uk/legacy for guidance.



Your estate

Your estate includes everything you own, such as property, savings, jewellery, artwork and possessions. List these along with debts such as mortgages and loans.

Inheritance tax

Inheritance tax is payable on estates over £325,000*, at a rate of 40 per cent on anything above that threshold. You can reduce this tax by leaving gifts to charities like Viva!. If you leave a gift to a registered charity in your Will – whether it's money, property or another asset – it will be exempt from inheritance tax. This is one way of reducing the size of your estate and lowering the amount of inheritance tax owed when you die.

* This limit may be raised to £500,000 if you leave your home to direct descendants

Your executor(s)

Choose someone you trust to manage your estate after your death. Executors handle legal matters and distribute assets according to your Will.

Most people choose one executor, although you can have up to four. It's better to have more than one in case there's a problem, for example if one executor is unwell. Or, you can name a substitute executor in case your first choice is unable to act. (If any of your beneficiaries are under 18 years old, or if your Will includes a trust, you'll need at least two executors.)

The people most commonly appointed as executors are either relatives or friends, or professionals such as solicitors, accountants or banks.

If you have concerns about who to make your executor, and you are leaving a majority portion of your estate, or all of it, to Viva!, please contact us for help, in the first instance at legacy@viva.org.uk or call 0117 944 1000 (Mon-Fri, 9-5) and request a call back from the legacy team.

Making a Will ensures your wishes are respected, benefiting loved ones and causes you care about, like Viva!, without the risk of disputes or unnecessary legal expenses.

Beneficiaries of your Will

When making your Will, you decide how to distribute your estate. This could involve leaving everything to one person or organisation, or giving specific items or sums of money to different individuals or groups, such as Viva!. These recipients are known as your beneficiaries.

Specific gifts might include items like artwork, books, jewellery or specified amounts of money. Keep in mind that the value of these items can change over time, so it's wise to review your Will periodically.

After distributing specific gifts and settling outstanding expenses such as funeral costs, bills and legal fees, what remains is the balance of your estate – known as the residue. You have the freedom to divide this among your chosen beneficiaries in any way you wish. For example, you could split it evenly among several organisations or allocate different portions to different individuals. There are no strict rules – it's entirely up to your preferences and priorities.



A gift for life

By leaving a legacy to Viva!, you are making a lasting contribution that continues to impact our work long into the future. There are four main ways to do this:

Residual bequest:

This involves leaving the remainder of your estate after all other gifts and expenses have been paid.

Pecuniary legacy:

This is when you specify a fixed sum of money for Viva! in your Will. It's important to review this periodically due to inflation affecting its value over time. Alternatively, you can leave a percentage of your estate.

Percentage of your estate:

You can designate a percentage of your total estate value to Viva!. For example, 25 per cent of a £200,000 estate would be a £50,000 gift.

Non-money-specific gift:

This can be any valuable item such as a house, car or jewellery, which Viva! can use or sell.



Wording of your Will

If you decide to include Viva! in your Will, ensure you use the correct legal wording including our full name, address and charity number:

For a Residual Gift: "I give the residue of my estate to Viva! (Registered Charity 1037486) of 8 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QH, for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a valid and appropriate form of discharge."

For a Pecuniary Gift: "I give the sum of £_____ to Viva! (Registered Charity 1037486) of 8 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QH, for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a valid and appropriate form of discharge."

For a Percentage Gift: "I give _____ per cent of my Estate to Viva! (Registered Charity 1037486) of 8 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QH, for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a valid and appropriate form of discharge."

For a Non-Money-Specific Gift (eg a house/flat): "I give to Viva! (Registered Charity 1037486) of 8 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QH, for its general purposes all my share and interest in my house (or flat) known as (full address) absolutely and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a valid and appropriate form of discharge."



Making your Will

We can assist you in creating an up-to-date Will that suits your preferences – whether in person with a local solicitor, online or over the phone. When you write or update your Will, you also have the opportunity to leave a legacy to support our vital work.

We've partnered with Farewill, The Goodwill Partnership and National Free Wills Network to offer our supporters free Will-writing services.* You can arrange an appointment:

National Free Wills Network

How it works:

- **Appointment options:** In person, via video call or over the phone, depending on your location
- **Receive a pack:** With participating solicitors and how to make your Will
- **Booking:** Visit mynetworkportal.org/viva to order your pack
- **Work with a solicitor:** to draft and finalise your will

All solicitors are fully regulated for your peace of mind

The Goodwill Partnership

- **Appointment options:** Home visit, phone or video appointment
- **Booking:** Call 01492 510 340 and quote "Viva!" to book your appointment
- **Website option:** Visit thegoodwillpartnership.co.uk/viva to request a call back and book your appointment
- **Assistance:** A team member will guide you through creating your Will

* Covers a basic Will only, via one of our partner services – see viva.org.uk/legacy for details and pricing

Farewill

- **Appointment options:** Phone or online
- **Booking:** Visit farewill.com/viva-web or call 020 8050 2686 and quote "Viva!" to start writing your Will
- **Process:** Write your Will online or over the phone, taking as little as 15 minutes
- **Approval:** Specialists will check and approve your Will after you complete step-by-step instructions

Local Solicitor

- **Option:** You can also choose to create your Will with your local solicitor
- **Instruction:** Provide your solicitor with the following details to include:
"I give [insert type of gift eg 'The sum of £amount]/the residue of my estate'] to Viva! (registered charity number 1037486) of 8 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QH for its general charitable purposes. I further direct that the receipt of an officer of Viva! Trustee Limited, the sole corporate trustee of the said charity for the time being shall be a full and sufficient discharge for the said gift."

Writing your Will is straightforward and can be completed from the comfort of your home, ensuring your wishes are clearly documented and legally sound.



Keeping your Will safe

To keep your Will safe and ensure your wishes are followed after you pass away, it's important to understand some key terms and take certain steps:

In the UK, keeping your Will safe is crucial to ensure it can be found and acted upon after your death. Here are some recommended steps on how to keep your Will safe and where to store it:

1. Choose a safe storage location:

- At home: keep your will in a fireproof and waterproof safe at home. Ensure it is easily accessible to your executor or loved ones
- With your solicitor: your solicitor can store your will securely. This is often a good option as they can also provide legal advice and ensure its safekeeping
- With the Probate Service: the government's Probate Service offers a safe storage facility for Wills in England and Wales for a fee. This ensures your will is held securely and can be accessed by your executors when needed

2. Inform your executor(s):

- Make sure your executor(s) know where your Will is stored and how to access it. Provide them with any necessary details or instructions. Many people choose to send a copy of their Will to their executor(s)

3. Register your Will:

- While not mandatory, you can choose to register your Will with a national will register such as Certainty. This doesn't store the Will itself but provides information on its location, making it easier to locate after your death



4. Keep copies safe:

- It is advisable to keep copies of your Will in addition to the original. Inform your executor(s) where these copies are stored, ensuring they can access them if needed

5. Review regularly:

- Periodically review and update your Will as circumstances change, such as marriages, divorces, births or changes in assets. Make sure the updated version is stored safely

6. Consider professional advice:

- Consult with a solicitor or legal advisor on the best practices for storing your Will, especially if your circumstances are complex or involve considerable assets

By following these guidelines, you can ensure that your Will is safely stored and can be easily accessed by your executor(s) to carry out your wishes effectively after your death.



Legal jargon in plain English

Beneficiary or Legatee: Any person, group, organisation, charity or company that receives something from your Will.

Bequest: A gift you leave in your Will to a specific beneficiary.

Codicil: An addition to your existing Will that makes small changes.

Chattels and Moveables: Your personal belongings such as cars, jewellery, paintings and furniture.

Crown or Treasury: The government agency that takes charge of your estate if you have no Will or heirs.

Estate: Everything you own or have a share in when you die, including property, money, investments and more.

Executor(s): The person or people you name in your Will to carry out your wishes.

Intestate and Intestacy: When someone dies without a valid Will or has an incomplete one.

Legacy: Another term for a bequest or gift left in a Will.

Liabilities: Debts that need to be paid from your estate, like bills and funeral costs.

Pecuniary Legacy: A fixed sum of money you leave as a gift in your Will.

Probate: The legal process to confirm your Will is valid and gives your executor(s) authority to act.

Residue: What's left of your estate after debts, taxes and other gifts have been paid.

Residual Bequest/Residual Legacy: A gift from the remaining part of your estate after other gifts have been distributed.

Spouse: Your husband or wife, not including unmarried partners.

Testator/Testatrix: The person making the Will (you).

Why Viva!?

Viva! is dedicated to exposing the realities of animal agriculture and campaigning for veganism for animals, the planet and our health. Our investigations of factory farming have saved many lives and led to the closure of several 'mega farms'. Our efforts have garnered significant media coverage and led to impactful changes. Overall meat consumption on average per person, in the UK, is at its lowest point since records began. Your legacy can help us continue these vital campaigns and ensure animals are protected. viva.org.uk/campaigns

Viva! Health, Publications, Festivals

Explore Viva! Health for expert insights on vegan nutrition and disease prevention. We also engage with communities through festivals and events nationwide, raising awareness and funds for our cause. viva.org.uk/health and viva.org.uk/lifestyle

The Viva! Shop

Visit our online store for ethical clothing, vegan sweets, chocolates and more. Every purchase supports our campaigns. vivashop.org.uk



Vegan Recipe Club

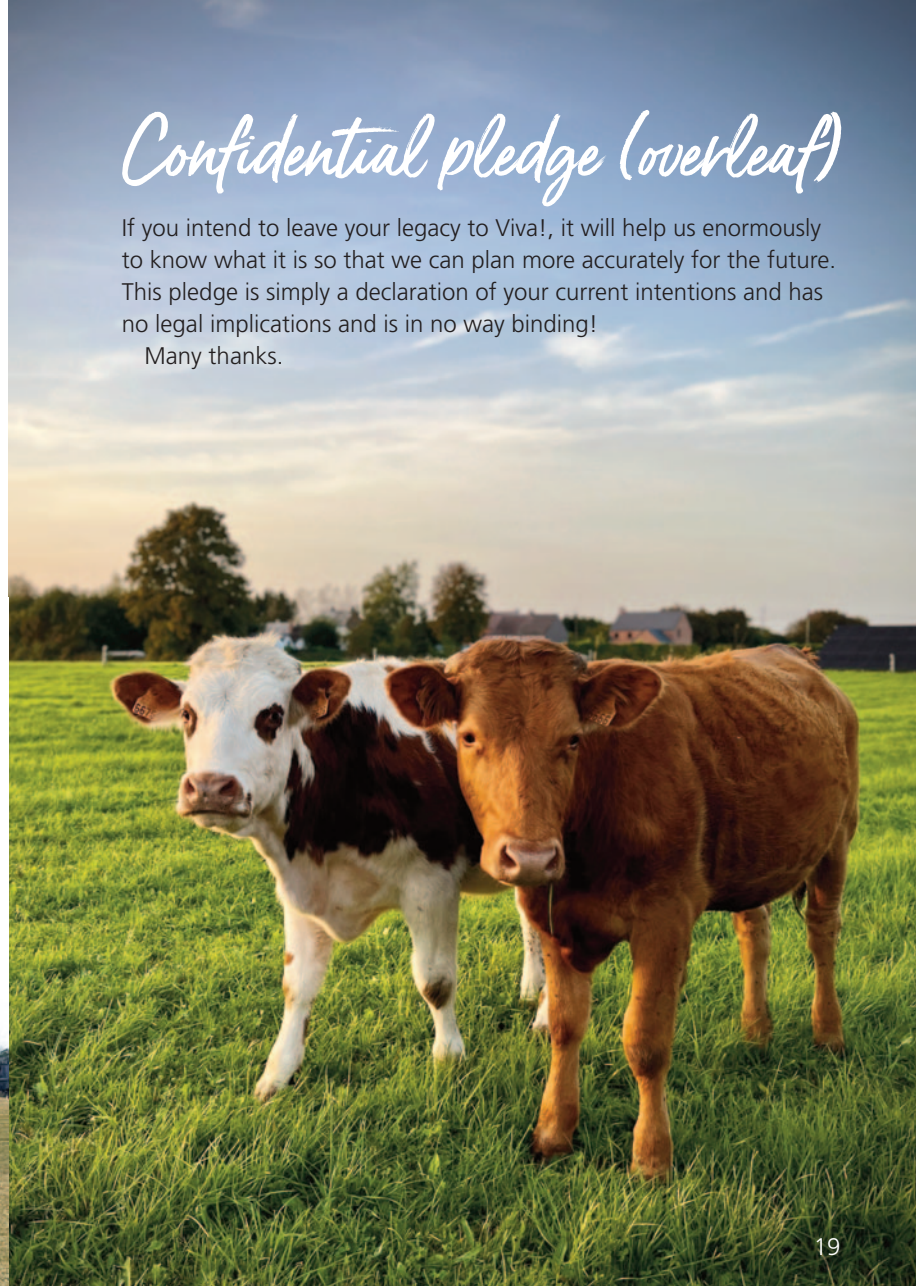
Discover hundreds of vegan recipes, from easy dinners to showstopping desserts, updated monthly by our expert team and guest chefs. veganrecipeclub.org.uk



Confidential pledge (overleaf)

If you intend to leave your legacy to Viva!, it will help us enormously to know what it is so that we can plan more accurately for the future. This pledge is simply a declaration of your current intentions and has no legal implications and is in no way binding!

Many thanks.



My gift to Viva! in the form of:

- ☐ The entire residue of my estate
- ☐ Part of the residue of my estate
- ☐ A percentage of my estate
- ☐ A cash gift (pecuniary legacy) of: £
- ☐ Estimated value of the entire residue: £
- ☐ A non-money specific gift of the following asset(s)
- ☐ I have now included Viva! in my Will
- ☐ I have not yet included Viva! in my Will, or made a Will, but intend to do so

Title

First name

Surname

Address

Postcode

Email

Tel

Signature

Date

Please return this pledge to: **Juliet Gellatley, Viva!, 8 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QH.** Or email it to legacy@viva.org.uk

For more about legacies, contact Legacy Team, Viva!, 8 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QH.

Tel: 0117 944 1000 (Mon-Fri) to request a call back from the Legacy Team.

Visit viva.org.uk/legacy for further information.

The logo for Viva! features the word "Viva!" in a large, bold, black script font. The exclamation mark is stylized with a red dot and a red outline.