

Message from our founder



Dear friend,

It's only with the help of animal lovers like you, that we've been able to rescue and rehabilitate bile farm bears, build safe and cosy sanctuaries for them, and develop projects in China to stop the cruelty against companion animals.

Change for the better is already taking place and our work in Asia is providing a platform from which to promote the concept of animal welfare. However, ongoing financial support is vital to ensure our mission continues. Please consider another way to help the animals.

Nobody wants to think about the fact that we won't be here forever. I only recently wrote my own will after putting it off for years. But if all of us took just a few minutes to think about how we could help our animal friends into the future, they could benefit so much more.

By remembering Animals Asia in your will, you'll be making a profound difference to the lives of animals for many years to come. Please read on for details of how you can give through a bequest. We are pleased to answer any questions you may have.

With heartfelt thanks from the Animals Asia team on behalf of the animals you're helping now — and far into the future.

Jill Robinson MBE
Founder and CEO
Animals Asia Foundation

About Animals Asia



Animals Asia, founded by Jill Robinson MBE in 1998, is devoted to the welfare of wild and domesticated animals across Asia. We are working to end cruelty to animals by teaming up with local communities to inspire grassroots projects and creative programmes with government partners.

We advocate peaceful, long-lasting change and programmes that benefit people and animals alike.

Our two main campaigns are to end bear farming and to promote cat and dog welfare.

Animals Asia is a government-registered organisation headquartered in Hong Kong, with offices in Australia, Germany, Italy, the UK, USA, Vietnam, and China, and Moon Bear Rescue Centres in China and Vietnam. We have more than 260 staff worldwide.

Rescuing farmed moon bears

Across Asia, thousands of endangered moon bears (Asiatic black bears) are imprisoned in cages and milked for their bile, which is used in traditional medicine. The bile is extracted through a hole cut permanently into the abdomen through to the gall bladder, where the bile is stored. Bile is also extracted through catheters and syringes. All methods are extremely painful and distressing for the bears.

The bears are kept in tiny cages, often no bigger than their bodies, sometimes for as long as 30 years. Animals Asia is rescuing these bears from a lifetime of torture and working to end bear bile farming throughout Asia.



Our goal: to end bear farming

In 1993, when Jill Robinson discovered bears suffering horrendously on bile farms, the idea of ending the bear bile industry seemed an impossible task. But Animals Asia's cultural sensitivity, willingness to build bridges, determination and passion is bringing us ever closer to our goal.

We have signed historic agreements with the governments of China and Vietnam to work together to end bear farming in the two countries. We have built world-class sanctuaries in China and Vietnam and are rescuing and rehabilitating hundreds of bears confiscated from farms that do not meet government requirements.

We work with the traditional medicine and scientific communities to promote herbal alternatives to bear bile and to collect evidence and warn consumers about the health risks associated with taking bear bile.

A safe home forever

We are committed to looking after our rescued bears for the rest of their lives — and in the case of tiny cubs this could be for as long as three decades.

The bears' individual needs are met by our experienced veterinary and bear management teams. They eat a specially formulated bear diet rich in protein and vitamins, and have round-the-clock specialist veterinary care.

Nearly all the rescued bears require extensive surgery to remove their severely damaged gall bladders and repair numerous physical traumas. Many are disabled in some way — missing limbs, blind, arthritic — and they require ongoing medication and special enclosures to keep them safe.

They sleep in sturdy hanging-basket beds and their rough and tumble play means that their dens and enclosures must be especially strong and "bear-proof".

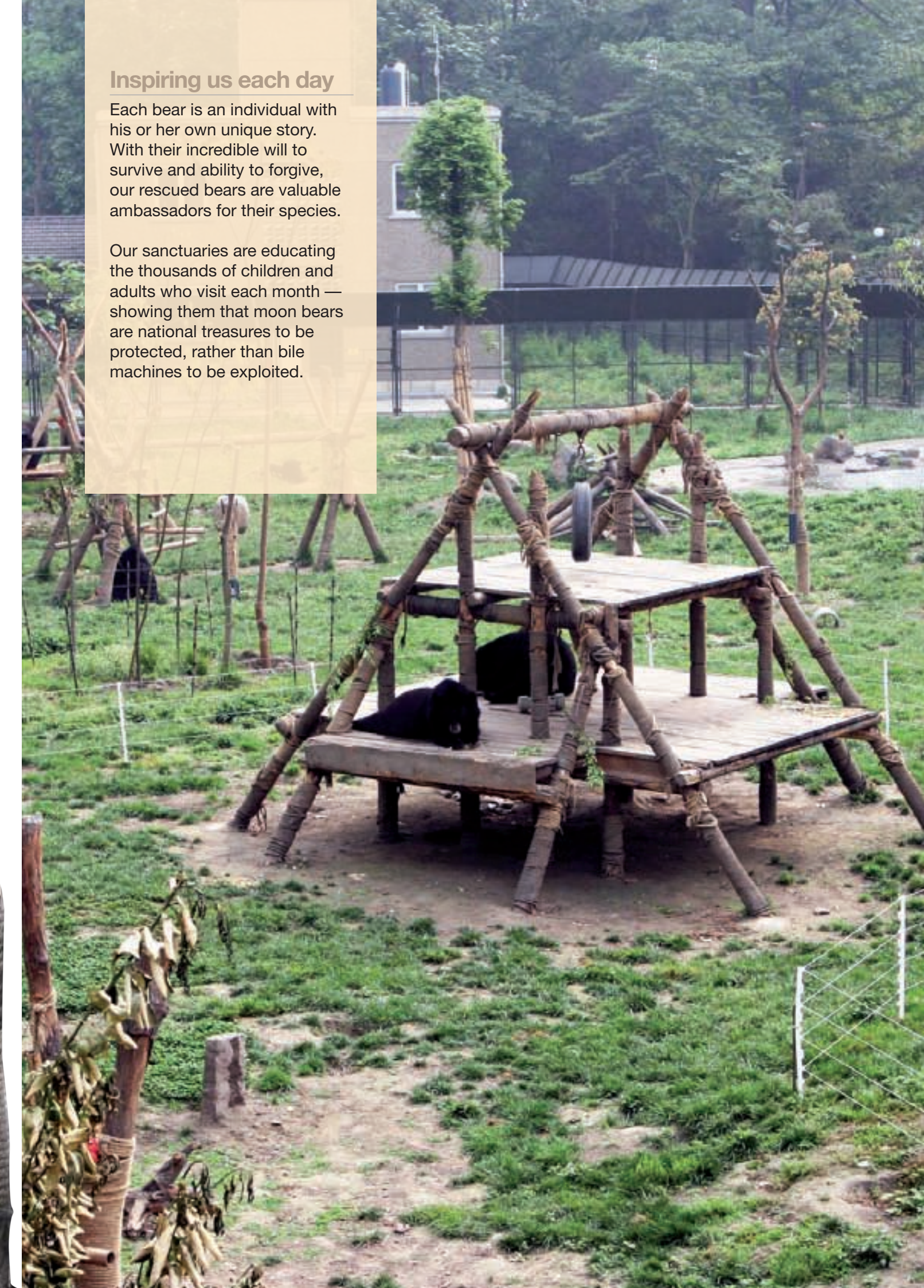
Your gift will help to give these precious bears the lives they so much deserve.



Inspiring us each day

Each bear is an individual with his or her own unique story. With their incredible will to survive and ability to forgive, our rescued bears are valuable ambassadors for their species.

Our sanctuaries are educating the thousands of children and adults who visit each month — showing them that moon bears are national treasures to be protected, rather than bile machines to be exploited.



Ending cruelty for companion animals

Millions of dogs and cats are brutally slaughtered each year for food in China. They are crammed together in cages and transported for days without food, water or shade. Animals Asia is campaigning to end this brutality and helping smaller Chinese welfare groups bring about change on the ground.



Promoting dogs and cats as our friends and helpers

In many places in Asia, dogs and cats suffer unimaginable cruelty and are slaughtered en masse as meat for the table. We believe that attitudes towards animals must evolve at the grassroots level to ensure permanent change for the better. As Jill says:

“Once people ‘connect’ with dogs and respect their help and unconditional love, they simply won’t want to eat them.”

Through our Cat and Dog Welfare programme, we are providing advice and financial support to around 50 smaller animal-welfare groups throughout China, so they can spread the message at the grassroots level, lobby their local authorities for more humane regulations, and create practical programmes to deal with stray population and disease control issues.

With your help, we can support more of these passionate people, who are creating real change within their communities.

Our Dr Dog animal-therapy programme is also changing hearts and minds around Asia. More than 250 canine consultants are spreading love and laughter to people in need in 10 cities across Asia. These ambassadors are working their hearts out to help both people and animals, and are now being recognised as the best friends anyone could have.

Our Professor Paws programme sees our therapy dogs inspiring schoolchildren to love and respect animals, while learning English at the same time. Children who had never touched a dog before are soon asking for their “professors” to be in every class!

Help us with a lasting legacy

Animals Asia’s projects are long-term and we’re committed to seeing them through to the end. As a relatively young organisation, we need to build on our financial reserves to ensure we have adequate funding well into the future.

By including us in your will, you’ll be creating a lasting legacy that will allow us to help abused animals well into the future. Your gift will allow us to expand our projects and ultimately keep bears in the wild, and dogs and cats by our sides and in our laps.

Your family will draw comfort from your bequest to Animals Asia.

Your loved ones will be proud to know that your vision and kindness will help to create a better world for animals long into the future.

Peace of mind

Having an up-to-date will that identifies each of your beneficiaries, means you can rest easy knowing your family and friends will be provided for. A properly drawn up will, drafted by a qualified legal adviser, protects those you leave behind.

If you don’t make a will, the law will determine who inherits your assets and your family and friends may have to wait several years to receive any inheritance.

A charitable bequest may reduce your family’s tax burden.

Speak to your lawyer about the benefits of leaving a charitable bequest — in some cases, your loved ones may not have to pay as much tax on your estate.

Please also consider leaving a bequest to Animals Asia to ensure that your commitment to animals and our work continues past your lifetime.

Changing your will

It’s important to keep your will up-to-date, so that it reflects your current personal circumstances. You should review the details whenever you experience any major life changes, such as marriage or divorce, the birth of a child, starting a new business, a sudden acquisition of assets, etc.

By reviewing your will regularly, you can be sure that the decisions you have made are current and that your wishes will be carried out. If you already have a will, you can easily change it by asking your legal adviser to add a codicil (a legal amendment).



Making a bequest to Animals Asia

There are a number of ways to include us in your will. The most common are a:

Specific sum of money: a gift of a specific amount of money, sometimes known as a pecuniary bequest.

Percentage of your estate: a bequest that will change with the size of your estate. The advantage of this type of giving is that as your assets grow, your contribution to Animals Asia will keep pace with them.

Remainder of your estate: the amount left over after meeting all your personal commitments, sometimes known as a residuary bequest. Your gift would come to us only after your family and friends have been provided for.

Wording your bequest

Your will is a legal document, and exact wording is essential to ensure that your wishes are carried out. Animals Asia recommends that you seek professional legal advice when drawing up or changing your will.

Your solicitor or public trustee will help you word your bequest so that it reflects your exact wishes.

Essential details for your solicitor

Full name of charity: Animals Asia Foundation Limited
Australia Post Box: PO Box 275, Blackwood SA 5051, Australia
Contact: Jude Siekmann, Donor Development Manager
Toll-free: 1800 666 004
Tel: (08) 8270 1955
Fax: (08) 8270 5176
Email: jsiekmann@animalsasia.org
ABN: 53 107 630 357

Let us know your plans

If you decide to leave a bequest to Animals Asia, we would love to hear from you. Please let us know your plans and if you would prefer your gift be directed to a particular part of our work, for instance, our campaign to end bear farming or our animal-therapy programme.

By letting us know *your* plans, we can better plan ahead.

We would also like to discuss how we can thank you for your gift by creating a lasting tribute that your family can be proud of. For instance, depending on the nature of your gift, there may be opportunities to name a part of one of our sanctuaries.

Please complete the “Reply form” and return it to us. And please let us know if you wish to arrange a time to talk with our staff.

Thank you for giving abused animals in Asia a brighter future.



Bequests

Leave a lasting legacy to the animals

Reply form

If you decide to include a gift to Animals Asia in your will, please let us know so we can plan for future expenditure — and of course we would like to thank you for your generosity.

Please complete this form and return to:
Animals Asia Foundation, PO Box 275, Blackwood SA 5051, Australia

Name: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

- I have already remembered Animals Asia with a gift in my will.
- I intend to remember Animals Asia with a gift in my will.

Please give details of your bequest:

We respect your privacy and assure you that Animals Asia will treat all discussions and correspondence in the strictest confidence. Under no circumstances will we share your information with any other organisation.

- I would like to discuss my plans with an Animals Asia staff member.

Thank you for your kindness.

Please remember Animals Asia in your will and help us to continue our vital work to help Asia's animals. By supporting us in this way, you'll be providing a lifeline for the caged bears and abused dogs and cats that so desperately need our help.

- I would prefer not to receive information from Animals Asia.