The Allegheny County District Attorney’s Office is committed to prosecuting, as a felony, dog fighters and other criminals who hurt animals. AAARF! money provides the funds needed to care for victims like Cookie, AAARF!’s spokesdog, who often need long-term vet and foster care while their cases are handled in court.

You minimize the need to euthanize. The sad truth is that, in Allegheny County alone, more than 10,000 companion animals are euthanized each year. When AAARF! money is used to defray the shelters’ costs for caring for abused animals, funding from other sources is freed up for efforts such as adoption, spaying/neutering, and education.

You help prevent violence to people. The fact is that when officials pursue cases of animal cruelty, they are often able to detect and prevent human-to-human violence as well. Companion animal abuse is a very strong indicator of other forms of family violence. Beyond domestic violence, numerous studies show that an alarming percentage of people who commit violent crimes start with animals, as their victims. For example, school shooters and serial killers typically abuse and kill companion animals before directing their violence towards people.

When You Support AAARF!...
A reminder that the work of a compassionate community is never done...

An anonymous donor funded a public awareness campaign against dogfighting to reduce the impact of this horrendous activity. In one case alone, thirty dogs were rescued from a home in Duquesne during a drug bust. Many of the dogs were injured and AAARF! was there to help with the cost to rehabilitate these dogs. Many of the dogs from Duquesne required emergency surgery for torn flesh and open wounds. All of them required testing for parvo, parasites and fungus. Many had to be boarded off site. Without the commitment of Animal Friends’ Humane Investigations Department, its volunteers and funding from the AAARF! fund, it is likely that most of these dogs would never have had a second chance. Defense lawyers delayed for more than two years with motions. In the end, thanks to the efforts of a volunteer special prosecutor for Animal Friends’ Humane Investigators and the Assistant District Attorney, the defendant finally pled guilty. He is facing felony charges and the rescue has had a happy ending for these poor abused dogs. Thanks goes to the AAARF! fund to help stop dogfighting in our county and give these dogs a second chance.

Why Donate to AAARF!? Help an animal in need!

Since 2001, more than $1,606,316.30 has been raised for AAARF! through the contributions of citizens who purchase dog licenses. In addition, the Allegheny County Treasurer’s Office receives many letters of support along with individual donations.

- If you receive this brochure with your dog license renewal application, please donate $5.00 or more by checking the box on the enclosed application and include the donated amount in your check total.
- Send donations directly to: AAARF! P.O. Box 1611, Pittsburgh, PA 15230-1611

This special charitable fund is managed by the Allegheny County Treasurer’s Office. Animal shelters and other animal care givers apply for reimbursement of direct patient care expenses for abused, neglected or sick animals on a case by case basis. A portion of donations are also used for important educational programming to help stop animal cruelty. AAARF! operates the fund with very minimal administrative fees. AAARF! only provides funding for the work of shelters and good samaritans. We do not make decisions on patient care and only pay for the pet’s care and treatment that meets our guidelines.

AAARF! funds helped rehabilitate many needy animals throughout the county. From cats, dogs and rabbits to ducks, and horses — your donations help to rehabilitate them.

Please help stop the abuse and neglect of innocent companion animals in Allegheny County.

Donate today! It’s easy to do.

Enclosed is a donation of:

$5  $25  $100  $_____

Name

Address

City

State/Zip

Email address

Phone

Donor address

Please make checks payable to AAARF! AAARF! is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

How to report animal cruelty

412/847-7066
412/321-4625