

## OUR FOUNDER CAROLINE EARLE WHITE

Caroline Earle White, founder of the American Anti-Vivisection Society, was a pioneer of American animal protection.

Born in Philadelphia in 1883, White took notice of animal cruelty as a norm in her surroundings; but her activism took root in the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (the world's first SPCA, based in England and Wales). In 1866, she and her husband Richard White, along with Colonel M. Richard Muckle (a veteran and long-time newspaper man and activist), began the Pennsylvania SPCA. White worked in the Women's Branch of the PSPCA, overseeing the placement and control of homeless animals.

A few years after its inception, the Women's Branch became independent from the PSPCA and began challenging the use of shelter animals in scientific research. The problem was substantial enough, in White's view, to warrant a devoted and independent organization of its own – the American Anti-Vivisection Society, founded in 1883. AAVS was the first organization in the U.S. to actively oppose the use of animals in science.



Concurrently, White and the Women's SPCA continued its work rescuing and housing stray animals, monitoring livestock transportation violations (securing a number of important convictions), and challenging the legality of blood sports like fox hunting and pigeon shooting.

White voiced her work with AAVS and the WSPCA through writings in the Philadelphia Journal of Women's Progress, encouraging women to take more active roles in their communities and in shaping laws and regulations.

White's work with animals serves as a foundation for countless animal rights organizations, and her legacy lives on today. AAVS is proud to remember Caroline Earle White as the Foremother of the Anti-Vivisection movement.

"When it comes to the last hour of your life, it will be a great consolation to feel that you always protect the poor, the helpless, and the unfortunate; and that you exercised a particular care towards animals."

> Caroline Earle White, 1833-1916