

# Guide to Planned Giving

YOUR LEGACY • OUR MISSION



[AAVS.ORG/PLANNEDGIVING](https://aavs.org/plannedgiving)

## The Caroline Earle White Society

As a member of AAVS, you affirm your respect, compassion, and love for all animals. As an advocate and donor, you support our important mission to end the use of animals in research, testing, and education. **Thank you!**

Because you serve as an animal ambassador and a role model for others, wouldn't you like your strong values and positive principles to be perpetuated even after you're gone?

The thoughtfulness and careful planning of people like you have sustained our work since 1883. **Created in honor of AAVS's visionary founder, The Caroline Earle White Society recognizes members who have declared their ultimate commitment to our mission through a provision in their estate plans.** Making such a decision ensures the continuation of your legacy, funds AAVS's work in years to come, and also serves as an inspiration to others.



AAVS could not sustain our activities for the animals without the legacies that we receive, and we are deeply grateful for each and every one.



## Planned Giving Options and Benefits

**PROVIDING FOR AAVS IN YOUR ESTATE** is a powerful way to perpetuate your legacy of protecting animals, and helps us to achieve our mission of ending the use of animals in research, education, and product testing. There are several planned giving options for you to consider:

- **BEQUEST IN WILL**
- **LIFE INSURANCE**
- **RETIREMENT FUND**
- **CHARITABLE TRUSTS**
- **DONOR ADVISED FUNDS**
- **REAL ESTATE AND SECURITIES**

In addition to establishing a significant gift for AAVS in the future, your planned giving arrangements can benefit you and your loved ones in the present.

### POTENTIAL BENEFITS ASSOCIATED WITH PLANNED GIVING:

- Passing assets to your family at a reduced tax cost
- Providing lifetime income to you or a family member
- Reducing income tax and avoiding capital gains tax
- Ensuring your wishes are known if you become incapacitated
- Making a significant gift to a cause that is important to you

AAVS's longevity is greatly attributable to gifts received as a result of planned giving. This is one of the most important decisions that you will make during your lifetime, and we greatly appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

**NOTE:** This booklet is designed to assist you in understanding available estate planning options. However, the information contained herein is not intended as legal advice; we strongly recommend that you consult with legal and financial advisors to determine which forms of planned giving are most advantageous and appropriate to your needs.





## Life Insurance and Retirement Fund

GIVE A POLICY OR DESIGNATE A BENEFICIARY

### Life Insurance

A contribution of life insurance will permit you to benefit AAVS without invading capital or depriving your family of other estate assets. You can donate a fully paid or partially paid policy, naming AAVS as the irrevocable owner and beneficiary. This reduces your taxable estate and also yields an income tax deduction. And if you are still paying outstanding premiums, they may be deducted as charitable contributions.

You may also designate AAVS as the beneficiary of a new life insurance policy. For relatively low cost, life insurance allows people of modest means to make a larger gift to AAVS than through a bequest. If AAVS is also named the owner of the policy, you may take an income tax deduction for all premium payments.

Life insurance proceeds are not subject to probate, creditors' claims, contests by heirs, or public access through probate court records. Life insurance guarantees

the size of your gift in advance, since AAVS will receive the face amount of the policy promptly, upon death of the policy holder. All of these factors make life insurance a simple and attractive way of contributing.

### Retirement Fund

Subjected to multiple layers of taxation, retirement funds are the most heavily taxed assets that can be passed to family. However, leaving a retirement fund to AAVS will result in a charitable deduction that offsets estate tax and eliminates income tax on the distribution. Alternately, you may wish to designate AAVS as a beneficiary to receive a portion of the income from your retirement fund, beyond what is needed to support your family comfortably.

**Commercial Annuities** may also provide an opportunity to designate a charitable beneficiary like AAVS with a straightforward change form that will effectively reduce taxes.

## Bequest In Will

AN UNCOMPLICATED GIFT OF ANY SIZE

Have you prepared a will to specify the allocation of your assets when you pass? If you haven't, you're certainly not alone—the majority of Americans die without a will. It's not necessarily a difficult process; in fact, templates are available online. But the surest and most secure way to prepare a will is with the assistance of a specialized attorney. You will gain peace of mind knowing that your intentions will be properly fulfilled, and your values sustained, especially should you choose to include AAVS as a beneficiary of your estate. Importantly, a charitable bequest can also reduce or eliminate estate taxes.

**A gift provided in your will is an excellent and uncomplicated way to support AAVS and help the animals.** It is not necessary to have a large estate to be able to include AAVS in your will; indeed, many of the bequests we receive are modest. But they still make a difference.

For incorporation of AAVS in your will you may execute a new will or amend an existing one by adding a codicil. By way of suggestion, you may wish to use the following language:

“ I give/bequeath/devise to the American Anti-Vivisection Society, a not-for-profit corporation located at 801 Old York Road, Suite 204, Jenkintown, PA 19046, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_, (and/or describe the securities or real estate) for the general purposes of the Society.

If you have some uncertainty regarding the final value of your estate, you might prefer to name AAVS as a beneficiary of a percentage of the residue—the amount left after other bequests are made—rather than a specific figure.



Please consider naming AAVS in your will to both continue our mission and honor your legacy.



# Charitable Trusts

## FLEXIBLE BENEFITS FOR YOU, YOUR BENEFICIARIES AND AAVS

Charitable remainder trusts are not as simple as a will, but with professional guidance, you can combine the benefits of a gift and an investment, allowing you to maintain an income stream for yourself and/or another beneficiary, and then provide the remaining assets to AAVS upon your passing. Income allocation to you or your beneficiary is dependent on the type of remainder trust which best suits your need:

- **Annuity Trust:** pays a fixed amount of the annual income from the trust assets.
- **Unitrust:** pays a set percentage of the value of the trust assets. Unlike annuity trusts, you may add additional funds to a unitrust over time, corresponding to changes in your financial situation.

**Remainder trusts** allow for immediate charitable income tax deductions and may help avoid or delay capital gains taxes.

The opposite of a remainder trust, a **charitable lead trust** pays a percentage of the value of its assets to AAVS for a specified number of years. At the end of the trust term, remaining assets and any realized growth are passed to you or your family. A charitable lead trust greatly reduces estate tax, and any subsequent growth is passed to your family free of both gift and estate taxes.



# Donor Advised Funds

## GIFTS TO CHARITIES NOW AND LATER






Enjoying a surge in popularity, donor-advised funds (DAF) are one of the easiest and most tax-advantageous ways to support worthy nonprofit causes. A DAF is a charitable giving account created through a tax-deductible contribution to a sponsoring public charity or community foundation. After establishing your DAF, you may then direct grants to nonprofits near to your heart like AAVS. Also, your donation is invested based on your preferences, and has the ability to grow tax-free.

With a DAF, you also have the opportunity to suggest charitable beneficiaries of the account balance beyond your lifetime. You may name AAVS as a legacy successor or "successor advisor" of your DAF after you are gone, which would allow remaining funds to go directly to our work. There may be a simple form in your account to make this designation, or you can otherwise notify your fund administrator of your wishes.



# Giving Options

FEATURES THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING ESTATE PLANNING OPTIONS

	 FINAL GIFT	 TAX SAVINGS	 AVOIDS PROBATE	 GENERATES INCOME	 PROVISIONS FOR YOUR PET
BEQUEST IN WILL	✓	✓	×	×	✓
RETIREMENT FUND	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
LIFE INSURANCE	✓	✓	✓	×	×
CHARITABLE TRUSTS	✓	✓	✓	✓	×
DONOR ADVISED FUNDS	✓	✓	✓	×	×
REAL ESTATE AND SECURITIES	✓	✓	×	×	×
PET TRUST	×	×	✓	×	✓

EVERY PLANNED GIFT HELPS  
SUPPORT AAVS'S VALUES AND MISSION.



## Real Estate and Securities

### AVOID CAPITAL GAINS TAX WITH A CHARITABLE GIFT

During your lifetime, or in your final estate plans, providing AAVS with a gift of assets that have appreciated in value, such as stocks, bonds, and mutual fund shares, allows you to avoid applicable capital gains taxes. From a taxation perspective, it is usually beneficial to contribute stock versus cash.

A contribution of appreciated stock allows you to avoid certain capital gains tax on value increases, and qualifies for a tax deduction at the fair market value. Also, if you have any dividend distributions being automatically deposited into your account, consider redirecting one to AAVS. Securities can also be specified in your will as a direct gift.

You may also make an immediate or future gift of your residence, vacation home, commercial realty, farm, acreage, or undeveloped lot. This has a tax benefit for you or your estate, including avoidance of certain capital gains tax on the property's increase in value.

If you wish to designate real estate, personal property, securities, or a unique item, please contact AAVS to ensure that your proposal is in accordance with our Gift Acceptance Policy.

**NOTE:** tax laws are subject to change. Please check with a tax advisor to maximize benefit.

## Planning for the Future of Your Companion Animals

### IMPORTANT TOOLS TO HELP PETS

Given their generally shorter lifespans, companion animals don't typically outlive their family. However, many of us worry about what would happen if we died first or became incapacitated?

**Here are three (of several) ways to address the issue of continued pet care if they have to go on without you:**

1. A statutory pet trust created through a will
2. A formal, stand-alone pet trust
3. An agreement with a designated guardian

A will can offer some provision for your pets; however, courts have jurisdiction over estates, and matters under dispute may easily remain unresolved for months, but time is critical for pets. A formal pet trust allows for more secure and comprehensive care directives, but is traditionally expensive.

The option of a Pet Protection Agreement, accessible on the websites such as LegalZoom or LawDepot, may present a solution that works for you. It requires appointing a Pet Guardian whom you can trust to care for your pets, both in a short term capacity, but also permanently, if necessary. You would provide specific terms including care conditions and a funding mechanism, and they would see and sign the agreement.



This legal area can be difficult, but fortunately **The Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law and Policy** maintains excellent resources, including sample wording for wills, financial powers of attorney, and trusts, and explainers for both legal professionals and their clients. See Resources on page 12 for links.

### Other preparations to consider for the safety of your companion animals:

- Carry an alert card with you to advise others about your pets, and whom to contact in the event of an emergency
- Affix signs to your doors and/or windows noting the number and types of pets in your residence
- Have a detailed pet care guide—noting specifics like medical conditions and dietary needs—posted near your main entrance



## Giving Today

# IRA Charitable Distributions

### TAX SAVINGS IN RETIREMENT

Retirees who have saved in tax-advantaged 401(k) or IRA accounts, and take distributions from those accounts, know that they are generally taxable (except Roth IRAs). However, depending on your birth year, you must take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) at a certain age—as young as 73—or face penalties.

The good news is that you don't pay taxes on RMDs from a Traditional IRA (and certain other IRA types) if that distribution is directed to a charity, making it a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD). The same can be achieved from a 401(k) if it is first rolled over into a traditional IRA account, and then the donation is made.

This has become a very popular way to achieve significant tax savings in any given year, and generously support the charities you care about, like AAVS.

Importantly, your QCD must be made directly to qualified charities by the IRA trustee, and there are some limits dictated by tax laws.

At any age, you can take advantage of other tax saving ways to give, such as gifts of stock or property (see page 8) or setting up a donor-advised fund (see page 5).

What doesn't change is that AAVS needs your support today and in the future to fund our effective work for animals.



## Are You Prepared?

# Estate Planning Checklist



- ☐ **Consult** with an attorney and financial advisor to help determine your specific needs.
- ☐ **Compose** a will, or update your existing one, as necessary.
- ☐ **Establish** a living will or power of attorney, which details health care decisions in the event of your incapacitation.
- ☐ **Choose** an executor (and trustee, as applicable) who can be trusted to fulfill your intentions as detailed in your estate plans.
- ☐ **Inventory** your personal property and designate recipients.
- ☐ **Compile** and file important financial information and documents, including: bank account statements, insurance policies, deeds, living trust, tax filings, executor contact information, etc.
- ☐ **Create** a trust or agreement for the care of your companion animals, and select reliable individuals who can be entrusted to care for them.
- ☐ **Review** your estate plans on a regular basis, and update as changes necessitate.



# Planned Giving Resources

## AAVS Website

[aavs.org/plannedgiving](https://aavs.org/plannedgiving)

## Legal Documents

**FreeWill**  
[freewill.com](https://freewill.com)

**Legal Zoom**  
[legalzoom.com](https://legalzoom.com)

**Total Legal**  
[totallegal.com](https://totallegal.com)

**Law Depot**  
[lawdepot.com](https://lawdepot.com)

## For Companion Animals

### The Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law and Policy

Comprehensive resource for lay audience and legal professionals

[thebrooksinstitute.org/resources/reports-papers/estate-planning-non-human-animals](https://thebrooksinstitute.org/resources/reports-papers/estate-planning-non-human-animals)

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When making any estate plans, we encourage you to consult with an attorney to ensure that your will and its directives are valid and enforceable and accurately reflect your wishes. Designations of AAVS in your estate plans should include our EIN/Tax ID #23-0341990.

If you plan to support AAVS via your will or other means, [please let us know!](#)

## CONTACT US:

[membership@aavs.org](mailto:membership@aavs.org)  
(215) 887-0816

# About AAVS

Founded in 1883, the American Anti-Vivisection Society (AAVS) was the first nonprofit animal advocacy organization in the United States established to end the use of animals in research, testing, and education. AAVS works with students, parents, educators, other nonprofit organizations, policy-makers, the media, and members of the scientific community to legally and effectively end the use of animals in science through education, advocacy, and the development of alternative methods to animal use.

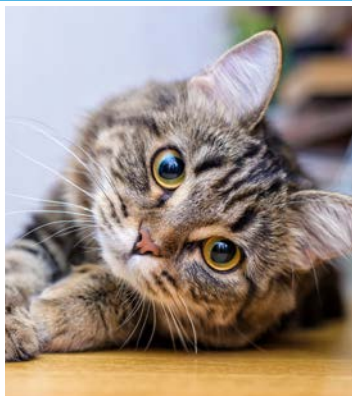
## Our activities include:

- **Advocacy**  
Empowering individuals and informing policymakers
- **Leaping Bunny**  
Connecting compassionate consumers with cruelty-free companies
- **Animalearn**  
Promoting humane science education
- **Sanctuary Fund**  
Caring for animals released from labs
- **Alternatives Research & Development Foundation**  
Our affiliate that funds development of non-animal methods in science



It is only through the generosity of our members and supporters that AAVS is able to continue its vital work on behalf of animals. Your donations, today and in the future, help to sustain our efforts. **Thank you!**





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

**Caroline Earle White**



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1-800-SAY-AAVS  
[aavs.org](http://aavs.org)

  
American Anti-Vivisection Society