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Aspen Skunk Rabies Research, Inc.

Mail to:

**5200 NW 43 Street
suite 102-333
Gainesville, FL 32606**

The Goals of our organization are:

1. Obtain U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approval for a rabies vaccine for skunks.
2. Establish a Center for Disease Control (CDC) recognized quarantine period for skunks, similar to that of dogs, cats and ferrets.
3. Act as a resource of information to individuals in each state following the completion of the testing of the vaccine and the identification of the quarantine period.

We can't do this alone. With your help, we can begin working on eradicating rabies from our corner of the world. ASRR has no paid positions. All work is done through volunteers. All money received goes toward the goals of ASRR.

Every little bit helps. Please send whatever you can. Also, please see the "Gift Shop" page on our website.

Another painless way to help is to use www.igive.com for all your on-line shopping. A percentage of your purchase price goes to whatever cause you designate. So choose 'Aspen Skunk Rabies Research' as your cause and shop at over 280 stores such as Petsmart, Spiegel, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Wal-Mart, and many more. Share this site with your friends to help even more!



**Why did this skunk
have to die?**

Please visit us at
www.aspenskunk.org

Since people have lived in America, skunks have been kept in captivity. In the early 1900s, skunk fur was the second most popular fur and exceeded the most popular fur-bearing animal (muskrat) in total value of fur produced.

With the decline in the fur industry in the latter part of the 20th century, breeders began looking for alternative ways to supplement their income. Thus began the trend toward selling skunks as pets.

However, skunks are not legal to own as pets in every state, primarily because there is no approved rabies vaccine or quarantine period for skunks. Consequently, even in states where they are legal as pets, skunks who have been raised in homes for their entire lives are at risk of being euthanized and tested for rabies should a bite occur.

In December of 1998, Aspen (pictured on front), a two year old domestic skunk of the Mills family and the 1998 Skunks as Pets Grand National Champion was euthanized because he bit someone while playing. You can read Aspen's story on our web site. At this point, the skunk community became determined to prevent the loss of any more of our beloved pets to this fate. This led to the formation of Aspen Skunk Rabies Research, Inc. (ASRR).

ASRR is dedicated to obtaining a government-approved rabies vaccine and quarantine period for skunks so that skunks, and the people who love them, can live in harmony without fear of another unnecessary death.

ASRR is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.



Pet Skunks?

Yes, believe it or not, there are actually thousands of people in the US who keep skunks in their homes as pets.



Where do these skunks come from?

Domestic skunks come from breeders, some of whom have been breeding skunks for almost 70 years.



Aren't they smelly?

No. Domestic skunks are descented, using a humane and non-surgical procedure, at a very young age similar to the way domestic ferrets are descented. Once this procedure is complete, they really have no odor.



Do skunks make good pets?

Just like dogs are not the right pet for everyone, skunks are not for everyone either. For the right owner however, skunks make wonderful pets. ASRR does encourage anybody considering getting a

skunk as a pet to research and learn about their special needs prior to making that commitment.



Is it legal to have a pet skunk?

Skunks are not legal to possess in all states. ASRR encourages you to check with your state before getting a skunk. A permit is frequently required along with proof that they were not taken from the wild. You can check the "States" page on our web site for information. But be sure to check with your own Fish and Wildlife Department to get the latest laws for your state, as these laws tend to change often and without notice.



Why would I want to help skunks?

Even without the problem of killing healthy domestic skunks for testing, rabies is a concern in every state in the U.S. Animal rehabilitators could use an approved vaccine on skunks prior to release. The vaccines used on dogs and cats in this country significantly decreased the number of rabies cases in humans. Another vaccine could only help decrease the risk even more.