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## **The 2021 Run For The Animals is Dedicated in Memory of Tommie**

**Many of you already know Tommie's story,  
but for those of you who don't,  
Tommie's story is both difficult to write and reflect upon...**



On February 10, 2019, a two year old bridle pit bull, named Choo Choo (later re-named Tommie),

was found tied to a fence at the Abner Clay Park in Richmond, Virginia.

He had been doused with a flammable liquid and set on fire.

He suffered burns to 40% of his body and sadly after five days, he succumbed to his injuries.

Richmond Animal Care and Control (RACC) made this release at the time of his passing:

*“I’m so very sorry to share that Tommie just passed away. He had just finished having his bandages changed and stopped breathing; his body simply gave out. Tommie was pain-free and surrounded by people that loved him when he passed. Needless to say, we are all devastated and angry and sad and terribly disappointed. I want to say thank you to everyone at Virginia Veterinary Center and the VCU Evans-Haynes Burn Center for loving Tommie and fighting so hard to save him ... We remain #teamtommie.*

”

Jyahshal Hill, 20, the perpetrator, took a plea agreement and the court ordered him 5 years in prison, without the possibility of parole, 3 years post-release court supervision and barred him from owning or possessing animals for his life.

Public anger and outrage over Tommie’s horrific abuse and subsequent death,

prompted Virginia law-makers to pass legislation dubbed “Tommie’s Law,” which made animal cruelty a “Class 6 Felony” in Virginia.



RACC worked to establish “Tommie’s Fund.” This fund helps with emergency medical cost at shelter s across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

RACC also worked with Delegate Jeff Bourne to get a bill introduced and passed by the V A General Assembly designating a “Team Tommie” license plate.

A portion of each plate’s annual fee goes to support Tommie’s Fund.

You can honor Tommie and help other shelter animals by donating to Tommie’s Fund at "[www.raccfoundation.org](http://www.raccfoundation.org)"

or by purchasing your "Team Tommy" license plate at [www.dmv.virginia.gov](http://www.dmv.virginia.gov).



**Run Free Tommy Y**

**We remain,**

**# Team Tommy**

