



**Animal
Rescue
Foundation**

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ARF Announces Partnership with Antioch Animal Services

Maddie's Fund invests in collaboration, supports partnership for Antioch's animals

WALNUT CREEK, California – September 28, 2016 – Antioch City Council voted on Tuesday evening to approve a Memorandum of Understanding for a partnership with Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) for one year to improve animal welfare and shelter operations at Antioch Animal Services (AAS), currently under the oversight of the city's police department.

Independent reviews of Antioch Animal Services by University of California Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program in 2014, Grand Jury Report titled Animal Shelters in Contra Costa County, Tail of Two Shelters in 2012, and Citygate Report in 2009 have yielded like recommendations and findings for improvements. ARF will provide expertise in shelter operations and guidance to make recommended changes and build framework with the goal of ensuring long-term sustainability after the 12-month period. Maddie's Fund has generously provided a grant to allow ARF to allocate resources, including staff and medical oversight, to AAS during this partnership.

"Maddie's Fund is proud to support collaborative efforts, and has a long-standing relationship with ARF. We are confident they are well-positioned to lead these efforts in Antioch," says Mary Ippoliti-Smith, member of Maddie's Fund's Executive Leadership Team.

"This is a hand-up to set our community partner on the right path towards a higher standard of care," says Elena Bicker, ARF's Executive Director, who says that the Antioch City Council will discuss AAS again in early 2017 to consider long-term solutions for the operation of its shelter. "This is the right thing to do for the animals, and we are eager to move forward together."

About ARF

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation was founded in 1991. ARF's core mission is the rescue of dogs and cats who have run out of time at public shelters, giving them a chance at life until a new home can be found. ARF couples this focus with innovative programs strengthening the human-animal bond for children, seniors, veterans, and people in disadvantaged circumstances. Through ARF, people experience the unconditional love and acceptance of dogs and cats to fulfill a mission of "People Rescuing Animals...Animals Rescuing People..."[®]
<http://www.arflife.org>

About Maddie's Fund

Maddie's Fund[®] is a family foundation created in 1994 by Workday[®] co-founder Dave Duffield and his wife, Cheryl, who have endowed the Foundation with more than \$300 million. Since then, the Foundation has awarded more than \$187.8 million in grants toward increased community lifesaving, shelter medicine education, and pet adoptions across the U.S. The Duffields named Maddie's Fund after their Miniature Schnauzer Maddie, who always made them laugh and gave them much joy. Maddie was with Dave and Cheryl from 1987 - 1997 and continues to inspire them today.

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