



**Animal
Rescue
Foundation**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2015

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ARF Emergency Medical Fund®: 20 Years of Saving Lives

WALNUT CREEK, California – March 5, 2015 – ARF is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the ARF Emergency Medical Fund® (EMF), founded in 1995 by ARF volunteers to help animals in need of critical veterinary care in Contra Costa County.

A savior to thousands of pets and their families over the past two decades, the vital community program was inspired by callers to ARF's hotline and made reality by five dedicated volunteers who initially sold crafts to raise funds. Today, EMF gives hundreds of pets the affordable veterinary care they need through ARF's clinic when their guardians lack resources to provide that care themselves.

Although the services themselves are often life-saving, low-income pet owners faced with sudden medical costs are often forced to choose between relinquishing to public shelters, or sacrificing other family necessities. ARF believes pet guardians should never have to choose between caring for themselves and caring for their pets, and is dedicated to helping keep pets out of public shelters where their lives can quickly be at stake due to overcrowding.

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..."®

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