



**Animal  
Rescue  
Foundation**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **One Cat Saves 30,000 Lives**

ARF Celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “Evie Day” on May 7



WALNUT CREEK, California – May 6, 2015 – ARF is remembering a special cat who took a wrong turn 25 years ago at the Oakland Coliseum and became a catalyst for saving lives.

On May 7, 1990, at a televised baseball game between the Oakland Athletics and the New York Yankees, a stray tortoiseshell cat wandered onto the playing field in search of food, stopping play and capturing the attention of the roaring crowd. Tony La Russa, then-manager for the Oakland Athletics, coaxed her into the dugout, and he and his wife Elaine took responsibility for finding “Evie” a home. To their dismay, not a single animal shelter in the area could take her in, leaving her with no chance for survival. They were inspired to take action, and less than a year later with the help of other animal lovers, they co-founded ARF.

Today, more than 30,000 dogs and cats have been saved as Evie’s legacy since that inspiring moment on the ballfield.

“Anyone who opens their home to an adopted pet from ARF or generously supports our life-saving work continues Evie’s legacy,” says Executive Director, Elena Bicker. “Evie started it, and the La Russa’s dreamt it, and together we make a difference...one animal at a time.”

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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