



Tony La Russa's
**Animal
Rescue
Foundation**

What is ARF?

The catalyst for Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) came on May 7, 1990 at a televised baseball game between the Oakland Athletics and the New York Yankees. In the middle of a lively inning and amidst cheers from spectators, a stray tortoiseshell cat took a wrong turn and suddenly found herself on the playing field.

Trapped in the enormous Oakland Coliseum and frightened by the roar of the crowd, the frantic cat dashed around the field, desperately leaping at any means of escape and eluding the players and umpires who tried to capture her. Panicked and unable to find a way out, she slinked towards the infield, exhausted from her ordeal. Tony La Russa, then-manager for the Oakland Athletics, coaxed her gently into the A's dugout where she would spend the rest of the game in safe confines.

Tony and his wife Elaine, a life-long animal advocate, were dismayed to learn there was not a single no-kill shelter in the East Bay region of the San Francisco Bay Area. When they discovered the little cat would likely be euthanized at any shelter they surrendered her to, they exhausted every lead in hopes of finding a safe haven. At long last, they were able to place "Evie" - named after Oakland A's team owner, Evie Haas - in a permanent, loving home where she could live out her natural life.

The experience awakened Elaine and Tony to the realization of the desperate circumstances in besieged public animal shelters and the plight of homeless dogs and cats, and inspired them to take action. They co-founded ARF in 1991 with the goal of rescuing dogs and cats before they ran out of time at high-kill shelters.

Through ARF's website, Resource & Referral Center, events, national deployment team, and model programs, ARF provides resources and leadership to inspire learning and save lives across the nation. As ARF's national impact grows, ARF is developing strong partnerships with a number of local and national corporations that have identified mutually beneficial ways to promote ARF's message.

ARF's 37,700 square foot, state-of-the-art headquarters which opened in August 2003 is the realization of a long-held dream. In addition to expanding local life-saving services, ARF's building houses innovative programs bringing the healing touch of animals to people in need. ARF's home serves as a destination center for the community, as well as a national model, providing a resource for people of all ages to enjoy positive interactions with animals.

Organization Information:

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