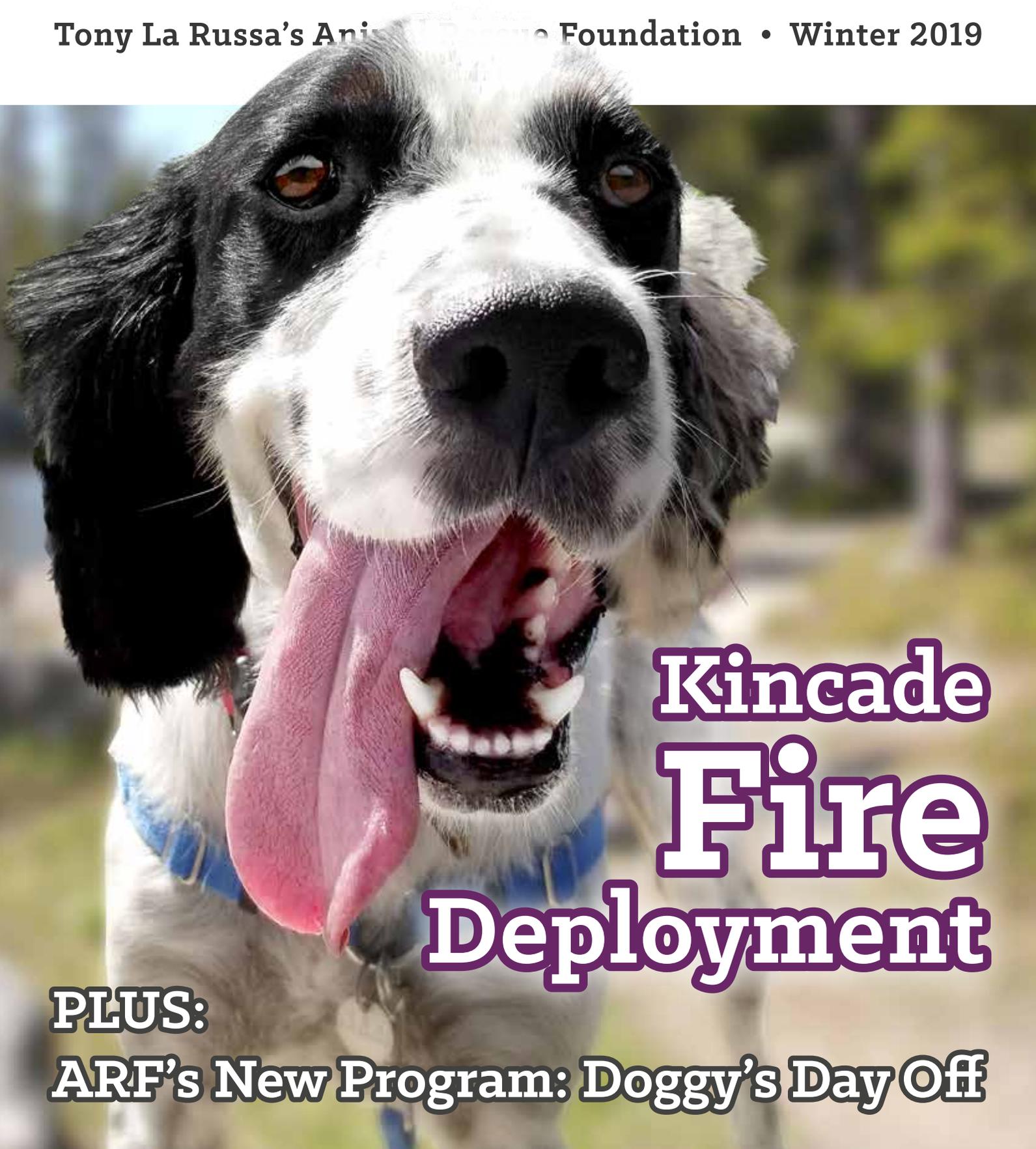




# PawsPress

Tony La Russa's Animal Welfare Foundation • Winter 2019



## Kincade Fire Deployment

**PLUS:**

**ARF's New Program: Doggy's Day Off**

## CAMPAIGN FOR PETS AND VETS

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Construction is now underway on ARF's new 7,893 square foot Pets and Vets center, which will serve as a safe harbor for veteran-dog teams to train, gather, learn, and socialize. It will also serve as a training space to onboard partner shelters to bring the Pets and Vets program to their local communities.

Additionally, ARF's animal care expansion has begun to add 30 additional dog runs, saving hundreds more dogs each year. This will help ARF serve the increasing number of veterans on our waiting list seeking potential service dogs.

All new gifts or pledges to the Campaign for Pets and Vets will be tripled until December 31, or until matching monies expire, thanks to the generosity of the Engelstad Family Challenge.

To join us, learn more about the campaign, or to make a gift, please visit our website at [arflife.org/campaign](http://arflife.org/campaign). 🐾



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**“With a waiting list of veterans and a shortage of space for housing dogs and training, I’m asking for your support.”**

**Tony La Russa, ARF Co-Founder**

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### ON THE COVER: JET

Jet is an incredibly handsome English Setter mix who charmed every volunteer and employee during his time at ARF, mostly with his goofy antics and puppy-esque energy.

Now living in Los Angeles, Jet's new family told us, "Jet's such a great dog! The kids love him and he's adjusted to our house very fast. He's so well-trained too!"

## KEET MAKES A COMEBACK

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It takes a tough kitty to bounce back from the maladies Keet had when ARF rescued her — upper respiratory infection, skin mites,

gastrointestinal irritation, and a wounded eye. However, ARF's veterinary team dove into action.

Despite her eye being surgically removed and needing daily medication to fight infection, Keet still purred whenever she saw the smiles of her foster family. In fact, she loved them so much that they couldn't bear to part with her when she was healed, so she joined the family permanently! 🐾



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks to the overwhelming support of the ARF community, we are less than \$100,000 away from our goal of \$18.7 million for Pets and Vets.



The remarkable response to the Campaign for Pets and Vets has allowed us to break ground on the new Pets and Vets center, as well as our animal care department expansion. A solar array was the first project to be completed, and it is already reducing ARF's energy costs and carbon footprint.

These developments are invaluable in our efforts to save more dogs and veterans in need. In addition to providing a dedicated training space for veterans and their dogs, the expansion will also allow us to onboard other shelters to the Pets and Vets program. We are establishing relationships to bring Pets and Vets to shelters across the country. These shelters are at various stages of engagement as we prepare for the completion of the expansion in 2020.

In an effort to make psychiatric service dogs more accessible to veterans in need, we also provided guidance at Capitol Hill on bill HR 4305. Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH) sought ARF's input while drafting the bipartisan legislation, known as the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) for Veteran Therapy Act. This bill would fund a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pilot program for veterans with PTSD or

other service-related mental health challenges to train their own service dogs. We are thrilled that our recommendation to focus on programs that have veterans participating in positive-reinforcement training of their own service dogs was incorporated.

Passage of this bill would mark a significant milestone, as the VA does not currently provide funding for veterans to receive psychiatric service dogs. On page seven or online at [arlife.org/campaign](http://arlife.org/campaign), you can read more about the incredible impact service dogs are having not only on the graduates from our Pets and Vets program, but their entire families. Our country has a waitlist of veterans seeking the benefits of a psychiatric service dog, so the passage of this bill would be a huge step to support the well-being of both veterans and dogs.

In other news, we recently released our annual report for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. You may see highlights on pages 14-15. To see the full annual report online, please visit [arlife.org/financials](http://arlife.org/financials). I hope you will take a look at what we've accomplished together, because none of this would be possible without supporters like you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elena".

Elena Bicker



*Pets and Vets graduate Johnny practicing pressure therapy with his service dog, Thor.*

# Stars to the Rescue XXIX

Tickets available Dec. 4  
(925) 943-SHOW

The Lesher Center for the Arts • Walnut Creek, CA

Saturday, January 18 • 7 pm

featuring

# TRACE ADKINS

members of

## Trans-Siberian Orchestra

## ELAYNE BOOSLER

## PACIFIC MAMBO ORCHESTRA

For more information, visit [arflife.org/events](http://arflife.org/events)

Special thanks to **diablo** and *Maria Maria*  
MAGAZINE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PUPPY SOCIAL CLASS



Every Wednesday & Sunday  
ARF Headquarters • Walnut Creek, CA

These weekly classes for puppies 10-20 weeks old are the ultimate resource for new dog guardians.

### WINTER CAMP ARF



December 26-27 & January 2-3  
ARF Headquarters • Walnut Creek, CA

Give your young animal-lover an unforgettable winter break with a couple days at Camp ARF!

### YAPPY HOUR



Thursday, February 13  
ARF Headquarters • Walnut Creek, CA

A pre-Valentine's night for 21+ of local beer, tasty treats, and endless photo ops with ARF animals.

## A BIRTHDAY PARTY TO REMEMBER!

ARF birthday parties are a paw-some way to celebrate your child's special day! ARF offers two-hour party packages for ages 4 to 12 with fun, age-appropriate activities for all animal-lovers. Each party includes plush animal party favors, a guided tour, and a visit to our interactive Learning Center. Best of all, each guest will have a chance to meet and greet one of ARF's amazing Pet Hug Pack® therapy animals! 🐾



**“To this day, our daughter’s favorite birthday party was the one we threw for her at ARF!”**

**Aaron and Jessica, ARF Supporters**

A promotional graphic for 'Yappy Hour at arf'. On the left is a white drink cup with a pink paw print on it. To the right of the cup, the text 'YAPPY HOUR AT arf' is written in large, bold, pink-outlined letters. Further right, in a pink-bordered box, the text reads 'PUPPIES. KITTENS. DRINKS. SMILES.' Below that, in another pink-bordered box, it says 'THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 • 6:00 PM' and 'AGES 21+ • ARFLIFE.ORG'. The background is a teal and blue gradient with white paw prints.

See more at [arflife.org/calendar](https://arflife.org/calendar)

### WINE & WHISKERS - STL



Wednesday, April 1  
Busch Stadium • St. Louis, MO

Celebrate the start of baseball season with Tony La Russa at Busch Stadium's Redbird Club.

### BUSINESS OF SAVING LIVES



Saturday, April 18  
ARF Headquarters • Walnut Creek, CA

Animal welfare professionals nationwide are in attendance at this informative one-day conference.

### ANIMALS ON BROADWAY



Sunday, May 17  
Broadway Plaza • Walnut Creek, CA

Paws hit the pavement for ARF's annual outdoor festival celebrating the human-animal bond.

## FOUR THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SPAY/NEUTER

- 1 It will save you money.** Licensing your pets is less expensive if they are spayed or neutered, and you'll have less veterinary bills to worry about in the future. Spaying/neutering reduces the chance of cancer or infection of the reproductive tract.
- 2 It's easier to find someone to care for your pet.** Most boarding and day care facilities require pets 6 months or older to be fixed.
- 3 Your pet will be safer.** Unaltered pets are more likely to roam and get into fights. Even if your unneutered boy is docile, his scent can cause other males to act aggressively. Intact female dogs, in heat or not, can attract a lot of relentless attention, which could cause your dog to get overwhelmed or fight off unwelcome advances.



- 5 You'll be saving the lives of homeless pets.** Getting your animal spayed or neutered is the most effective way to prevent pregnancy, which helps reduce overcrowding and euthanasia at shelters. Fixing one pet has the potential to prevent hundreds of kittens or dozens of puppies. 🐾



Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation is a proud recipient of funding from Maddie's Fund®, a national family foundation established by Dave and Cheryl Duffield to revolutionize the status and well-being of companion animals.

**#ThanksToMaddie**



## EARL THE SURPRISE FLUFF



Sometimes adopting a shelter pet is like a box of chocolates — you never know what you're gonna get! Earl's family thought they were bringing home a fairly petite guy with short-to-medium-length hair. After a few months in the home, it became apparent that his luxurious fur just wasn't going to stop growing!

Now *that's* what we call a fluffy cat! 🐾

**"We're so glad we brought Earl home. So much floof!"**

**Rachel, ARF Adopter**

# PETS AND VETS: LETTERS TO SERVICE DOG HEROES

Sometimes even heroes need heroes. Purina Dog Chow® and ARF invited three families of Pets and Vets graduates to write letters to their service dog heroes.



Dear Laramie,

*I don't know how else to say it: You saved my dad's life. Before we met at ARF, something seemed to be missing. But your presence changed everything. Your wagging tail acts as a warm, calming heartbeat during my dad's sudden panic attacks.*

*Thanks to you, my father no longer has to live in fear every moment he walks outside the confines of our home. Our weekly trips to the grocery store are no longer anxiety-filled missions.*

*I know we rescued you from a previous life of abandonment and mistreatment, but at the same time, you have rescued us from living our lives in constant trauma.*

*-Andy, Sergio's son*



Dear Finnegan,

*When Ethan made the commitment to serve in the military, he risked his physical and emotional wellbeing to make the world safer for everyone. Ethan's three deployments left scars on his body and his mind. You are the best medicine. Because of you, he laughs more and is able to leave the house. He trusts you completely, and you have opened the world up to him again.*

*Before we had you, there were times when I feared he would end his life. I don't have to worry about that anymore. Your love and dedication has saved Ethan and for that I will be forever grateful. I don't know you ended up in a shelter, but I'm so glad that ARF found you there and connected you with us.*

*-Suzi, Ethan's wife*

**“These service dogs help more than just veterans. They save entire families.”**

**Merritt, Pets and Vets Program Manager**



Dear Katie,

*Thank you so much for helping my father, Davey! Ever since he got you, you have made him a happier person, more open and energetic. And you have made him get out of the house more often. You are such a wonderful service dog. When my father has pains, you make him laugh and smile. He adores you very much, and I do, too.*

*-Sadie, David's daughter*

See the videos of these incredible Pets and Vets teams at [dogchow.com/service](https://dogchow.com/service), or learn more about how you can help in Saving Both Ends of the Leash® at [arflife.org/campaign](https://arflife.org/campaign). 🐾

# MIRACLE PUPPIES

Before Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Martha, and Abigail were born, they were in a fight for their lives. Their mom, a brown Chihuahua mix, was living on the streets when she was found in active labor. A good Samaritan immediately recognized something was wrong; the small dog was having complications with the delivery. She was rushed to an emergency veterinary hospital. Tragically, the mom was unable to survive ... but her puppies did.

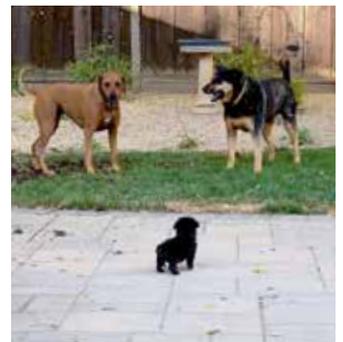
The five pups were transferred to a public shelter, but the shelter knew the chances of newborn puppies surviving without their mother was slim. Luckily, one of their dedicated volunteers was able to provide a temporary home.

To everyone's surprise, these five pups not only all survived — they thrived! The volunteer's own dogs provided critical socialization, and the litter of kittens she was also fostering were similarly-sized playmates and cuddle companions.

Soon, the day came when the volunteer needed to bring the puppies back to the public shelter. Despite their best attempts, the shelter had been unable to secure another foster home that could provide the



necessary care. At only 4 weeks old and without the antibodies from mother's milk, these puppies were still extremely vulnerable.



# DEFY THE ODDS



**“Only a week later, this shelter discovered dozens of their dogs had canine influenza. If ARF wasn’t available to care for these puppies, they would have been at tremendous risk for contracting the disease.”**

***LJ, ARF Community Programs Coordinator***

Luckily, ARF’s team arrived the same day the volunteer was returning them. “When we heard the litter didn’t have another foster home to go to, we rescued these fragile puppies,” explains Laura Jean (LJ), ARF’s Community Programs Coordinator. “Only a week later, this shelter discovered dozens of their dogs had canine influenza. If ARF wasn’t available to care for these puppies, they would have been at tremendous risk for contracting the disease.”



Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Martha, and Abigail beat unimaginable odds thanks to the dedication and commitment of compassionate people. We are excited to share they continue to thrive in their new homes. 🐾



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: *Glenda Smith*

Glenda Smith's path as a volunteer has also been a path of healing. "My daughter, Heather, loved animals and worked at a shelter. She passed away in 2011 from lymphoma," explains Smith. "I started volunteering at ARF to honor Heather's memory."

Glenda helped at ARF's headquarters initially, but soon found her calling through fostering. "Now I've been fostering for six years," says Smith. "Each litter has its challenges — from bottle feedings to upper respiratory infections (URI) — but I have learned so much."

Some of the kittens Glenda has raised would have been too vulnerable to survive in an overcrowded shelter. ARF is able to rescue young kittens thanks to volunteers like Glenda, who provide loving care in a home environment. "I didn't think one of our little foster kittens, Peanut, was going to make it," remembers Smith. "She had an URI, eye infection, and wouldn't eat, but eventually she pulled through! Imagine my surprise when her eye infection cleared up, and I discovered she had one blue and one green eye!" 🐾

**"I started volunteering to honor Heather's memory ... Each of our foster litters have touched my heart"**

**Glenda, ARF Foster Volunteer**



*Glenda is well-known for knitting adorable, little hats for her foster kittens.*



**PURINA**

From food to litter, we're proud to support the pets of Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation



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## KEROUAK ON THE ROAD



After a long day of driving, a San Francisco MUNI bus driver found a scared Dachshund at the back of the bus. He was leashed to a backpack with a note reading, "I need a home." Unable to take him in, she took Kerouac to a local San Francisco public shelter — where he crossed paths with ARF's rescue team.

Once introduced into ARF's quieter, less crowded facility, the shy Dachshund quickly blossomed. As volunteers took Kerouac on walks and read books to him in his condo, they almost didn't recognize the scared pup found on a bus. Before long, Kerouac left our building alongside a loving family, who went on to tell us, "He's so sweet, so playful, and already so smart! And since we don't have any other pets, we're making sure he gets extra spoiled!" Sounds like that's the perfect ending to Kerouac's time on the road. 🐾

# DOGGY'S DAY OFF

## SHORT-TERM FOSTERING, LONG-TERM SUCCESS



Oftentimes, a dog's real personality doesn't start to shine until after they leave the shelter environment. ARF is always looking for innovating ways to help animals reach their full potential. By letting dogs get some time away from ARF, we can get a better idea of what type of home or lifestyle they might be best suited for and pair them up with a great adopter. That's why we started Doggy's Day Off (DDO), a new, short-

term foster program for adoptable dogs to spend a day or two out on the town alongside a volunteer. For people who aren't ready for a full-time pet, it's a great opportunity to squeeze a little doggy time into your busy schedule — a real win-win!

Your day off could be a nice hike, a run through the suburbs, cuddling on the couch watching a movie, or just a sleepover! Activities like these give our dogs a chance to relieve shelter stress and receive exposure to potential adopters in the community. Speaking of exposure, we encourage our DDO foster volunteers to post fun photos and videos on social media to help spread the word about their adoptable pup!

If you want to help our dogs as a short-term foster, sign up for an orientation at [arflife.org/foster](http://arflife.org/foster). 🐾

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**“Sometimes, just a little time away from the shelter can do wonders for the attitude and health of a dog.”**

***Bob, ARF Animal Care Manager***

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## TRIBUTE GIFTS

We are pleased to recognize tribute gifts of \$250 or more, which offer a special opportunity to remember a loved one, recognize an accomplishment, celebrate a special occasion, or thank a friend or colleague.

This listing recognizes gifts received 6/16/19 to 9/30/19. Gift dates may vary due to data entry and press lead time. If you have any questions about our tribute listings please email Lynn at [ltakahashi@arflife.org](mailto:ltakahashi@arflife.org). To make a tribute gift, please visit [arflife.org/honor](http://arflife.org/honor). 🐾

### IN HONOR OF

**Andy and Donna's 40th Anniversary**

*Glenn and Diane Colacurci*

**Dr. Kris Bruskiwicz**  
*Joan Balzarini-Robbins*

**Dr. Stacey Holz**  
*Joan Balzarini-Robbins*

**Irma Voorhees**  
*Richelle and Vince*

**Leo Martignoni's time and service at Bank of America**

*Bank of America*

**Michele McKay McCoy**  
*Nancy M. and Kevin Truitt*

**Milo and Skyler**  
*Joan Balzarini-Robbins*

**Victoria Silva**  
*Susan Hopkins*

### IN MEMORY OF

**Bev Greenbaum**  
*Janelle and Barry Clark*

**Bill Wintersteen**  
*Eric and Carol Benson*

**Booey**  
*Molly Sullivan and Mike Fisher*

**Brandy**  
*Carol Rosenberg*

**Carson**  
*Joan Balzarini-Robbins*

**Cassie Manchen**  
*Stephanie and Frank Manchen*

**Cristino Vicerra Jr**  
*Alyce Oshea*

**Duchess - Summer's Sweet Kitty**

*Steven and Karin Chase*

**Edith J. Price and Roland**  
*Lindsay McCrea*

**Eric LaPat**  
*Susan and Susan LaPat*

**Gracie**  
*Steven C. and Diane Parrish*

**Guy Corynen**  
*Jane Thacker*

**Jane "Choo" Downing Harker**  
*Doug Harker*

**Lareta Shaffner**  
*Fred Shaffner*

**Leo Kieny**  
*Violet Golden*

**Louise Mandel**  
*Linda Goldstone, Buddy & Sondi Goldstone and Paula & Steve Arnold*

**Mary Louise Strathmeyer**  
*Patricia Strickland*

**Matt Leber**  
*Ray Minahan*

**Mattie**  
*Kris Byrne*

**Norm Kirshen**  
*Joan Balzarini-Robbins*

**Olivia**  
*Steven C. and Diane Parrish*

**Oona**  
*Shelley Spaner*

**Robert Armanasco**  
*Frank Fantino  
Stephen C. and Patricia A.  
Schott Foundation*

**Rocky**  
*Paul Hammer*

**Sienna**  
*Ariel Owen*

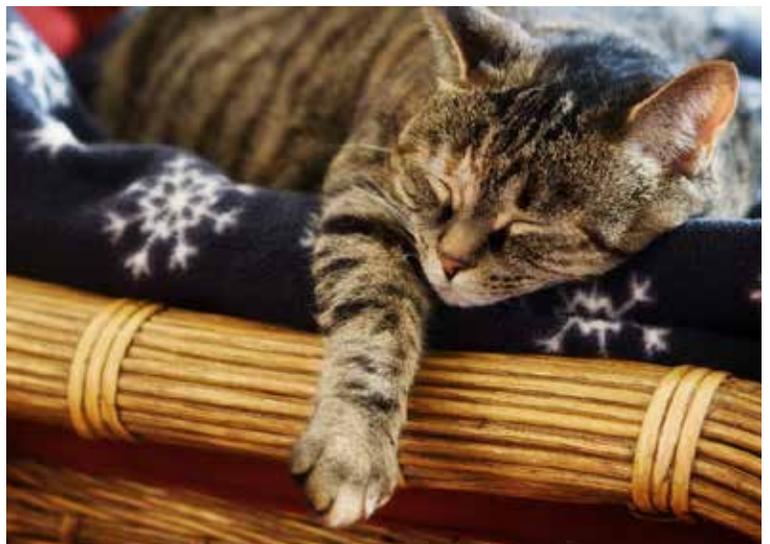
**Simba Wilk**  
*Marsha and Richard  
Servetnick*

**Willow McDonald**  
*Marsha and Richard  
Servetnick*

## WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

Thanks to the enduring commitment of many friends, ARF continues to enhance its programs to bring animals and people together. Legacy gifts provide meaningful support, while fulfilling your wishes and financial goals. Gifts may include bequests, life insurance, retirement plans, IRAs, and more. Your legacy offers a lasting promise of hope for so many animals and people in need.

We invite you to join ARF's legacy society, Circle of Compassion, by letting us know if you have included ARF in your estate planning so we may express our appreciation. We would be happy to speak to you personally about how you can provide a lifeline to animals in need for generations to come.



For more information or a free estate planning guide, visit [arflegacy.org](http://arflegacy.org). 🐾

# ARF DEPLOYS DISASTER RELIEF TEAM TO KINCADE FIRE



Immediately before we went to press with the 2019 winter Paws Press magazine, ARF's disaster relief team deployed twice to the Sonoma County's Kincade Fire. So far, 45 shelter dogs and cats have been rescued and brought to ARF. This marks the third straight year our relief efforts have been necessary during major wildfires in California.

In 2017 and 2018, our team sourced and delivered supplies to fire-affected areas, provided critical medical supplies such as burn cream and bandages, sent veterinary staff to assist with burned and injured animals, as well as rescued animals from shelters within evacuation areas.

To make a donation to support disaster relief efforts, please visit [arflife.org/disaster-relief](http://arflife.org/disaster-relief). 🐾



## IS ARF YOUR DREAM JOB?

Is donating, adopting, or volunteering not enough to satiate your love of ARF? As we expand and our programs grow, so do our personnel needs. That's why we're always looking for passionate people to bring their talents to the ARF team!

ARF currently has open positions at our headquarters in the California Bay Area in a wide variety of departments, from development to dog training! Check out the full list of openings and job descriptions at [arflife.org](http://arflife.org) and find your dream job. 🐾



Adoption Specialist

Chief Administrative  
Officer

Medication Specialist

Animal Care Specialist

Events Manager

Public Dog Trainer

Training Coordinator

Annual Giving Manager

Humane Education Specialist

Veterinary Assistant/  
Receptionist

Apply online at [arflife.org/careers](http://arflife.org/careers)



Mia • Pets and Vets Adopted June 4, 2019

It's been an incredible year, thanks to you!

**2,632**  
cats and dogs adopted

**98,862**  
hours volunteered

**3,987**  
spay and neuter  
surgeries performed

**124**  
animals rescued from  
Northern CA wildfires



Sidra • Adopted October 18, 2018



Riley • Adopted March 16, 2019

**424**  
pets avoided surrender to  
public shelters through  
our Pet Safety Net

**13,363**  
participants in  
youth programs

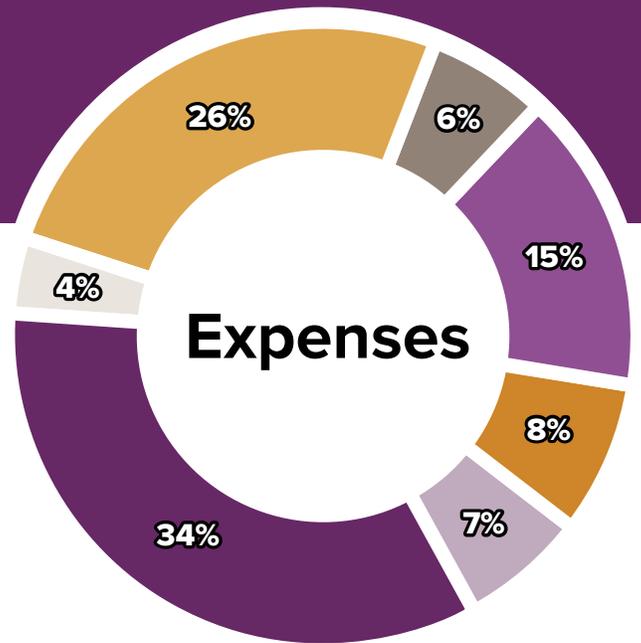
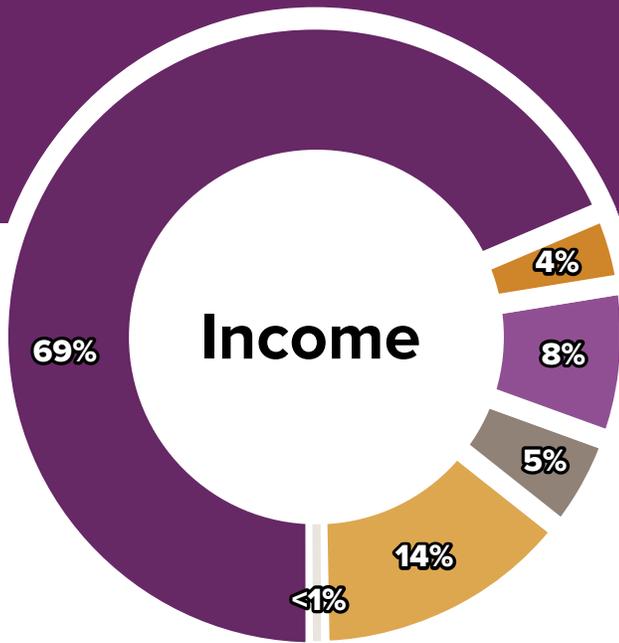
**255,793**  
lbs. of cat and dog food  
donated by  **PURINA**

**71,210**  
people comforted by  
Pet Hug Pack®



Pancake & Waffle • Adopted May 12, 2019

# 2018 - 2019 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIALS



Individual Donations & Bequests	\$8,265,997
Corporations & Foundations	\$442,700
Fees	\$988,735
Sales	\$595,353
Special Events (net)	\$1,716,897
Other	\$30,926
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,040,608</b>

Animal Care & Adoptions	\$2,818,478
Training	\$320,553
Veterinary Clinic	\$2,162,945
Humane Education	\$506,804
Community Outreach	\$1,269,161
Fundraising	\$651,751
Administration	\$556,629
Program Development Fund	\$3,754,287
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,040,608</b>

For an in-depth look at all of ARF's fiscal year statistics, visit [arlife.org/financials](http://arlife.org/financials)

## A responsible steward of your giving.



#1 celebrity-related charity  
by Charity Navigator



Charity Navigator's  
highest 4-star rating



85¢ of every dollar goes  
directly to programs



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# People Rescuing Animals ... Animals Rescuing People®

## CAMPAIGN FOR PETS AND VETS



*President of ARF's Board of Directors Gregory McCoy, Co-Founders Elaine and Tony La Russa, Executive Director Elena Bicker, Pet Hug Pack® therapy dog Mia, and Campaign for Pets and Vets Chairman Jim Heim break ground on the new Pets and Vets center. Learn more about how you can help in Saving Both Ends of the Leash® on page two or at [arflife.org/campaign](http://arflife.org/campaign)*