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Animal Rescue Foundation Opens

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WALNUT CREEK (KRON) -- It took \$16 million and a decade of work, but Tony La Russa's "Animal Rescue Foundation" or ARF, for short, opened to the public this afternoon in Walnut Creek. And there was already a mob of people looking for pets to adopt.

Video On Demand

 [Animal Rescue Foundation Opens](#)

Locals brag this is the most amazing pet facility in the world. Inside the nearly 38,000-square-foot building are animals that were about to be put down. It's where the hopeful faces of children are met by the hopeful faces of pets.

This was baseball giant Tony La Russa's idea a decade ago and people lined up to see it for a chance to let their hearts melt.

Every pet here was in a shelter in its last day of life until it was rescued by ARF. It's hard to believe that a newborn puppy could be euthanized, but it happens all the time.

At the Animal Rescue Foundation, there are no normal pound smells. You don't hear non-stop barking. Adoptions, they say, skyrocket in a \$16 million atmosphere.

ARF executive officer Brenda Barnette says, "They come here and see the animals in this home-like atmosphere. It's fun, it's cheerful, [it's] what it's like to have them in their home."

The foundation still needs \$6 million to pay off its construction debt. And it needs volunteers to drop by and play with the animals.

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