



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TONY LA RUSSA'S ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION NAMES A NEW LEADER**

*Brenda F. Barnette named as new Chief Executive Officer*

WALNUT CREEK, California – June 16, 2003 – After a six-month nation-wide search, Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) announced the hiring of its new Chief Executive Officer, Brenda F. Barnette. Ms. Barnette steps in for ARF's previous Executive Director David Stegman, who resigned in January 2003. Ms. Barnette will assume all responsibilities for the day-to-day running of the organization. Ms. Barnette's new responsibilities are effective immediately.

With a life-long passion for animals, Ms. Barnette brings with her over three decades of involvement in the animals welfare movement. Prior to joining ARF, Ms. Barnette held the position of Executive Director for Pets in Need (PIN), a San Francisco peninsula-based shelter. During her five years at PIN, Ms. Barnette tripled the organization's adoption numbers and partnered with public shelters in the central valley to implement a regional rescue program. Before PIN, Ms. Barnette was Development Director of the San Francisco SPCA for seven years, where she provided fundraising leadership to build the Maddie's Pet Adoption Center.

The Board of ARF is pleased to make this announcement and looks forward to Ms. Barnette leading the organization well into the future, as well as into its soon-to-open 37,000 square foot building that is being built on 6 ½ acres in Walnut Creek. ARF's new shelter will offer expanded space for ARF's efforts to rescue and rehabilitate abandoned animals as well as developing positive relationships between people and animals with its people-connect programs.

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