



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2005

Contact:
Elena Bicker
925.296.3116
ebicker@arf.net

**ARF LENDS A PAW TO DOGS AND CATS
ORPHANED BY HURRICANE KATRINA**

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation Active in Hurricane Relief Efforts

WALNUT CREEK, California – September 14, 2005 – In an effort to help the thousands of dogs and cats left homeless by the tragic events of Hurricane Katrina, Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) has fully immersed itself in relief efforts. Ranging from direct cash donations to arranging for donated food, shampoo and supplies to offering foster care and veterinarian treatment to dogs and cats injured in the hurricane, ARF has involved itself on a variety of levels.

An initial check from ARF in the amount of \$10,000 was recently released to the School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University and represents 100% of donations currently raised from ARF's 2006 Celebrity Pet Calendar. These funds will help provide loving care and shelter for pets until these animals can be reunited with their families displaced by Hurricane Katrina and ARF expects an additional \$10,000 to be mailed by the end of September.

Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, one of ARF's corporate partners and sponsor of ARF's Celebrity Pet Calendar has donated more than 150 tons of Purina pet food while Safeway Inc. ARF's All Stars™ program sponsor recently delivered three pallets of NutraBalance pet food to the Baton Rouge area, with another truck already enroute.

Additionally in conjunction with Noah's Wish a California non-profit emergency and disaster animal care agency, ARF has become the East Bay drop location for donated pet supplies for the abandoned and injured dogs and cats left orphaned as a result of Hurricane Katrina in the flood ravaged southern United States. These products which include crates, towels, buckets, detergent and medicinal items will be trucked directly to the Louisiana animal welfare agencies.

ARF volunteers are standing by to open their homes and their hearts to foster the animals orphaned by the disaster in hopes of reuniting these pets with their families. ARF's veterinary staff will provide medical examinations and treatments for those injured before placing them in foster homes.

ARF saves the lives of loving dogs and cats who have run out of time at public shelters. ARF gives another chance at life to dogs and cats who otherwise would have been killed. ARF provides the care and attention they need, including spay or neuter surgery, until ARF finds them a new home of their own.

###