



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DR. EMILY WEISS RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation Presents Dr. Weiss with Evie Award

WALNUT CREEK, California – December 10, 2007 – Dr. Emily Weiss will be recognized with Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation's (ARF) prestigious Evie Award on Saturday, January 5 at Leshar Center for the Arts. The Evie Award is named for the cat who inspired ARF's creation and is presented each year at the Stars to the Rescue gala to an individual for their excellence in the compassionate care of companion animals. Past recipients have included Richard Avanzino of Maddie's Fund, animal and wildlife columnist, Gary Bogue; animal activist and actress, Doris Day; Dave Duffield, co-founder of Maddies Fund; and Nestle Purina PetCare Company, Inc. among others.

Dr. Weiss joined the ASPCA in July 2005 and is its senior director of shelter behavior programs. Dr. Weiss has focused her professional and personal life on improving welfare for animals. Dr. Weiss' M. S. and Ph. D. work focused on the selection of service dogs from shelters and her work then branched off in two directions – welfare of animals in zoos, and shelter programs. During her time as curator of behavior and research at Sedgwick County Zoo, Dr. Weiss also developed assessment tools for shelter animals. Dr. Weiss first developed the SAFER test, a behavior assessment used by shelters throughout the country, and then developing Meet Your Match™ Canine-ality™ and Puppy-ality™, now an ASPCA program. Recently, Dr. Weiss' work with the ASPCA has focused on the development of Feline-ality™, the first research-based adoption program for cats in shelters. Completed in late 2006, Feline-ality™ has proven to be an effective tool to decrease euthanasia, increase adoptions and decrease returns of cats in shelters. Dr. Weiss also works on developing enrichment and behavior modification programs for animals in shelters, as well as a focus on companion horses.

ARF's state-of-the-art facility 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.

ARF's People Connect programs strengthen the human animal bond for the elderly, residents of assisted living centers, teens at juvenile hall, high school students, grade school students and young children through programs that are national models of excellence. ARF programs allow people to experience the unconditional love and acceptance of dogs and cats. People rescuing Animals...Animals rescuing People...®.

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