



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 16, 2009**

**Contact:**  
**Elena Bicker**  
**925-296-3116**  
[ebicker@arf.net](mailto:ebicker@arf.net)

**MEDIA ALERT**

**TONY LA RUSSA'S ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION  
CELEBRATES ITS 10,000<sup>TH</sup> SPAY/NEUTER SURGERY**

WALNUT CREEK, California – April 16, 2009 – Please join Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) in celebrating yet another milestone in ARF's 18-year-history. On Thursday, April 16, 2009, Dr. Heather Coburn, ARF's medical director, performed ARF's 10,000<sup>th</sup> spay/neuter surgery at the organization's Lynn and Dolores McCoskey Spay/Neuter Clinic in Walnut Creek, California. "I feel an enormous sense of satisfaction that ARF is an active leader in addressing pet overpopulation with the community's support. I would love to see the day when there are no more unwanted pets in already overcrowded animal shelters. Spay/ neuter is the best component to achieving this goal", says Dr. Coburn.

In addition to the low cost spay/neuter services; ARF's clinic also supports low-income residents of Contra Costa County, California with veterinary care for their pets through ARF's Emergency Medical Fund® (EMF). Since 1995, EMF and its founding "EMF Ladies" have helped thousands of people and their cherished companions.

New to ARF's clinic is Operation FIX, with ARF veterinary clinic staff and volunteers providing free spay/neuter surgeries for ARF's existing FoodShare feral cat colony clients. To date, Operation FIX has brought altering surgeries to 28 female kitties and 30 tom cats. This pilot program will help decrease the number of homeless cats in neighborhoods and promote responsible cat guardianship. ARF's Foodshare Program provides dry cat and dog food, generously donated by Safeway Inc., to low income residents and responsible feral guardians of Contra Costa County who have spayed and neutered their animals.

Additionally, each year ARF's clinic also participates in Bay Area Pit Fix, a collaborative effort of several Bay Area animal shelters aimed at helping to control the breed's population by offering free spay/neuter surgery to pit bulls and pit bull mixes. By participating in this event ARF is helping more people and animals than ever.

ARF has rehomed more than 18,000 dogs and cats that have run out of time at public shelters with no government or state funding. ARF provides the care and attention they need, including spay or neuter surgery, until ARF finds them a new home of their own.

###