



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA ALERT**

**TONY LA RUSSA'S ANIMAL RESCUE FOUNDATION  
EARNS THIRD CONSECUTIVE 4-STAR RATING**

WALNUT CREEK, California – July 2, 2010 – Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) is pleased to announce attainment of a third consecutive four-star rating from Charity Navigator. This places ARF at a level achieved by only 14% of charities rated by the nation's premier charity evaluator.

Elena Bicker, ARF's Executive Director, states, "ARF's efficiencies allow 91 cents of every dollar is directed to our lifesaving programs, which include animal rescue and adoption, therapeutic pet visits to people of all ages, humane education for children, and low-cost spay and neuter for the community." This remarkable efficiency could not be achieved without a committed staff, supplemented by the tireless hours put in by more than 500 dedicated volunteers who are intensely involved in every aspect of the organization's work.

"...Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America. This exceptional designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust," writes Ken Berger, President & Chief Executive Officer of Charity Navigator.

Funded entirely by private donations, receiving no federal or state money, ARF saves the lives of loving dogs and cats who have run out of time at public shelters and gives another chance at life to animals who otherwise would have been killed. ARF provides the care and attention they need, including spay or neuter surgery, until a new home of their own can be found.

ARF's People Connect programs strengthen the human animal bond for the elderly, residents of assisted living centers, 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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