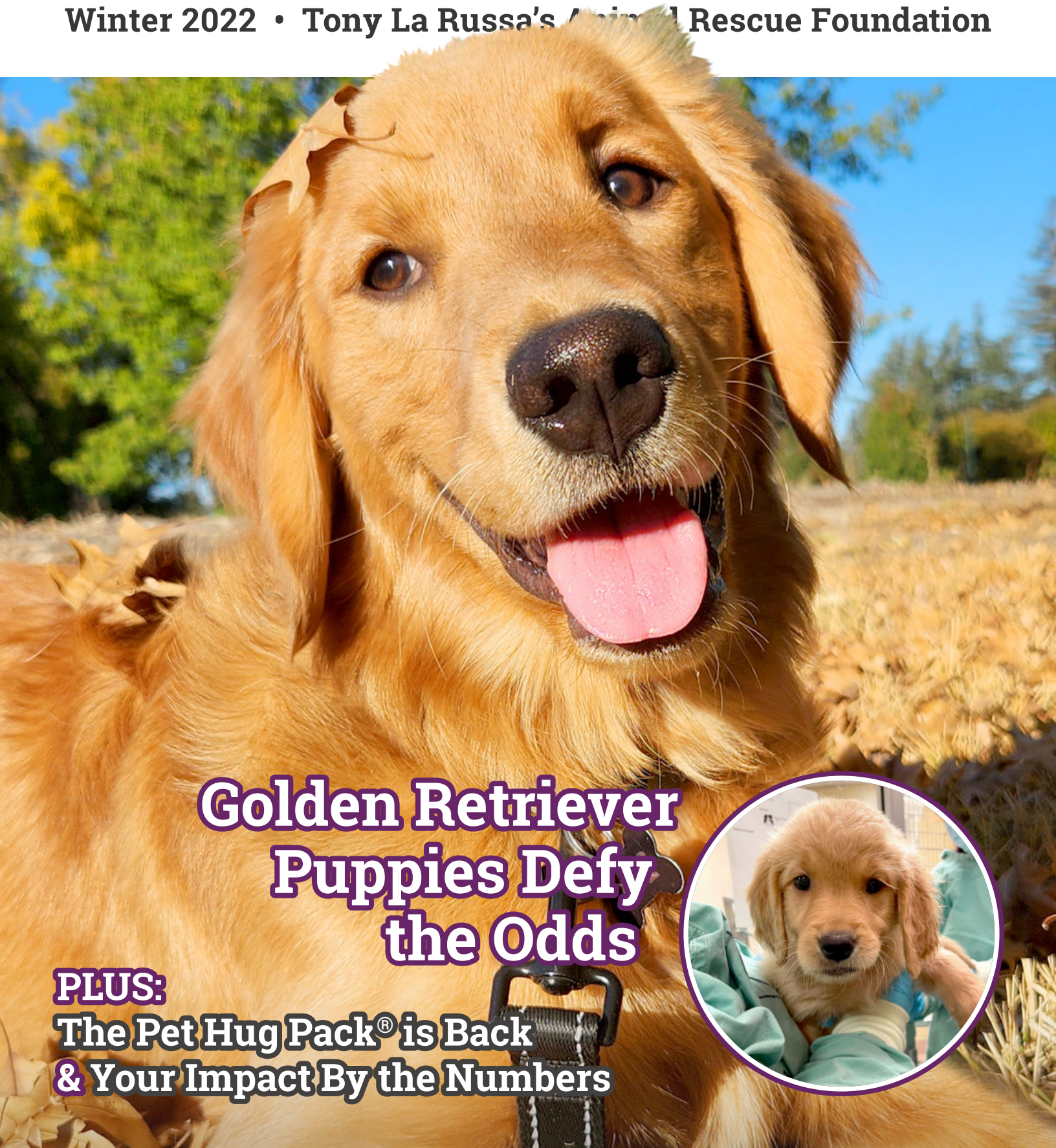




PawsPress

Winter 2022 • Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation



Golden Retriever Puppies Defy the Odds

PLUS:
The Pet Hug Pack® is Back
& Your Impact By the Numbers



KITTENS ABANDONED AT THRIFT STORE ARE HIDDEN GEMS

The ARF Thrift Store accepts drop-offs (by appointment) of many types of gently-used treasures — but kittens are not on the list of welcomed items! So store manager Doug was very surprised when a small crate of meowing fluff-balls was abandoned just inside the front door. "We're used to finding unappreciated treasures at the ARF Thrift Store," he joked to our intake team, "but they usually don't have whiskers!"

Thankfully, Doug was able to calm the distressed and extremely hungry kittens and bring them to our clinic for medical check-ups. Once in our care, they were given a clean bill of health and a nutritious meal, and the whole litter warmed up quickly — pouncing and playing in no time. It wasn't long before these extra-cute kittens found homes where they'd be treasured for good.

The ARF Thrift Store is located at 1950 Market Street in Concord, CA. If you're interested in donating items (other than kittens) or shopping the shelves for diamonds in the rough, visit arflife.org/thrift-store. All proceeds benefit the ARF Emergency Medical Fund®. 🐾

"We're used to finding unappreciated treasures at the ARF Thrift Store, but they usually don't have whiskers!"

- DOUG, ARF THRIFT STORE MANAGER



HAPPY TAILS ADOPTION UPDATES

In August of this year, a wiggly pit bull pup named Guppy was adopted at a mobile adoption event in Berkeley, CA. This brought us to an incredible milestone: 47,000 dogs and cats adopted since we opened in 1991!

Every one of those 47,000 animals still holds a place in our hearts. We never tire of updates on your ARF-adopted pet, and we know the smartphone in your pocket is full of super-cute photos of our animal alumni! Did your dog learn a new trick? Did your cat sleep in an adorable pose? Show us the proof! Submit a written blurb and your photos/videos at arflife.org/story (and view more photos on pages ten and eleven). 🐾



Guppy



Sprite (now Mrs. Jane)



Sam Wheat (now Gilbert)



Marshmallow (now Marshall)

A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ELENA BICKER

Here at ARF, we're surrounded by superheroes every day — from the Veterans we serve, to our Pet Hug Pack® therapy animals, to our incredible volunteers and staff, all the way to the newly-adopted pet who helps a grieving family heal.

Recently, we named a litter of puppies after comic book characters — some of whom even got a chance to pose with their superhero counterparts at a mobile adoption event. Little did we know that one of these pups would leap from the pages to change a young girl's life.



After a traumatic incident involving two off-leash dogs, Charlotte had become fearful of dogs. Her parents were worried they'd never be able to welcome a canine companion into their family. However, after seeing our puppies online, the family decided to come meet them.

Charlotte's family knew this wiggly, squirmy Anatolian Shepherd mix puppy would be a perfect fit for them, and — with a leap of faith — made the decision to adopt. With a new pup in the house, Charlotte began making strides in her confidence around dogs. It turns out puppy cuddles were her antidote and and it wasn't long before the two became a dynamic duo. Her



parents are thrilled Charlotte has overcome her fear. Now she asks to pet every dog she meets!

Animals seem to have a superpower in our lives — simply by being there for us. They pass no judgment, provide unconditional love, and give us purpose.

Our Pet Hug Pack® therapy animals undeniably have that superpower. Dedicated volunteers — two-legged and four-legged — have spent months relaunching this incredible program. Thanks to them, our therapy animals and their volunteer handlers are once again bringing healing to children, hospital patients, nursing home residents, and more people in need. You won't want to miss this story on page nine.

With Veterans Day recently giving us a chance to recognize the brave men and women who serve in our nation's military, we'd like to acknowledge some of those superheroes as well. Several Veterans from our Pets and Vets program recently made the trip to Las Vegas alongside Tony La Russa to share their incredible stories and the impact their dogs have had on their post-combat lives. You can read about Bruno and John — one of our inspirational Pets and Vets teams currently in training — on page six.

Finally, thank you for being a superhero! Your compassion and support are positively changing the lives of the animals and people we serve — giving them a new life chapter and heroes for their stories.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elena".

Elena Bicker, ARF Executive Director



HOW QUICK ACTION SAVED MOSS' LIFE

Originally found as a stray wandering the streets, Moss arrived at our facility with a persistent cough. Other than this symptom, which should have been easily treated with antibiotics and rest in a volunteer foster home, his gentle demeanor and perpetually-wagging tail showed signs of a happy, healthy dog. Unfortunately, further testing revealed a much more severe condition lurking below: heartworm disease.

Heartworm disease is a mosquito-borne parasite, most commonly contracted by members of the canine family. If left untreated, a heartworm infection will cause fatal damage to a dog's heart, lungs, and arteries. Treatment is effective, but challenging, requiring months of special care ranging from antibiotics and injections to eradicate the heartworms. This is all capped off with severe exercise restrictions to prevent worms from traveling

"Treatment and recovery aren't easy, but if not started quickly, heartworm disease can be fatal for dogs like Moss."

- DR. DEBBIE, ARF VETERINARIAN



through the body and obstructing blood vessels.

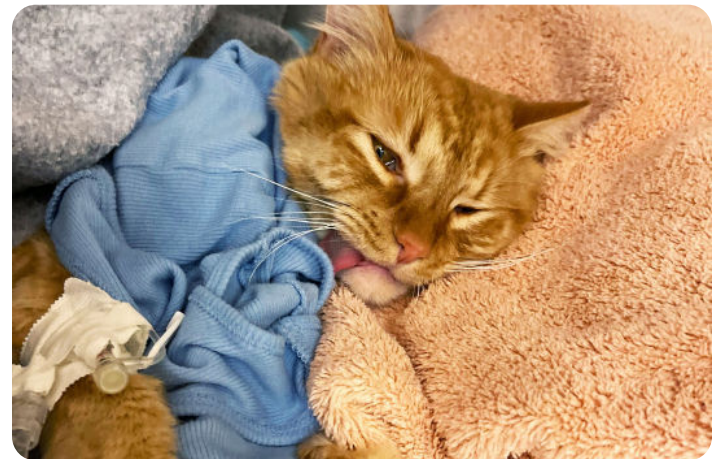
Moss immediately began treatment — including injections and antibiotics — to eradicate the heartworms. Luckily, our in-house clinic discovered his parasitic infection before it led to dire complications. Once said treatment was underway (and the outlook was positive), Moss was officially deemed ready for adoption. Our team had fallen in love with his goofy personality and soulful eyes, and it didn't take long

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR PETS IN NEED

You've likely heard about our assistance programs and our mission to keep pets out of shelters and in the care of the families who love them. From free pet food to advice and referrals to low-cost veterinary services, we offer a wide range of programs dedicated to stopping pet homelessness at the source.

Oliver had been rushed to an emergency clinic while suffering from a urinary obstruction — a potentially life-threatening condition for male cats. Oliver's family had a very difficult decision to make. They couldn't afford treatment at the emergency clinic, but the thought of euthanizing their beloved cat was unbearable. Thankfully, they reached out to our team for advice, and our dedicated veterinary staff sprang into action. Oliver's case turned out to be even trickier than expected. Every time his urinary catheter was removed, he quickly became re-blocked, and the process had to be started from scratch. It soon became apparent that he would require specialized surgery to fix this problem — surgery that was beyond the scope of our in-house clinic. But thanks to our assistance programs, Oliver was paired with a board-certified surgeon, who was able to operate on him right here in our clinic.

When you look at our impact by the numbers, "47,000+ cats and dogs adopted" isn't the whole story. There are also tens of thousands of animals who have received lifesaving care through our assistance programs, Veteran services, spay/neuter clinic, and beyond. Your support helps keep at-risk animals out of crowded



shelters and on the path toward a happy future — whether that future is in a brand new forever home or alongside the only happy family they've ever known. 🐾



for a dedicated adopter to become smitten with those same characteristics. Plus, with more than two months left on his heartworm regimen at the time of adoption,

he still returned many times for follow-up treatments, giving him a chance to stop by to say "hi" to the ARF staff who saved his life! 🐾

OUR ANIMALS' HOLIDAY LIST

Until every dog and cat has a home for the holidays, there are many different ways you can support animals in need. Holiday gifts can be shipped directly to 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

Here are some of the items our animals need most:

- Dog-safe peanut butter
- Canned spray cheese
- Interactive feeders
- High-value treats
- Low-cal training treats
- Pill pocket treats
- Ziploc bags
- Leashes
- Puppy potty pads
- Cardboard cat scratchers
- Exercise pens



Your holiday shopping can benefit the animals as well! Remember to set Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation as your AmazonSmile charity of choice and 0.5% of your Amazon purchases will be donated. Alternatively, shop for pet supplies online at Pet Food Express using the link arlife.org/help/pfe and 4% of your purchase total goes to our lifesaving mission!

Learn more about other ways to give and view our complete wish list at arlife.org/wish-list. 🐾

PURINA

From food to litter, we're proud to support the pets of Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation

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Maddie's Fund

#ThanksToMaddie

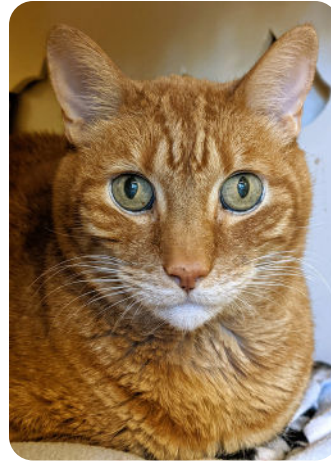
Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation is a proud recipient of funding from Maddie's Fund®, a foundation established in 1994 by Dave and Cheryl Duffield to revolutionize the well-being of companion animals nationwide.

GOOD NEWS FOR GARFIELD

When we first met Garfield, we were amazed at what a unique character he was. At 20 pounds, this larger-than-life, affectionate, orange tabby looked like he was pulled right from the cartoons (no word on how he feels about Mondays). But despite a high-quality diet and proper care, the 10-year-old cat was struggling with an upset stomach that just wouldn't go away.

Our veterinary team took Garfield to an internal medicine specialist to perform an ultrasound to find out why he was unwell. It was apparent that Garfield had inflammation throughout his gastrointestinal tract that needed more investigation. Our team feared the worse and performed a biopsy of his intestines to check for cancerous lymphomas.

Thankfully, the tests were negative for lymphoma, and we were finally able to determine that Garfield had inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). It is unknown how long he suffered from IBD, but now his symptoms are managed through anti-inflammatory medication and a



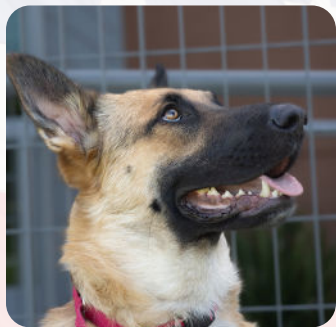
prescription diet. Although there currently isn't a cure for IBD, Garfield is thankfully now pain-free!

At many overcrowded, under-resourced shelters across the country, ultrasounds and biopsies wouldn't be feasible for a senior cat like Garfield. But thanks to supporters like you, we're able to pull out all the stops and ensure every one of our animals is given the best-possible chance to live a happy, healthy life. 🐾

BRUNO HELPS HIS VETERAN HANDLER, BOTH NIGHT AND DAY

"I was sleeping at 64% efficiency before I had Bruno. By the end of the six weeks with Bruno, I improved to 99%."

- JOHN, NAVY VETERAN



John's daughter, a psychologist for first responders, knew the incredible benefits a service animal could have for their handler. She recommended her father, a Navy Veteran, try to obtain a service animal. When John's wife heard about our Pets and Vets program at the Department of Veterans Affairs, John knew it was time to begin the process.

Our team paired John with Bruno, a 55-pound German Shepherd mix found as a stray in Tehama County. Malnourished and covered in foxtails, Bruno wasn't in great shape. But after a few weeks of loving care in a foster home, a whole new dog began showing through. And he blossomed even more once he met John.

Coincidentally, John participated in a six-week cognitive training held by the VA to test his sleep efficiency around this time. His change in sleep quality since welcoming Bruno was astounding. "I was sleeping at 64% efficiency before I had Bruno," he told us. "By the end of the six weeks with Bruno I improved to 99%." With a bed right beside John's, Bruno puts his paw on John to calm him and help him fall back asleep when he wakes in the night.

Whether out in busy, public spaces or within the confines of their home, our Pets and Vets dogs assist their partners night and day. "For a lot of us Veterans, we live a different life," John said with a smile. 🐾



GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES DEFY THE ODDS

Even at only a couple of months old, animals can be inspirational. That's certainly the case with a litter of sick golden retriever puppies who recently came into our shelter. Lethargic and underweight, these pups were in critical need of immediate medical attention. One puppy in the litter had already perished, and another was too sick and succumbed to her illness within a few hours of arrival. But we were determined!

Our clinic team quarantined the siblings, administered subcutaneous fluids to address their dehydration, and rushed into action with emergency testing. The pups tested negative for parvovirus and giardia, two deadly diseases that are not uncommon in puppies. Further testing found signs of oocysts, a clear indication of a coccidia infection. Coccidia, a parasite that lives in a dog's intestine, is extremely serious for dogs — especially for vulnerable puppies. We knew we had to act fast.

Many coccidia treatments simply interfere with the parasite's reproductive cycle, causing the infection

“Watching these special puppies go from critical condition to thriving in our care was a magical experience.”

- JENNIFER, ARF VETERINARY SERVICES ADMINISTRATOR



to die out over the course of a few weeks. But these puppies were already in dire condition, as the disease had been untreated for too long. Time was not on our side. A specialty medication was administered to provide faster relief. Throughout their treatment, the litter of puppies remained quarantined in volunteer foster homes. They gained more strength (and spunkiness) every single day. A full month after entering our care, they were healthy enough for adoption. And you better believe there was a queue of people down the block, all lined up for a chance to bring home one of these inspirational cuties. 🐾



GUARDIAN PROGRAM GIVES ZOEY A FRESH START

“My doctors have advised me to start making arrangements ... for my little dog-daughter to be cared for and loved.”

- MARTHA, ARF GUARDIAN PROGRAM MEMBER

While it may not be pleasant to think about, who will look after your pet if something were to happen to you?

Zoey Sunshine (aka Zoey) was well-loved by Martha, who sang precious lullabies to her every day. But when Martha was diagnosed with stage IV cancer, she knew she had to think of Zoey's future. “My doctors have advised me to start making arrangements so when my ‘time’ arrives, I will have prepared a place for my little dog-daughter to be cared for and loved until placement can be found for her next forever home,” Martha wrote in a heartbreaking letter to our team.

As a member of our Guardian Program, Martha named ARF a beneficiary in her will and transferred responsibility for her beloved dog to our team. Zoey was an older pup with multiple existing health issues, including seizures, but that didn't stop us from ensuring



her future was bright.

After 64 days of ongoing medical attention and loving care in a foster home, Zoey found her match. Her new family told us, “I cannot imagine our home without her. I would encourage people to consider adopting a mature dog who still has a lot of love to share.”

Zoey Sunshine found love again thanks to the proactive devotion and protection of Martha and our Guardian Program. Learn more about planning for your pet's future at arflegacy.org. 🐾

In Honor Of...

Ana and Richard,
*Cate Stetson
Jordan Weiss*

Beverly Dozier-Jones,
Shari Santos

Brittany Hom,
Ian McWhorter

Clayton and Benji,
Joan Balzarini-Robbins

Delanie Bach Norton,
Anonymous

Eddie, now Shiloh,
Robin and Peter Frazier

John and Ashley Ranelli,
James V. and Theresa A. Heim

Loretta and Bob Burnham,
Val Vandervort

Mike Huston and Marcia Cho,
Greg Hansen and Marsha Roberts

Nichole and Terrell Woodall,
Kris and Cheryl Keller

In Memory Of...

Adelaide 'Del' Griffin,
Randi and Brian Kozera

Andrea Dorothea Milani,
John and Christopher Galli

Bella, Oliver, Dexter, and Lynard,
Jazzy Gaehring

Blue Gireaud-Ferko,
Dawn and Corey Kramer

Bourbon,
Patrick and Shirley Campbell

Cali,
Stewart and Cindy Gary

Cara Mia Biondi,
Joann Biondi

Cassidie Abello,
Alana Renfro

Cha Cha,
Kate Sherman

Cocoa,
Ronald Hockensmith

Cowboy,
Jack and Jeanne Roman

Diane Eileen Vaccarello,
Fourcade Family

Diane Ewing,
*Karen and Richard Duran
Katy and Simon Tryzna*

Edith J. Price, Roland, and Hudson,
Lindsay McCrea

Fiona,
Nakita Devargas

Friendly,
David Geiger

Gabe Lulu,
Evie Viera and David Isenberg

Hunter Baine,
John Tollefson

Jasper,
Glenn and Diane Colacurci

Jim and Marty Voorhees,
David Martin

Kay Hill,
Jane and Bert Inch

KEJ,
Allan Jones

Luka,
Danny Jacobs

Michael Breault,
Don and Jeff Shannon

Mimi,
Prabavathi Rajaram

Nancy Crawford,
Jessica Almeida

Owen Vander Zanden,
Jennifer Maher and Lisa DeZordo

Patricia Wells,
Stanley Wells

Penny G.,
Michael and Danielle Gobbell

Pepi, Bandi, Candi, and Indy,
Donna Maionchi

Perry,
Kimberlea Gray

Piotr Ilych,
Edward Leiter

Porsche,
Stacey and Keith Tsuchiya

Ricky and the Five Kittens,
Kathleen Edmonds

Samantha,
Elaine Pico

Samson,
Fran and Carl Kolich

Scott MacLeod,
Anonymous

Shadow,
Andrea Ramirez

Virgil Lown,
Elizabeth McCrory

TRIBUTE GIFTS

We are pleased to recognize tribute gifts of \$250 or more, which offer a special opportunity to remember a loved one, recognize an accomplishment, celebrate a special occasion, or thank a friend or colleague.

This edition includes tribute gifts received between May 1, 2022 and September 30, 2022. For more information, contact giving@arflife.org. 🐾

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Tracy Gramata

When Tracy learned we needed a volunteer coordinator to help relaunch the Pet Hug Pack® — our therapy animal program that had been on hiatus since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic — she was intrigued by the opportunity. We needed to ensure our therapy animals' skills still hit the mark to conduct the program safely for both animals and visit recipients.

"I have always loved the Pet Hug Pack® program. Unfortunately, my late dogs weren't the right fit to be therapy animals. But the impact these special animals have on children, nursing home residents, and hospital patients inspired me to get involved on the administrative side," says Tracy.

Motivated to help the Pet Hug Pack® resume its services, Tracy organized the re-certification of more than 30 therapy animal teams and onboarded several brand new teams. "We partnered with certified evaluators from Mount Diablo Dog Training Club to review the original skills required from the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen® test," says Tracy. "Watching the testing opened my eyes to the importance of the working relationship between the animal and their handler."

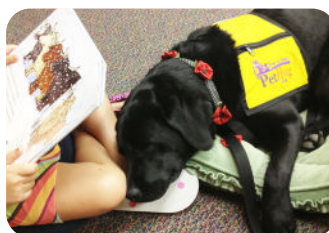
In addition to learning a lot during this process, Tracy has become even more impressed with the Pet Hug Pack® teams. "I'm so thankful to the volunteer handlers for all of their hard work. I love hearing their stories about how their animals help those in need. They bring so much joy and love into people's lives."

Tracy is eager to welcome even more teams to the pack! The popular program currently has a waiting list of nearly 20 facilities, including hospitals, nursing



"[Therapy animals] bring so much joy and love into people's lives."

- TRACY, PET HUG PACK® VOLUNTEER

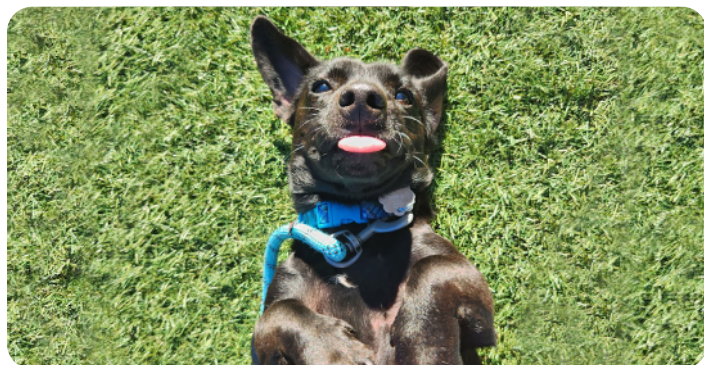


homes, libraries, and schools — all eager to start regular visits from our wonderful animals once again.

Does your pet aspire to become a therapy animal? Visit arlife.org/therapy-animals to learn more. 🐾

TELL YOUR IRA TO "ROLLOVER"

Did you know animal-lovers 70 ½ years old and older can reduce their taxes by making a gift to ARF directly from their tax-deferred individual retirement account (IRA)?



An IRA rollover is a simple way for you to use your IRA to save lives. Unlike a regular IRA withdrawal, making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) up to \$100,000 to a charity (like ARF) doesn't count as additional income, isn't taxable, and doesn't push you into a higher tax bracket or reduce your eligibility for certain tax credits and deductions. Additionally, if you're 72 years old or older, your IRA rollover gift counts toward your annual minimum distribution (RMD) and is excluded from taxable income!

To learn more about how you can save more lives by making a gift from your IRA, email us at legacy@arlife.org or contact your IRA custodian. 🐾

MEL AND BETTY FINALLY FIND THEIR PERFECT MATCHES

Unlike shelters that euthanize for space, we're committed to finding the right match for animals, however long it takes. With our average length of stay at less than three weeks, extra-long residencies are rare. But in the past few months, we've had two dogs find homes after a full year in our care, Mel was adopted in July after 387 days, and Betty was adopted in September after 367 days.

"Mel and Betty may have taken longer than usual to find their new families, but it made it all the more special when we got to watch them go home."

- SEAN, ARF SHELTER MANAGER

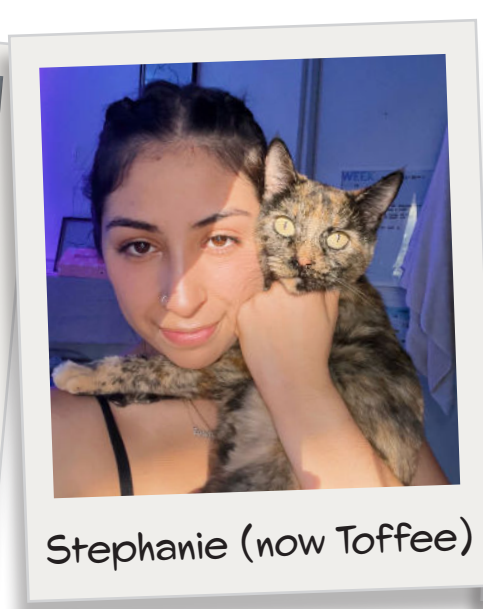


As a senior dog with health issues stemming from a spinal injury, Mel spent much of her time at ARF working toward regaining her strength through physical therapy, hydrotherapy, and even acupuncture. She was looking for a home where she could continue her physical therapy. Her adopter was drawn to her having previously had a dog with similar needs — and even a similar look! There wasn't a dry eye at our shelter on the day this sweet girl went home.

Betty gave birth to a litter of puppies last summer and watched them all get adopted, one-by-one. Her super-cuddly and social personality wooed potential adopters, but her reactivity toward other dogs while out on walks often spooked them from taking her home for good. Thankfully, she made great strides working with our behavior team and found a family ready to continue her training at home while she happily showers them with love and affection. 🐾



Saucer (now Moon)



Stephanie (now Toffee)



Trixie

YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

As we close another year, we'd like to highlight a few figures that showcase the lifesaving work you made possible. While animal welfare shouldn't be looked at strictly by the numbers, data like this provides insight into how effectively your support is utilized in our never-ending mission to help animals and people!

The following statistics cover the impact of our lifesaving programs between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. For even more data, our full impact report can be viewed on our website at arlife.org/financials. 🐾

1,517

dogs and cats adopted into loving homes.



105

rescue runs taken to impacted shelters across California.

2,620

spay/neuter surgeries performed for shelter and community animals.

52

Pets and Vets emotional support animals and service dogs in training.

1

bill signed into law (with ARF's input) to provide service dogs to Veterans nationwide.

813

charitable veterinary exams for Veterans and clients of the ARF Emergency Medical Fund®.

451

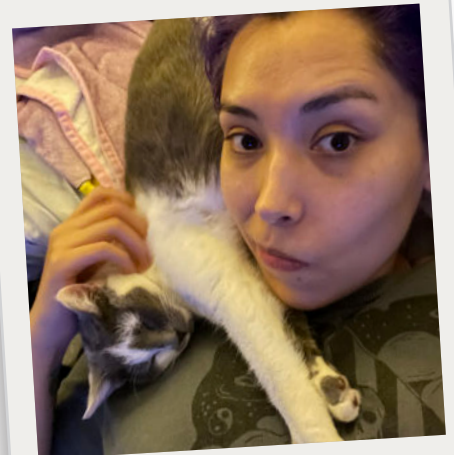
families who kept their pets thanks to our Pet Safety Net program.



Dreyers & Haagen Daz
(now Cow & Oreo)



King



Macaroon (now Luna)



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Wanna have a
sleepover?

Save lives in your own home! We're seeking foster volunteers for puppies, kittens, cats, dogs, and even future Pets and Vets service dogs! Fostering is a great way to get the whole family involved with caring for a pet without the long-term commitment of adoption. From supplies to medical care, we provide everything — all you need is love!

Visit arflife.org/foster today! 🐾

