Dear ARF Family,

After closing last year outperforming rescue and adoption projections, breaking outreach records in humane education, earning praise in Washington D.C. for our Pets and Vets program, and successfully completing our Campaign for Pets and Vets, ARF had high hopes for 2020. A global pandemic put a disheartening pause to much of that momentum. But the one thing COVID-19 has not impacted is the need for ARF’s core programming of rescuing and finding loving homes for animals.

As a designated essential service, one of our first rescues during the pandemic shutdown was John, a 12-year-old pup who is both blind and deaf. Despite his special needs, John had a lot of love to give. We knew the right family was out there for him. Your generosity enabled our adoptions team to quickly develop a winning path for virtual, contactless adoptions to ensure animals like John continue to safely find homes as beloved pets. Today, John is treasured as “the perfect companion” by his adopters.

We’re also working hard during these challenging economic times to keep pets out of shelters in the first place. As stress and isolation continue to weigh heavily on families, the comforting presence and unconditional love of a pet make a huge difference. Thanks to your support of ARF’s assistance programs, fewer families face the heartbreaking decision of surrendering their pet during this crisis as we provide food, veterinary care, and other resources for those struggling with medical and financial challenges.

Even though we’ve adapted how we work, we’ve never strayed from the overwhelming sense of why. This has been a year like no other, and we remain grateful and humbled by your support. It keeps us fighting every day — through triumphs and challenges — to save more lives and fulfill our mission of People Rescuing Animals ... Animals Rescuing People®.

With sincerest thanks,

Elena Bicker, Executive Director

ARF was one of the first shelters during the California Bay Area’s COVID-19 shelter-in-place mandate to resume adoptions utilizing a safe, no-contact, virtual process. During the first 16 weeks of the pandemic, ARF rescued 288 dogs and cats from shelters struggling with limited resources and closures. Of those animals, 53 required complex or specialty medical care.
During the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic, ARF saw a dramatic increase in pet adoption and fostering.

Prior to the shelter-in-place mandate, ARF typically received 50-100 adoption inquiries per week. From the months of March through June, during the height of the pandemic and shutdown, ARF’s median application flow increased to 200-250 per week.

At the height of adoption interest, one litter of puppies received more than 900 applications in just two days.
ARF provides low or no-cost surgeries for pets, for non-profits caring for community cats, and to prepare animals for adoption.

3,334
animals spayed or neutered

A total of 497 dogs and 430 cats were cared for in 327 amazing volunteer foster homes. That represents 49% of animals rescued. They spent a total of 17,492 days being cared for by loving foster families.

927
cats and dogs in foster

42
foster orientations offered during first 16 weeks of COVID-19 pandemic

21
service dogs graduated

54
future service dogs placed with veterans

The Pets and Vets program achieved record-breaking placements and graduations this year. During COVID-19, these former shelter dogs are helping veterans cope with isolation by providing stability and routine.

“It’s fitting that I got my dog on Veterans Day. Since I got him, he has calmed my demeanor. I love the deep pressure therapy, and I just can’t see myself without him.”

- Pets and Vets student
The Campaign for Pets and Vets surpassed all expectations and came to a successful close bringing new possibilities for both veterans and animals.

As this report goes to print, the finishing touches are being put on the new training center, expanded animal care spaces, and all-weather agility fields.

We look forward to utilizing these new spaces to serve more veterans with PTSD and other health challenges and to rescue more dogs in public shelters. ARF is deeply grateful to you, our donor community, for making this transformational expansion possible.

“Your generosity will echo for generations to come. We cannot overstate our sincere appreciation.”
- Tony La Russa, co-founder

62,662 gifts made to the Campaign for Pets and Vets from 20,588 donors

Saving Both Ends of the Leash®
69,312
hours generously
donated by 720
passionate volunteers

187,619 LBS
of food donated by
PURINA, to support
shelter animals and
struggling families

429
pets avoided surrender
to shelters thanks to
ARF’s Pet Safety Net

44,539
hearts touched by the
therapy animals of
ARF’s Pet Hug Pack®

9,976
children reached
through ARF’s
educational programs

825
charitable
veterinary
exams provided

1,555
calls and emails
answered for pet
advice and assistance

arf in the
Community

As the pandemic wears on
and millions face medical
and financial hardships,
ARF’s assistance programs
keeping families together
are becoming even more
critical. ARF strives to keep
loved pets out of shelters
and provide the resources
needed to support families
and pets in need.

“When I had a very sick kitty and little
money, [ARF] took excellent care of her and
only charged me according to my income.
Without them, she would have died. They do
so much good.”

- Emergency Medical Fund® client
2019 - 2020 Fiscal Year Revenue

- 14% Grants, Corporations, & Foundations
- 61% Individual Gifts & Bequests
- 4% Special Events (net)
- 7% Program Fees
- 1% Other
- 4% Sales

2019 - 2020 Fiscal Year Expenses

- 36% Animal Care & Adoptions
- 28% Veterinary Clinic
- 4% Training
- 12% Community Outreach
- 6% Fundraising
- 8% Administration
- 6% Humane Education

Individual Gifts & Bequests $7,054,278
Grants, Corporations, & Foundations $1,577,201
Program Fees $831,432
Sales $517,587
Special Events (net) $1,497,189
Other $118,278

Total* $11,595,965

A responsible steward of your giving.

*The above does not include non-cash, in-kind gifts.
“ARF has been amazing to work with, and we are truly grateful to have a rescue partner whose hearts are in the right place. They have assisted with dogs who required medical attention and that alone is incredibly helpful, especially during these crazy times. They are so easy to get a hold of when we are in need of help — we appreciate all their efforts in taking in all the animals they have pulled from us!”

- Alyanna, Tri-City Animal Shelter

“Every day during shelter-in-place, we have looked at each other and said how lucky we are to have Maxwell. Thank you to the team at ARF for bringing this angel into our life.”

- Rachel & Doug, adopters

“I’ve been visiting ARF since elementary school, so I always knew I wanted to adopt from them. During shelter-in-place, I found myself anxious all the time and wanting companionship. Carl’s the most lovable, friendly, and playful cat I’ve ever met. I feel so lucky as a first-time adopter to have him!”

- Lindsey, adopter
60 animals rescued from disasters and other emergencies