



Tony La Russa's
**Animal
Rescue
Foundation**

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Banfield Foundation® Joins ARF Helping Contra Costa Animals and Families in Need

ARF Emergency Medical Fund® (EMF) Helps Financially Struggling Families Care for Pets

WALNUT CREEK, California – Nov. 3 2020 Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) recently received a grant from the Banfield Foundation® to support families facing financial difficulties who have pets in need of veterinary care. While the ARF Emergency Medical Fund® (EMF) is celebrating its 25th year in existence, its services have never been more essential than during the economic strains cause by COVID-19 and mitigation efforts.

"We're thrilled to have the Banfield Foundation join with ARF during this critical time as we help families from choosing between their own needs and a pet's," ARF Executive Director Elena Bicker stated. "So many are in extremely strained financial positions right now, yet animals, like humans, cannot plan when they will become sick or develop a tooth abscess. This program makes a huge positive impact for animals and those who love them."

EMF funding can be used for a variety of care performed at ARF's veterinary clinic. The program frequently sees patients for a variety of concerns including urinary tract infections, dental extractions, tumor biopsies and more. Pets suffering from a medical emergency should always contact an area emergency vet service immediately. With a focus on assisting during financial emergencies, some veterinary care not covered by EMF includes routine, preventive, exploratory, elective or some specialty services.

"Pets are offering such a huge emotional and psychological benefit during this difficult time," said Lane Murphy at the Banfield Foundation. "The Banfield Foundation is proud to support ARF's EMF fund during this time when so many are struggling with medical and financial difficulties. It's wonderful to know this service is available to those in greatest need so they can keep pets healthy and by their side in loving homes."

EMF funding is available to regular caretakers of dogs and cats who are residents of Contra Costa County and whose household income is at or below the U.S. Department of Housing and Development's (HUD) definition of very low income limits. Participating animals must be spayed or neutered. ARF can assist with spay and neuter services when combined with other EMF care. Those interested in applying for EMF care may contact ARF at (925) 296-3125 or fill out an application at arflife.org/help/emf.

About Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF)

ARF's core mission is the rescue of dogs and cats who have run out of time at public shelters, giving them a chance at life until a new home can be found. ARF couples this focus with innovative programs strengthening the human-animal bond for children, seniors, veterans, and people in disadvantaged circumstances. Through ARF, people experience the unconditional love and acceptance of dogs and cats to fulfill a mission of People Rescuing Animals ... Animals Rescuing People®. www.arflife.org

About the Banfield Foundation®

At the core of the Banfield Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is the belief that all pets deserve access to

veterinary care. In support of this belief, the foundation funds programs that enable veterinary care, elevate the power of the human-animal bond, provide disaster relief for pets, and advance the science of veterinary medicine through fostering innovation and education. It also leverages the expertise and passion of Banfield Pet Hospital associates to care for pets in need. At the Banfield Foundation, we are committed to making a better world for pets because they make a better world for us. For more information, visit BanfieldFoundation.org

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