



Tony La Russa's  
Animal  
Rescue  
Foundation

2017-2018  
Annual  
Report

Dear Friends,

It's amazing to reflect on ARF's impact each year. From sending home a kitten who faced dismal odds in a feral community to successfully training a dog others found "hopeless," we witness the results behind every number in this report.

By the time you read this, we'll reach another memory-filled milestone, as we send our 40,000<sup>th</sup> animal to its new home. And we know with each of those lives saved, the joy multiplies to so many people outside these walls.

Our expansion of the human-animal bond continues bringing unparalleled success. In the coming months, you'll learn more about our work to quantify this with our national partners. However, staff and incredible volunteers see it individually on a daily basis. We're fielding increased demand for our Pet Hug Pack therapy animals to reduce student stress. In only its second year, our Pets and Vets service dog training more than doubled the number of graduates. The ARF Emergency Medical Fund®, Pet Safety Net, and FoodShare programs are keeping more pets with owners in need and out of overcrowded shelters.

But each of these triumphs comes back to one thing: a profound connection between an animal and human as they give and receive love. In a world where it seems time is prodded to move faster, tempers grow shorter, and tensions continue to rise, those moments let us know ARF makes a difference greater than we could ever attempt to count.

Thank you for your continuing support as we build on ARF's future.

With gratitude,



Elena Bicker  
Executive Director



**2,665**  
cats and dogs adopted



**Ballerina** - Rescued 9-5-18 ❖ Adopted 9-9-18

## Adoption

The rescue and rehoming of animals facing uncertain futures in public shelters has always been and will always remain the core of ARF's work. Each year, we witness the joy as thousands of animals find supportive, loving homes. But beyond adoption numbers, there's an investment of hours of medical care, transport, behavior enrichment, and socialization in every purr and wagging tail. When an animal leaves the rescue, our team knows it's physically and behaviorally ready to enjoy life in a new home.

## Foster

ARF's foster program not only plays a huge role in helping animals recover from illness or surgeries, but also increases social skills. More than 50 percent of ARF animals spent time in foster care last year, making this an invaluable program in associated adoption success. In addition to our traditional foster programs, we also expanded "Day Stay" fostering, placing animals in a home for a short-term visit to supplement behavior assessments. As our need for innovative foster engagement grows, we've increased in-house and online training programs to meet demand.



**Pecan** - Rescued 7-29-18 ❖ Adopted 10-12-18

**1,197**  
cats and dogs  
fostered

**168,840** lbs  
pet food for veterans and  
low-income families delivered

Donated by  


**101,224**  
hours  
volunteered

**3,900**  
spay/neuter surgeries  
performed



**Charlie**  
Pet Hug Pack  
Therapy Dog

## Pet Hug Pack®

The unconditional love of an animal can distract from fear, relax the body, and simply make us smile, releasing the feel-good neurotransmitters dopamine, endorphins, and serotonin. But beyond the science of animal engagement, our more than 200 volunteer animal therapy teams see the excitement and joy of students, medical patients, assisted living residents, and more with every visit. We've also continued growth of the robust All Ears Reading® program where therapy animals provide a non-judgmental audience for struggling young readers practicing their skills. Happiness delivered ... it doesn't get much better than that.

## Humane Education

ARF's award-winning children's camps continue breaking attendance records each year as new generations of children learn about respect, care, and love for animals. From our youngest pre-K Animal Tales visitors to our junior dog training and veterinary campers, each age-appropriate experience leaves a lasting impression on future animal lovers. Combine this with our numerous classroom and scouting programs, and we're building solid, fact-based education about animals throughout communities. We frequently welcome back our camp and school alumni as fosters and adopters, as they put their ARF-learned lessons into practice.

**10,652**

children reached by  
educational programs

**4,246**

Pet Hug Pack  
therapy animal visits

**“No one is nicer than dogs. They don't let  
you down like people – or your grades.”**

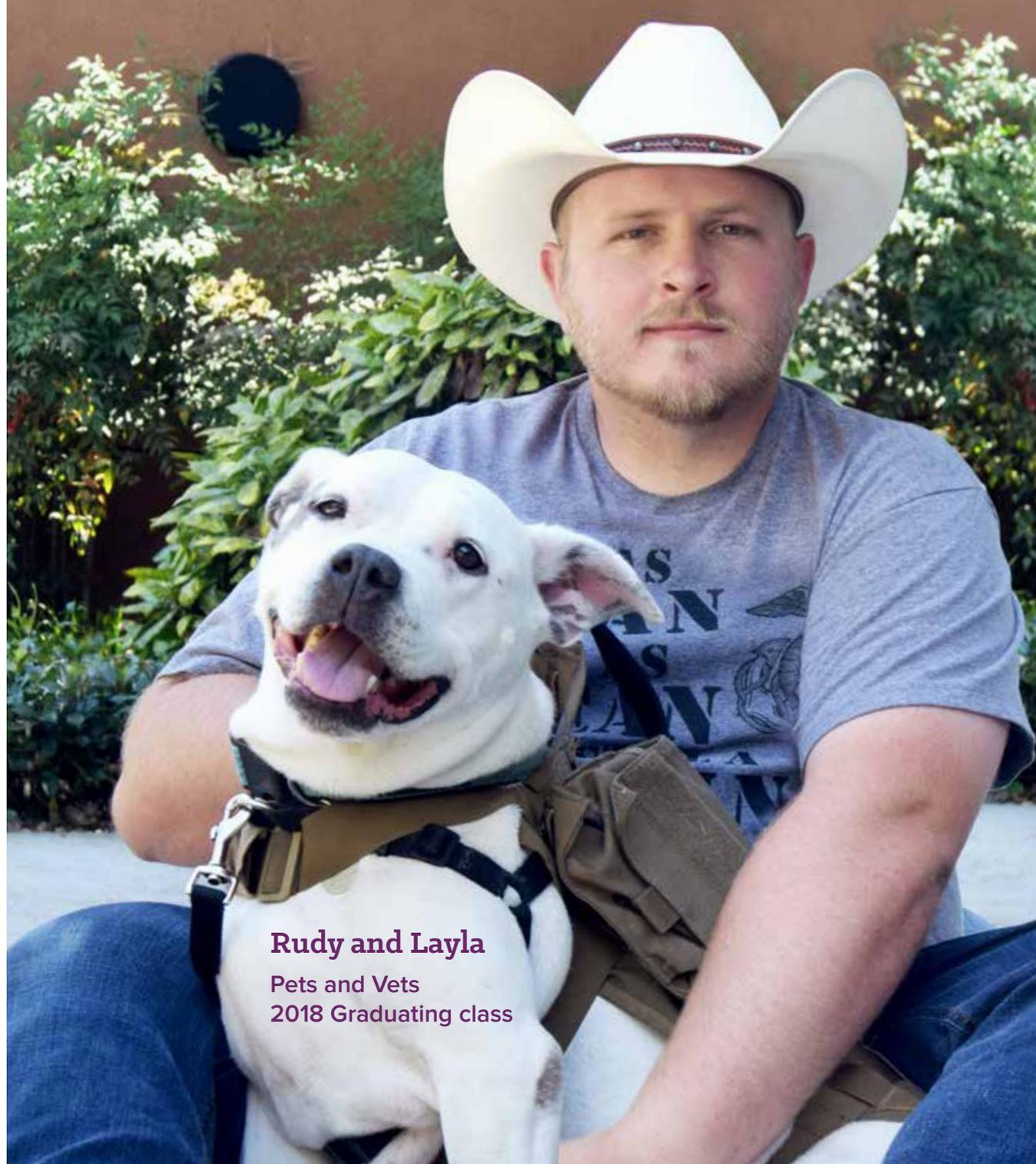
Jackie O., UC Berkeley freshman / Pet Hug Pack enthusiast

## Pets and Vets

In our second year of service dog pairing and training with U.S. military veterans, we more than doubled the number of graduating teams. This incredible feat points to both the tremendous need within our veteran communities and the overwhelming ability to change lives for both animals and military heroes. We've witnessed incredible progress among graduates. Many who have struggled with agoraphobia and other PTSD-related anxieties now even request to "pay it forward" through training assistance and spreading the word about the program. Partnerships such as our Purina Dog Chow® Service Dog Salute and national media, including People.com, BuzzFeed, and Fox & Friends, highlighted this alternative to the long waiting lists and expense of traditional service dog or government-sponsored programs. In addition, we're working with our national partners to perfect this shelter-to-service model for replication and response to the growing number of veterans who could benefit from a psychiatric service dog.

## Charitable Veterinary Services

ARF's Emergency Medical Fund® (EMF) provides affordable, non-emergency veterinary care to families experiencing serious financial crises. In addition to our service dog training for veterans, ARF honors the commitment and service of all veterans by making sure their canine and feline companions are happy and healthy, providing loving, emotional support to those who served. Our mobile veterinary clinics visit VA hospitals on a weekly basis.



**Rudy and Layla**

**Pets and Vets  
2018 Graduating class**

**19**

**Pets and Vets  
program graduates**

**833**

**charitable veterinary care exams  
provided (EMF + VA clinics)**

**"He's changed my life, and brought me back to me."**

**Ethan S., Pets and Vets graduate**



**537**  
surrenders  
prevented

**1,383**  
canines benefiting from  
training or socialization

## Disaster Relief

As extreme weather and wildfires continue to affect both pet families and shelters, ARF staff and volunteers remain on alert for expansion of our own shelter capacity when needed and deployment for temporary sheltering, care, and logistics coordination. With back-to-back historic wildfire seasons throughout California and the Pacific Northwest, ARF responded to numerous fire-devastated communities, including coordinating the evacuation of one of our shelter partners as the Carr Fire came within two miles of their at-capacity shelter.

Evacuating shelters during an emergency not only removes adoptable animals from harm's way, but allows local facilities to concentrate on reuniting displaced pets during recovery. Beyond the sheer volume increase, emergency shelter evacuations intensify demands on medical and behavior teams dealing with unfamiliar and extremely stressed animals. At ARF, we feel helping in times of crisis is not a matter of convenience, but an essential element in our mission of saving lives.

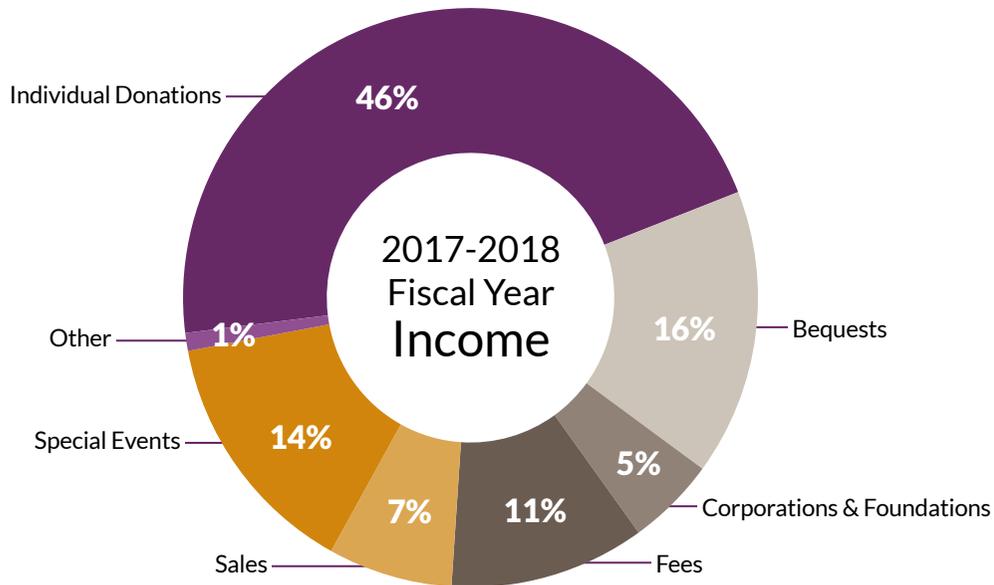
## Pet Safety Net

The best way to reduce shelter populations is to keep animals from entering in the first place. Our Pet Safety Net program works at solving shelter overpopulation from the angle of intake by helping pets stay within their own families. This can range from assisting with costly medical care for those in need, addressing behavior issues, and even helping residents navigate landlord issues.

## ARF Dog Training

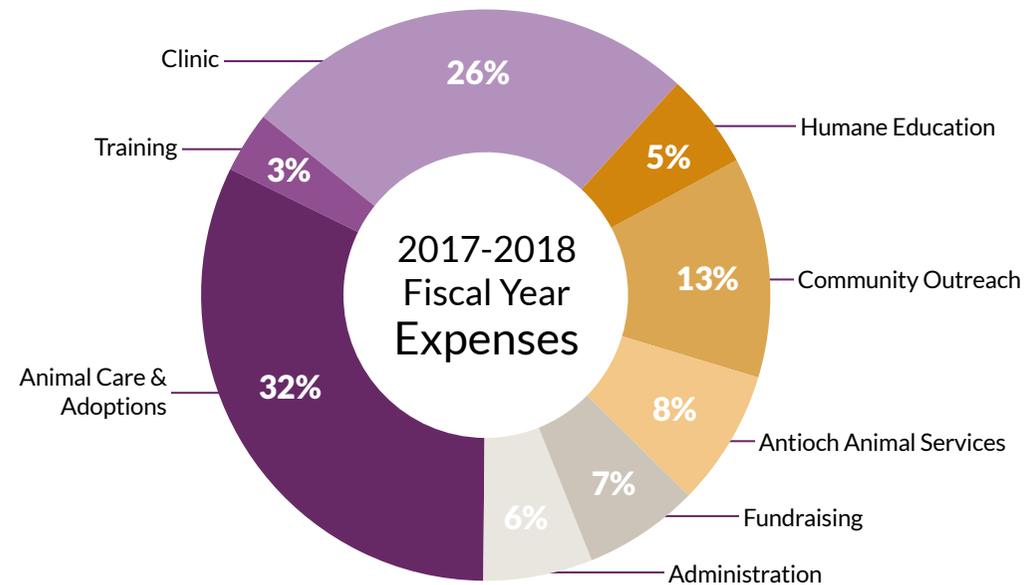
Dog training today is all about communication between the animal and its human companion. At ARF, we're looking at ways to educate and implement the latest positive reinforcement training with both our shelter guests and public classes. We've even taken dog training out of the classroom offering solutions to common behavior problems on video via social media.

## The numbers behind the lives saved



Individual Donations	\$3,856,691
Bequests	\$1,380,567
Corporations & Foundations	\$438,500
Fees	\$933,451
Sales	\$566,848
Special Events (net)	\$1,159,414
Other	\$42,872
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,378,343</b>

## ...and the hearts connected.



Programs	Animal Care & Adoptions	\$2,562,629
	Training	\$275,737
	Clinic	\$2,076,357
	Humane Education	\$432,705
	Community Outreach	\$995,690
	Antioch Animal Services	\$615,988
	Fundraising	\$522,089
	Administration	\$495,620
	Program Development	\$401,528
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,378,343</b>

ARF receives no local, state, or federal government funding.



Dwight



Otter Pop



Rebecca



Bluebell

## ARF Core Values

Open • Driven • Educator's Spirit

## Strategic Anchors

Save Lives • Inspire Learning • Connect Hearts

## Board of Directors

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Chairman

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**Dayna Sayres**

**John Steiner**

“I sat down and this kitty immediately rubbed against me. She let me pick her up. She purred. It was as if she said please take me to your home. As I was doing the paperwork, I couldn't help but laugh as I was supposed to be coming home with a dog.”

- Pamela S.



**Eugene** - Rescued 7-27-18 ❖ Adopted 9-1-18

A Responsible Steward  
of your Giving

**87** cents  
of every dollar goes  
directly to programs

**#1**  
celebrity-related charity  
by Charity Navigator

**11** consecutive years  
of Charity Navigator's  
highest 4-star rating

# People Rescuing Animals... ...Animals Rescuing People®



**Woods**

Rescued 7-30-18 ❖ Adopted 8-18-18



Tony La Russa's  
Animal  
Rescue  
Foundation

[www.arflife.org](http://www.arflife.org)



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