



Tony La Russa's

**Animal  
Rescue  
Foundation**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact**

Erin Thompson, Marketing Manager  
925-296-3103 | [press@arflife.org](mailto:press@arflife.org)

## **Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation Addresses Coronavirus and Companion Animals**

With the first dozen human deaths reported in the United States this week from COVID-19 (a novel coronavirus), there has been an undeniable rise in concern. But should you be concerned about your pet?

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) wants to ease fears that may result from misunderstanding or speculation. "To date, there is no evidence that companion animals can spread the disease," assures ARF Executive Director Elena Bicker. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), no animals in the United States have been identified with the virus. The World Organisation for Animal Health has confirmed that the current spread of COVID-19 is a result of human-to-human transmission.

Since COVID-19 is a respiratory illness spread via droplets, taking precautions similar to common flu prevention is the best course of action. ARF recommends seeking out reliable sources for updated information. Being pro-active in preventative measures and having an emergency plan are the best ways to protect you and your pet.

Be prepared to take care of your pet(s) in the event that you should become ill:

- Identify a family member or friend who can care for pet.
- Have crates, food, and extra supplies (including medications) on-hand for quick movement of pet. A pet first-aid kit is also good to have for any unplanned situation.
- Ensure your animal's vaccines are up-to-date in the event boarding becomes necessary.
- Document all medications with dosages and administering directions. Including the prescription from your veterinarian if a refill could be necessary.
- Pets should have identification such as an ID tag on their collar and/or a microchip. Remember: A microchip is only as good as the contact information registered to it.

For additional emergency preparedness tips and pet care resources, visit [arflife.org](http://arflife.org).

### **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](http://www.arflife.org)

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2890 Mitchell Drive Walnut Creek, California 94598 • (925) 256-1ARF • [www.arflife.org](http://www.arflife.org)