HAPPY TAILS
We love hearing about our former shelter guests! From your favorite quirks about your cat’s personality, to the results of your dog’s DNA test, to those super-cute pet pictures, we want to hear it from you! Visit arflife.org/help/story to submit photos and tell your ARF alum’s tale.

“Chief is the best dog ever.”
Dyllan, ARF Adopter

“We moved to a house to give Chief a big backyard. He loves sunbathing and playing with his football — he won’t leave home without it! Plus, he’s an emotional support animal and helps me as a firefighter and my girlfriend who’s an EMT unwind at the end of the day. Chief is the best dog ever. I don’t know how he was left at ARF for so many months, but everyone who didn’t give him a chance really missed out on a great pup.” - Dyllan

“I’ve been visiting ARF since elementary school. When shelter in place was announced, I found myself extremely anxious all the time and wanting companionship. Carl’s the most loveable, friendly, and playful cat I’ve ever met. I feel so lucky as a first-time adopter to have him!” - Lindsey

ARF THRIFT STORE RE-OPENS
Great news for friends and thrift aficionados! The ARF Thrift Store is now on eBay, at arflife.org/help/ebay, where you can bid on high-quality items from the comfort of your own home, and have them shipped directly to you.

Plus, our brick-and-mortar thrift store in Concord, CA is officially re-opening for business! Following strict safety protocols for shopping, donating, and volunteering, we’re returning to daily operations. Both online and in-store thrift shopping directly benefit the ARF Emergency Medical Fund®, providing crucial medical care for animals in need.

SIT, STAY, SMILE
We’re thrilled to host our first calendar contest fundraiser: The Sit, Stay, Smile Photo Contest! It’s easy to participate — submit your favorite photo of your dog or cat, then get your family and friends to vote. The top six photos in each category (dog and cat) will win a place in ARF’s 2021 calendar*. Your photos and votes will benefit life-changing programs at ARF to save animals and enhance the human-animal bond.

*submissions must meet guidelines to be featured in calendar.
Thanks to you, ARF saw 2,203 adoptions during the last fiscal year that included more than a quarter of global pandemic accommodations. In fact, as we went to print, more than 400 animals have been rescued since COVID-19 mitigation efforts began this spring.

With 107 animals currently under ARF’s stewardship, our team is working hard to provide care and proper socialization for each and every animal. Our veterinary clinic is performing pain-relieving and life-saving surgeries, giving all animals who enter ARF’s door a great start for a healthy, happy, new life. We miss our volunteers tremendously, every step of the way, and look forward to the day they can safely return to ARF’s life-saving mission.

We're sharing some exciting Pets & Vets program updates on page five, as we continue to help veterans facing PTSD in addition to the stress of these unprecedented days. Other community programs are also working diligently behind the scenes — keeping pets in their homes while families experience health or economic hardships.

While we never imagined these conditions, the dogs and cats we're caring for don't know or understand the circumstances. They only know the love they feel. They are better for it, and we are better for it. Thank you for your support, which allows us to be here for them.

Take care and be kind to yourselves and each other,

Elena Bicker, Executive Director

“My husband and I adopted Skylar about nine years ago. She was instantly a part of our family and charms everyone she meets. She’s a big ol’ (sometimes sassy) love bug. Just give her a nice warm lap or ray of sunshine to sit on and she’s your best friend.” - Danielle

“Sam has been a perfect fit since day one. The most friendly, loving, playful pup I’ve ever had the pleasure of knowing! We go on walks and play ball. He is always just so happy to be with me and LOVES meeting new people and dogs. I can’t tell you enough how lucky I feel. He’s the best boy.” - Jared

“I can’t believe it’s only been two months. Our hearts are so full of love, it feels like we’ve had him for ages. Ozzy is the sweetest creature; he loves a good cuddle, and he just had a blast going on his first camping trip with us! If anyone considering dog adoption reads this, I HIGHLY recommend adopting senior dogs.” - Canaan
Just a few months ago, amidst a worldwide pandemic, Chloe and Camilla found themselves in a terrifying situation: After almost a decade in a happy home, their guardian passed away. Suddenly this pair of special-needs, senior dogs were in a crowded, municipal shelter. Often, public animal shelters don't have the resources to care for animals facing advanced medical needs — and with Chloe and Camilla's issues ranging from tooth infections to cataracts, the duo's needs were certainly considered advanced.

ARF got the call for help from our partner shelter and our rescue team immediately responded. These adorable pups, aged 9 and 10, were loaded up, transported back to ARF, and taken into our veterinary clinic for assessment.

Chloe's golden locks and Camilla's jet black hair had to be shaven almost completely off to alleviate their matting and itchy skin. In ARF's dental suite, a total of 16 teeth were extracted between the two of them. When ARF's veterinarian examined their eyes, it was determined that Camilla's right eye was blind, but painless. However, Chloe needed hers removed before it caused her further irritation and discomfort.

All-in-all these senior pups spent five weeks under the care of ARF's veterinary team and in a foster home. As they recovered, Chloe and Camilla became favorites of ARF staff, filling hearts with joy everywhere they went. Between Chloe's propensity to race circles around the shelter yard (quite impressive for a 10-year-old lady) and Camilla's chatty “love yaps” (that she gives to everyone willing to listen), it was hard not to smile when they passed by. Eventually, they healed and were ready for adoption.

Today, Chloe and Camilla are curled up on a couch as part of a loving, new family. Thanks to supporters like you, when their time of need arrived, ARF was able to answer the call.

“Those happy Pomeranians are almost unrecognizable as the scared dogs we rescued in early May.”

Sean, ARF Animal Care Intake Lead
Construction on ARF’s new Pets and Vets Center continues to make tremendous progress and we remain hopeful for the project to be completed before year’s end. As the center provides significant mental health benefits to the community, construction with updated safety protocols was permitted without substantial interruptions during the shelter-in-place mandate.

The Pets and Vets program has continued its phenomenal growth through the pandemic. A record-breaking 54 shelter dogs were matched with veterans in need from July 2019 through June 2020. These dogs are helping veterans cope with isolation by providing stability and routine during COVID-19 mitigation efforts. “As stressful a time as this is for all of us, it can be considerably magnified for a veteran struggling with PTSD,” said Executive Director Elena Bicker. “Even before they’ve started training, these dogs are having a positive impact on their veteran partners, providing companionship and unconditional love.”

At the time of this publication, individual training sessions with enhanced safety measures have resumed for some veteran-service dog teams, and we’re looking forward to the next Pets and Vets graduation. Learn more at arflife.org/pets-and-vets.

“As stressful a time as this is for all of us, it can be considerably magnified for a veteran struggling with PTSD.”
Elena, ARF Executive Director

PURINA’S 2020 SERVICE DOG SALUTE

For the third year in a row, Purina Dog Chow®’s Service Dog Salute campaign is featuring the inspirational stories of ARF’s Pets and Vets program. This national campaign brings messages of hope to military veterans and emphasizes how psychiatric service dogs are changing lives.

From September 1 through Thanksgiving, Dog Chow is donating a portion of their proceeds from specially-marked bags of dog food to help Pets and Vets continue Saving Both Ends of the Leash®. Read more about this year’s Service Dog Salute at dogchow.com/arf.
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 recognizes gifts received 4/1/20 to 6/15/20. Gift dates may vary due to data entry and press lead time.

Questions? Please email giving@arflife.org.

IN MEMORY

Aisha Yuri Horley
Joyce Ortega
Bindi
Richard Hunter
Brenda Beger
Moise
John and Juanita Poore
Judy Vascconi
Brent Petersen
Cynthia and Charles Petersen
Charles K. Chinn
Jeanne Chinn, Christina Chinn, Deanna Chinn, and Margaret Louie
Cowboy
Jack and Jeanne Roman
Darya
Deborah Reiling
David, Potsie, and Lillian
Linda Nemeroff
Derrick
Anne Maczulak
Edith J. Price and Roland
Lindsay McCrea
Edna Marie Filizetti
Carol and Burt Szinyei
Einstein and Garfunkel
Michael Kazemi
Gary Angelo Leontini
Harry and Chris
Abrahams
Grushenka
Edward J. Leiter
Helen V. Fredlund
Kevin and Debi Murphy
Joan Setzer
Leonne and James Myers Family
Keith Shank
Glen and Diane Colacurci
Kelly Duncan
Joiner
Matt Duncan
Little Blacky
Nick Costa
Mama Dog, Nala, Lefty-Righty, and Dozer
Leslie L’Ouaglin
Marley
Diane Spoto
Maxim and Sofia
David Martin
Mocha
David R. and Gail G. Marshall
Mocha Lee
Tori Maxfield
Dilara Parry
Bobbe Bartlett
Elaine Gor and Wrinkles Lee
Lily Lee
Emily Jacobs
Melissa Jacobs
Janna Fawcett-Harris
Juliana Fawcett
Jeff Shain
Bobbe Bartlett
Jennifer Peabody
Bobbe Bartlett
Jolie
Dorothy Orolin
Dr. Kris
Bruskiewicz
Joan Balzarini-Robbins
Lacey Wagner
Suzanne Boucher
Linda Ullom
Bobbe Bartlett
Lucas McLaughlin
Ross and Kristy McLaughlin
Olive Oyl
Vincent Casey
Dr. Ruth Adams
Joan Balzarini-Robbins
Shay’s birthday
Leysy Pelayo
Shelley Bever
Scott Bever
Skyler
Joan Balzarini-Robbins
Tony La Russa and Misty
Shirley Nelson
Yogi, Cindy, and Boo-boo
Green Evolution Gardens

Marylou Hessellund: SAVING LIVES THROUGH HER IRA

“I’ve always believed rescued animals are the best pets. They know they’ve been given a second chance at life.”
Marylou, ARF IRA Donor

Marylou Hessellund: SAVING LIVES THROUGH HER IRA

Marylou remembers ARF’s start-up days well. Before moving to California’s central coast with her husband in 2003, she volunteered at ARF events and worked on the newsletter. She fondly remembers friendships forged with other volunteers.

When it came time for mandatory withdrawals from her IRA, she remembered ARF’s mission as near and dear to her heart. “Giving through my IRA provides us with a tax benefit and supports animal rescue,” Marylou says. “I’ve always believed rescued animals are the best pets. They know they’ve been given a second chance at life.”

While volunteering for ARF, Marylou fostered a Corgi, Rottweiler mix, but when behavior issues made it difficult for him to find a home, she decided to adopt him herself. She named him Tank and describes him as quite a character. Today, she’s enjoying retirement with two poodle mixes, Buddy and Scarlett.

To learn more about the benefits of an IRA gift, visit arflegacy.org.

Marylou Hessellund, ARF IRA Donor

Tank, Marylou’s late ARF-adopted dog, and Scarlett, one of her current rescue poodle-mixes.
When Suzanne’s cat passed away after a battle with liver disease in 2015, she knew she needed to do something to get through her grief. She wasn’t ready to adopt, so she signed up for a volunteer foster orientation at ARF.

“As a foster volunteer, I welcome kittens into my home until they are ready for adoption,” says Suzanne. “Sometimes they arrive at ARF covered in dirt, stinky, hurt, or sick. It’s incredible to see them blossom into healthy, happy animals, and I love seeing the smiling faces of adopters with their new companions.”

Over the years, Suzanne has broadened her efforts and now trains new foster volunteers. Before COVID-19, she also volunteered on campus to socialize cats and assemble foster kits. “ARF tries to make it as easy as possible to foster by providing all the supplies. Interest in fostering exploded after shelter-in-place, so I’ve been leading more online cat foster orientations,” explains Suzanne. “Fostering is so rewarding, but I miss connecting with other volunteers and staff on campus. I look forward to returning safely soon.”

To sign up for an online foster volunteer orientation, visit arflife.org/foster.

“I enjoy volunteering, knowing that donating my time is saving lives.”
Suzanne, ARF Volunteer

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

#ThanksToMaddie
ARF IS SUPPORTING PET GUARDIANS IN CRISIS

Resource Center
Connecting pet guardians with local assistance programs, pet care advice, or training tips.

ARF Emergency Medical Fund®
Helping families facing financial hardships with affordable veterinary care.

ARF Pet Safety Net
Preventing pet surrenders to public shelters by providing personalized assistance to those in need.

FoodShare
Supplying pet food and cat litter, donated by Purina®, to qualifying pet guardians.

Read more information about arf’s community programs at arflife.org.