



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

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Contact

Gregory L. McCoy, Board President (925) 837-0585
Elena Bicker, Executive Director (925) 256-3116

Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation Announces Susan Lee Vick as CEO

Vick to Take the Helm of the 31-Year-Old Organization in December

WALNUT CREEK, CA – Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation's (ARF) Board of Directors today announced Susan Lee Vick of Santa Rosa, CA has been named CEO of the organization, following a nationwide search prompted by the retirement announcement of Executive Director Elena Bicker.

"The board's top priority was finding someone ready on day one to build on ARF's national reputation for excellence and innovation," said ARF Board President Gregory L. McCoy. "Susan not only understands the importance of ARF's unique, dual mission helping animals and people, but demonstrates the passion and proven track record for building and maintaining programs of distinction. We're thrilled adding her talent to lead the organization in its next chapter."

Vick, who currently serves as chief operating officer at Hugh Futrell Corporation, has served in leadership positions at several well-known non-profits, including Canine Companions of Santa Rosa, CA, Point Blue Conservation Science of Petaluma, CA, and Church Investment Group of New York. McCoy commented Vick's varied non-profit sector experience, including her Canine Companions' work, will be of great benefit to ARF as it continues to expand its Pets and Vets program, matching rescued animals with our nation's veterans.

"Thanks to decades of exceptional leadership and support, ARF is now poised to grow its life-changing programs in communities in California and beyond," said Vick. "It's an honor to serve as CEO at this pivotal moment. I'm especially inspired by ARF's passionate volunteers, donors, partners, staff, and board. Together we will save and brighten many more lives."

Vick will step into the role following the successful leadership of Bicker, who has lead the organization since 2006. During that time, the organization saw unprecedented growth and national recognition for programming, including the Pets and Vets, which Bicker co-created, retired the organization's \$6.1 million debt, oversaw creation of a sustainable endowment for future growth, and completed a recent campus expansion, following a successful \$18.7 million campaign.

"I'm incredibly proud of everything ARF has accomplished in its past," said Bicker. "But at the same time, know Susan's experience and enthusiastic leadership will take it to even greater heights in the future. ARF's amazing staff and dedicated volunteers are always driven to do more, save more lives, and make an even bigger difference. There is truly limitless potential for this remarkable organization, and I'm ready to cheer Susan and the team along at every step."

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 under-resourced communities. 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

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