Ralston Purina to Webcast Annual Meeting January 25, 2001 2:30 p.m. CST

PRNewswire ST. LOUIS

Ralston Purina Company will hold its Annual Meeting of Shareholders at 2:30 p.m. CST, January 25, 2001. Interested parties may access the audio portion of the meeting live via www.ralston.com.

Founded in 1894, Ralston Purina is a premier producer of dry dog and dry and soft-moist cat foods, most of which are marketed under the Purina® brand name; and a leading manufacturer of cat box filler in the United States and Canada, including the Tidy Cats® brand. Purina also produces a veterinary line for dogs and cats with special nutritional needs.

SOURCE: Ralston Purina Company

Contact: Keith Schopp, Public Relations, 314-982-3231, or Michael

Grabel, Investor Relations, 314-982-2161, both of Ralston Purina Company

Website: <a href="http://www.ralston.com/">http://www.ralston.com/</a>