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Fire Safety for Pets -Wag'N 02 Fur Life® Program - Helping Your Pet Breathe Easier

By Carolyn S. Peterson

October is Fire Prevention Month, and with that come reminders of changing the batteries in your smoke detectors, having an escape plan for your family in case of a fire and making sure all fire extinguishers are checked and in working order. But should the worst happen, a fire in your home, wouldn't you want all of your family members, including the 4-legged ones, cared for when help arrives? That is where the Wag'N 02 Fur Life® Program comes in...

Following Her Heart to Save Animals

With a background in emergency management and marksmanship training, lnes de Pablo, founder of **Wag'N Enterprises**, the first and only Pet Emergency Management Company in the world, let her heart be her guide when she decided to dedicate her life to helping animals in crisis.

"I was deeply moved by the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the lack of preparedness which resulted in the unnecessary death and abandonment of nearly 600,000 pets. It was a shocking and unfortunate event that propelled me to apply my expertise to educate pet parents in the need for effective tools to assist in pet emergency situations. One of the programs that I have through Wag'N Enterprises is the Wag'N Pet Oxygen Mask Kits, which equips fire departments and first responders with specially fitted oxygen masks. "Far too many pets die each year of smoke asphyxiation. While firemen may get pets out of structures safely, in many cases they are not able to revive them unless they have the proper equipment — pet oxygen masks. These specially designed animal masks can be used both on conscious pets that have suffered from smoke inhalation and pets that need to be resuscitated after losing consciousness from exposure to toxic fumes." said de Pablo.

Special Equipment to Help Special Pets

Wag'N Pet Oxvoen Mask Kits come with 3 different size masks that can be used on dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds and more, saving the lives of VIPs...Very Important Pets. "Fire departments are generally not allowed to spend tax dollars to purchase equipment that is not aimed at saving human lives. That's why we need pet lovers to sponsor their first-responders, to help them acquire this pet life-saving equipment they need. Since we began in 2008, we have provided over 2000 pet oxygen mask kits to over 850 first-responder departments in North America and have had many success stories. Each brings vindication of the importance of the program and helps us spread the word/wag across the country. We strive to be able to ultimately get at least one pet oxygen mask kit on every first responder vehicle in North America within a few more years. To meet this goal, we have five ways first responders can acquire masks: through direct purchase, sponsor/gift purchase, a fellowship program, private pet owner purchases and direct order," de Pablo commented.

The kits are \$90 for consumers and \$70 for emergency responders. The masks that are sold to emergency responders are sold at cost, with a slight markup on those sold to consumers, but all proceeds go back into the "fellowship program," providing kits for emergency responders that can't afford them or find sponsors in their region. "We hope to continue to encourage private individuals and businesses to sponsor their local fire, police, EMS K-9 or military responders with a **Wag'N 02**

Fur Life Oxygen Mask Kit. When a department is equipped with our mask kit, we provide training, so that the mask kit can be used effectively," de Pablo stated. Locally, there are three first-responder units who are equipped with the pet oxygen masks, located at Mineral Springs Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Station 18; Forsyth County Fire Department, Aviation Dr.; and W-S Fire Department, N. Cherry Street, #310.

For more information on **Wag'N 02 Fur Life**, visit www.wagnpetsafety.com

