



*Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association Charities is spearheading an effort to provide each Massachusetts municipality with at least one set of animal oxygen masks. Each kit includes at least three different sized masks for cats and dogs, and necessary tubing to attach them to oxygen tanks. Groton was provided with one kit, but was hoping for three kits, one for each station. Groton Veterinarian Dr. Susan Horowitz and Bob and Rainier Collins (c) donated the other two kits. Shown with Fire Chief Joe Bosselait at town hall on March 9.*

## Veterinary Charities Plus Two Local Gifts Put Animal Oxygen Masks at Three Fire Station

by Connie Sartini

Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) Charities is spearheading the effort to provide each Massachusetts municipality with at least one set of animal oxygen masks. Each kit includes at least three different sized masks for cats and large and small dogs. The kits include the necessary tubing to attach them to oxygen tanks.

According to Groton veterinarian Dr. Susan Horowitz, the need for the masks became apparent following Hurricane Katrina and the attention so many small animals required in order to survive. With the popularity of dogs and cats as

pets, firefighters are often in a situation where they need to help them as well as people when disaster strikes.

Dr. Horowitz said that the MVMA Charities provided Groton with one kit, but Groton Fire Chief Joe Bosselait was hoping to get three such kits, one for each station. She and Bob and Rainier Collins donated the other two kits so that Groton would have three sets for emergency vehicles.

Dr. Horowitz is a member of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and is working with this organization to get the word out about the program. The LEPC is also working to identify safe sites for housing animals in the event of a disaster.