



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

**TALE OF A RESCUE** — Chris Tillman, a Boston firefighter with the Engine 10 firehouse on Purchase Street, rescued Sammy, a 60-pound Norwegian elkhound service dog, yesterday after he got stuck on a ledge off Fan Pier. Mary Gier, 69, of Boston, the dog's owner, said that she had let him off his leash to explore rocks and that he got stuck on a ledge. She said she climbed down to help Sammy but could not lift him to safety. A bystander summoned help. "I wasn't going to leave him," Gier said. "I could move, but he couldn't." Firefighters helped Gier back up, and Tillman lifted Sammy onto the pier.

## Fire Dept. gets oxygen masks for pets

By L. Finch  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

With their choking smoke, fires pose as serious a threat to pets as they do to humans. Now the animals can breathe a little easier.

Every Boston Fire Department engine, ladder, and rescue truck will carry oxygen masks made for pets, the department said yesterday.

The department received the 60 pet oxygen masks as a donation from WellPet, a natural pet

food company based in Tewksbury, and Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association Charities.

"Smoke doesn't discriminate," said Steve MacDonald, a department spokesman. "It affects everyone that relies on oxygen to breathe. Having a specific mask geared toward pets will go a long way to helping pets survive smoky conditions."

Previously, firefighters made do with oxygen masks designed for humans, but the masks were not a good fit for most pets and

much of the oxygen escaped, MacDonald said.

Fire Commissioner Roderick Fraser began looking for the masks after a department employee, concerned about her German shepherd, told him how other departments around the country use special oxygen masks for pets, MacDonald said.

It was not long before the commissioner found organizations willing to donate them, he said.

"We're proud to donate these

pet oxygen masks to the Boston Fire Department, so that the city's firefighting heroes have the tools they need to save the lives of every member of our families, including our pets," Chanda Leary-Coutu, WellPet spokeswoman, said in a statement.

L. Finch can be reached at [lfinch@globe.com](mailto:lfinch@globe.com).



### SAVING PETS

For a video, go to [boston.com/globe](http://boston.com/globe).