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2013-09-12 / Rutland News

Rutland receives pet oxygen mask kit



Rutland has received a pet oxygen mask kit from Massachusetts veterinarians in an effort to save animals' lives in the event of a fire.

Rutland was one of more than 100 Massachusetts towns to receive the kit as part of the launch of the Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association Charities, Inc. 2013 Pet Oxygen Mask Campaign.

In 2008, the MVMA Charities, Inc. launched the MVMACI Pet Oxygen Mask Program to outfit every municipality in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a pet oxygen mask kit. Over half of the state's communities now have these kits. The 2013 Campaign is underway to "finish the job," says MVMA Charities, Inc. president, Dr. Suzanne Starr. "We are excited to complete phase one of this program and make sure that all first responder vehicles are equipped with the emergency equipment needed to save the lives of our pets."

This set of three masks is designed to fit dogs and cats that might be victims of smoke inhalation, excess water inhalation, or other respiratory emergencies. In one year alone, nearly 30,000 fire incidents were reported in Massachusetts, with almost half happening in residential homes.

In order to ensure the proper care and safety of pets during these unfortunate occurrences, the Pet Oxygen Mask Program has been established by the MVMACI, and they have adopted a twotiered mission to distribute rescue masks.

The goal is to place one mask kit in each town and city across the state. Phase two of the program is to place one mask kit in all of the 452 fire stations in the state. Currently, approximately half of the cities and towns in Massachusetts are equipped with pet oxygen mask kits.

For information on how to donate a mask kit or participate in this program, call the MVMACI office at 508-460- 9333 or visit their Facebook Page at MVMA Charities, Inc.

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