

News Release

February 19, 2012

For Immediate Release

Town of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services receives second donation of pet oxygen masks

Family pets in Caledon will now be safer thanks to a recent generous donation from “Good Guys Carting Dogs”. The Town’s Fire and Emergency services is pleased to announce that all fire trucks will now be equipped with pet oxygen masks. Pet oxygen masks are life-saving devices specifically designed for small animals exposed to smoke during a fire.

Fourteen pet oxygen mask kits were donated to the Town fire department by “Good Guys Carting Dogs” during the SnowFest event on February 18, 2013. This donation was made possible through donations from the Caledon Agricultural Society, Dr. Helen Wicki and the Nobleton Veterinary Clinic, and Mr. and Mrs. Ross Goodfellow, long-time Caledon residents. The kits will ensure firefighters are better equipped to handle pet-related emergencies during fires.

"Our first priority in case of fire is always to assist the occupants involved and ensure buildings are cleared. While doing our job, though, we often have the opportunity to work with pets," said Fire Chief Terry Irwin. "We recognize that they are another important member of the family."

The reusable masks come in various sizes and are suitable for a variety of animals, including dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits and birds. The masks function similarly to regular breathing masks but provide a customized fit for pets, increasing the effectiveness of oxygen delivery. The oxygen masks will be assigned to every fire station within the Town of Caledon and will be kept on the first line trucks.

"Before this donation, we used human oxygen masks on pets distressed by fires. We have had success in saving pet lives, but with this donation, we will be better equipped to securely deliver the right amount of oxygen," said Chief Irwin. Familiarization on use of the masks will take place as part of regular training.

"Good Guys Carting Dogs is pleased to be able to provide the Town of Caledon fire department with an ability to assist animals on the front line," said Ross Hamilton, on behalf of Good Guys Carting Dogs. "By providing these masks, we are hopeful that we will assist in saving animal lives in our community."

For information on Town of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services visit www.caledon.ca/fire

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