June 11, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

Pet Resuscitator Kits Donated to Fire Department

The Springfield Fire Department is pleased to announce the donation of three pet resuscitator kits from the Ozarks Kennel Club and Michael J. Opsomer, DVM, of Gentle Care Animal Hospital in Nixa.

Firefighters often go to great lengths to assist animals that have experienced smoke inhalation from house fires. Unfortunately, human masks do not fit properly on animals and cannot be used to effectively provide oxygen to pets in need. These cup-shaped masks seal around the muzzles of animals tighter than a mask made for humans, allowing oxygen to be administered more effectively. The addition of these devices will improve the outcome for pets removed from fires. They are reusable and easily cleaned for multiple uses.

Battalion Chief Kevin Trogdon said, “Over the years, I have responded to several incidents where pets were in the home. Sometimes, they needed medical attention, but we were limited to the equipment we carry for people. Sometimes this was sufficient, but at other times it was not. This donation will help ensure we give pets within the community every possible opportunity to survive during a fire.”

The resuscitator kits will be placed on both Battalion Chief vehicles as well as the center city heavy rescue company, Squad 1. These vehicles respond to every fire call in the city and will allow the devices to be available for use quickly when needed.

For more information, contact: Randy Villines, Assistant Fire Chief, (417) 864-1527.