

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 6, 2008



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### **Suffolk Fire and Rescue to Receive Pet Oxygen Masks**

SUFFOLK, VA (October 6, 2008) – Suffolk Fire and Rescue will receive special equipment Tuesday that will help them assist our city's furry friends in an emergency. Harbour Veterinary employees will present 11 pet resuscitation masks to Fire Chief Mark Outlaw and Battalion Chief John Hoffler on Tuesday, October 7, at 2 p.m. at Fire Station One, located in the 400 block of Market Street.

Currently, Suffolk Fire and Rescue has only two pet oxygen masks. Fire Chief Mark Outlaw advises, "We are thankful for the donation of this equipment, the additional masks will allow us to have masks on all of our front line fire engines."

Before animal oxygen masks, firefighters would use mouth-to-snout resuscitation or human oxygen masks. The main difference between the animal mask and a human mask is that it seals around the muzzle tighter than a human mask. This helps firefighters deliver the right amount of oxygen to the pet.

The staff of Dr. Delmon Harbour raised money for this equipment by holding a yard sale in August at their East Constance Road office. Harbour Veterinary employees and clients donated items for the fundraiser. The masks cost approximately \$60 each.

Members of the media are invited to attend the presentation.

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