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SAN DIEGO PETS CAN BREATHE A LITTLE EASIER
San Diego Fire-Rescue Department receives pet oxygen masks

SAN DIEGO, CA – San Diego pets can breathe a little easier knowing that the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department has received 10 pet oxygen mask kits. The generous donation continues the Department's efforts to equip all of the city's fire stations with masks. Currently, only half of the stations have them.

The San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation will present the donation and will provide a pet demonstration of the new masks on Friday, June 10 at 10:30 a.m. at Fire Station 28, 3880 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego. San Diego fire captain Mike Merriken will demonstrate one of the masks on his dog, Hollie, a trained accelerant detection dog and handler.

"These masks are designed to fit over the muzzle of a cat or dog making treatment more effective," says Merriken. "Just last week we had the need to use one of these masks on a family pet caught in a house fire."

Each year, thousands of family pets are killed in home fires. The leading cause of death is asphyxiation. The smaller masks, available in three sizes, allow San Diego's first responders to provide life saving support to animals until veterinary care can be administered.

"Our firefighters put their lives on the line everyday to keep San Diego's citizens, property, and yes, even animals, safe from fire and other emergencies," says Wendy Robinson, executive director of the San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation. "Equipping our emergency first responders with enhanced service tools helps them better respond to the hundreds of emergency calls that occur daily in the San Diego area."

For more information about the pet demonstration, please contact Wendy Robinson, executive director of San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation, at 619-410-4742. To learn how you can support the fundraising efforts of the Fire Rescue Foundation, please visit www.sdfirerescue.org.

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Founded in 2006 by former firefighters and community leaders, the **San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation** is a 503(c)(3) public charity based in San Diego, Calif. The Fire Rescue Foundation provides our first responders with the necessary funding to purchase critically needed equipment, technology, and training required to keep the property and citizens of San Diego and the surrounding region safe from the ravages of fire, natural disasters, and unforeseen injuries and illness. Tax-deductible donations to the Fire Rescue Foundation directly support the City of San Diego's fire, lifeguard, and emergency medical services. More information can be found at www.SDFireRescue.org.