

Levy County accepts donations to save pets



Story and Photos
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Department of Public Safety

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BRONSON -- First responders with the Levy County Department of Public Safety, including staff members on seven ambulances, are now some of the best-equipped in the nation to save a pet's life.

That's because Invisible Fence of Central Florida has donated 10 pet oxygen mask kits to the department.

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This donation is just a small part of Invisible Fence Brand's Project Breathe program, which was established with the goal of equipping every fire station in America and Canada with pet oxygen masks. These masks allow firefighters and EMS staff to give oxygen to pets who are suffering from smoke inhalation when they are rescued from fires and often save pets' lives.

Invisible Fence Brand has donated a total of more than 18,700 pet oxygen masks to fire stations all over the U.S. and Canada throughout the life of the program. There are 180-plus pets that have been saved by the donated masks so far.

There were two dogs and one cat saved most recently in Sanford by the Sanford Fire Department.

"When a family suffers the tragedy of a fire, lives are turned upside down," Ed Hoyt, director of Invisible Fence Brand said. "Pets are valued family members, so we want families to know that their pet can be cared for if tragedy strikes.

"We realize that humans are the first priority, but in many cases, pets can be saved if firefighters have the right equipment," Hoyt continued. "The Project Breathe program is simply a way of giving firefighters the tools necessary to save pets' lives."

Levy County and surrounding areas are now joining the ranks of cities like Seattle, Chicago, Denver, and Salt Lake City who have all received donated pet oxygen masks from Project Breathe program.

The company has set up a website, www.invisiblefence.com/O2, where local fire personnel can make a request for their own departments.

