

Animal oxygen masks donated to fire department

(<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/franklinpark/news/1234540.fp-petmasks-102208-s1.article>)

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Friends of Joanne Dill, an animal lover, have found a way to honor her memory.

Dill was well known for her participation in the Franklin Park home delivered meals program. She died Sept. 15.

"Rather than send flowers, my husband Chuck and I donated pet masks to the (Franklin Park) Fire Department," said Peggy Grandahl.

The donation is similar to one the Grandahl's organized for the Joliet Fire Department, in which friends got together and donated nine sets of masks. They also donated one set to the Plainfield Fire Department.

The Animal Oxygen Recovery Mask Set of three, different-sized masks takes care of just about any air breathing animal species from a tiny bird or reptile to a St. Bernard, according to information provided by H.E.L.P. Animals Inc., the organization that provides the masks to emergency service agencies. The masks are reusable, easily cleaned and come with a manufacturer warranty.

Included with the set is the 22mm oxygen tubing for each individual mask.

"When Joanie passed away, we thought that this was the right thing to do," Grandahl said. "She really loved her cats."

Grandahl, who used to work with dogs, said 50 percent of all house fires in the United States occur in homes with pets, leading to a high risk of smoke inhalation injury or death.

"Pediatric oxygen masks are not designed for pets," she said. "These masks are specifically for animals.

"Why should a family pet have to perish? Of course saving a human life comes first.

"With these masks, sometimes this is the difference between life and death," she said.

Visit www.helpanimalsinc.org for more information about animal oxygen recovery mask sets.