



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Marion County Fire-Rescue

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COMMUNITY BUILDER LEADS RESCUE EFFORT FOR FURRY FRIENDS

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (October 7, 2005) – Lisa Fornof, a mother of three, is a self-proclaimed pet-lover determined to teach her children the importance of giving back to the community. So when she read an article about firefighters in Connecticut receiving pet rescue kits designed to revive dogs and cats, her mission became clear.

“I thought, wow, this is something we can do in our own county to help our animals,” she said. “Plenty of people see their pets as part of the family. This equipment will give them a better chance of surviving a house fire.”

Proving that just one person can make a difference, Lisa started to research and found a non-profit animal organization based in Orange City called H.E.L.P. Animals Inc. Having the ability to purchase units from the manufacturer at a discounted price, H.E.L.P. has donated pet rescue kits to Volusia County Fire-Rescue through grassroots fundraising.

That prompted Lisa to form partnerships with local pet clinics and business owners, establish more than a dozen donation drop-off sites and start attending local events to get the word out. It didn't take long before donations started pouring in. So far, Paddock Park Animal Hospital has donated enough money to purchase five pet rescue kits that cost \$50 each.

“Oh my gosh, the response has been phenomenal,” Lisa said. “It's more than I expected, and I was very surprised.”

Lisa's initial goal is to raise \$2,000 to purchase 40 pet rescue kits for Marion County Fire-Rescue's 19 fire stations that are staffed with full-time state certified EMT and paramedic/firefighters. She may also extend her effort to MCFR's eight volunteer stations as well as the City of Ocala's five fire stations.

The following clinics will serve as donation drop-off sites:

Paddock Park Animal Hospital
3931 SW 42 Street (off SR 200)

Town and Country Animal Hospital
5204 N. U.S. Hwy 27

Brick City Animal Hospital
702 S. Magnolia Avenue

Marion Veterinarian Hospital
2532 SE 17 Street

Reign Cats and Dogs
1645 SE 58 Avenue

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