

## Fido Bag Donation is a Lifesaver For Pets in an Emergency

Rosella Sawyer donates one to Emergency Services

Press release

A great big thank you goes to Rosella Sawyer, mother-in-law to Deputy Fire Chief Steve Barton, and mother of Meghan Barton, Andover Emergency Services Auxiliary member. As a supporter of Andover Emergency Services and a lover of animals, Rosella purchased a Fido



Rosella Sawyer holds the Fido Bag she donated to the Andover Emergency Services; Deputy Fire Chief Steve Barton is on the left.

Photo: Meghan Barton

Bag. Her generous donation to our department “supplies EMS with a lifesaving tool to administer medical attention to your family’s pet at the point of rescue.” We appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness, Rosella, as the Fido Bag may save a four-legged life in an emergency!

The following quotes are from Fido Bag’s website at TheFetchFoundation.com:

“An estimated half a million pets are affected by fires each year in the United States. More than 40,000 of our family pets die from smoke inhalation alone.

“Ever wonder what happens to your four-legged family members once firefighters secure the humans from

danger? After much investigation, we found that first responders’ priorities in an emergency are people, pets, and property, in that order. Fire departments that have received our Fido Bags and the associated training now feel confident they have the tools to give our pets the best chance of survival in these emergencies.

“Oxygen is the first thing any living and breathing being needs after being in a fire. Since fire departments are only equipped with human emergency supplies, the oxygen masks available are too flat and small to fit a pet’s face. The star feature of the Fido Bag is a specialized breathing apparatus that is formed to fit any pet’s muzzle. This specialized cone-shaped oxygen mask allows for a secure seal on the pet’s face, giving them the breath of life.

“Many pets also receive injuries and burns during a fire or accident. Therefore, specialized burn sheets, bandages, rinsing saline, and protective restraints are also in the Fido Bag. Once the pet is stabilized, collapsible water dishes are filled and cuddly toys are kept at hand to comfort the pet while in route to the local animal hospital.

“How do we get the Fido Bag into the hands of first responders? You are the key. By sponsoring a fire department, a Fido Bag, or giving a simple donation, we can supply your local fire departments with these life-saving tools that may one day save your best friend’s life.

“How do they know how to use it? Saving a pet’s life requires special training. When a Fido Bag is donated, the recipient fire department is given in-depth training by a qualified, licensed veterinarian. Rescuers are taught how to administer oxygen, how to perform first aid for injuries, how to administer life-saving drugs, and how to use supplies that they already carry on their trucks.”

For more information on the Fido Bag, visit TheFetchFoundation.com.



The Andover Girl Scouts were an important and energetic part of last year’s Fourth of July celebration on the Village Green. Photo: Shelley Geoghegan

## Wild About the Fourth is the Theme for 2020 Parade

AE/MS students chose the theme

Andover Fourth of July Committee

Are you wild about the Fourth? We are! And from all indications, Andover is, too. We thank you all for your overwhelming support at Town Meeting.

That’s right. That’s the theme for this year’s Fourth of July Parade: Wild About the Fourth ... and you can thank the AE/MS students for this brilliant idea. They were thinking along the lines of wild jungle animals, but you don’t have to limit yourselves to that. Interpret it any way you want.

What’s really important is that everyone participates in the parade: family float, business float, animal float. You name it! If for no other reason, we’ve got great float prizes. The Grand Prize is once again \$250. We’ve seen some amazing creations in the past.

While you are thinking about your float entry, the Fourth of July Committee is busy working in the background to line up entertainment, vendors on the Village Green, and, new this year, an inflatable

obstacle course for the kids to enjoy.

Be sure to encourage your youngsters to participate in the Children’s Parade ... decorated bicycles, wagons, costumes! Anything goes!

When we reach back in time, we find that the reason that Andover’s Fourth of July parade was originally begun was for the kids. It was a bright spot in Andover during the dark days when the United States was entering World War II. That wonderful tradition has blossomed into the fantastic tradition it is today.

Just think: The kids marching down Main Street on July 4, 2020, will be marching in the footsteps of Andover’s children 78 years ago! Close your eyes and imagine the happy sounds from the children of days gone by.

We have a lot of preparation work to do for the Fourth. The committee welcomes people who can help with the planning and also just on the day of the event. Simply message us on our Facebook page or give us a call: Doug Phelps at 802 310-1045; Donna Smith at 735-6131; or Beth Frost at 455-2882.



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Lining up for the Children’s Parade in the early 1970s. Recognize any of the children? Please let us know at Mail@AndoverBeacon.com. Photo: Vic Phelps



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