



## Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

### Pet Emergency Preparedness Procedures



Emergencies come out of nowhere and while no one ever thinks they will happen to them, unfortunately, there is always the risk for all of us. As we head into summer, with it comes the chance of dangerous storms, flooding, lightning hitting homes or winds sending trees into homes, and fires. As this month is National Pet Preparedness Month and it coincides with the beginning of

summer weather, this is the perfect time to go over pet emergency preparedness procedures.

The first step of being prepared for an emergency is to have a pet first aid kit and emergency evacuation kit easily accessible to you, as seconds count in these situations! For more on what should be in your pet's first aid kit, visit our blog article [Build Your Own Pet First Aid Kit](#).

Your emergency evacuation kit should have copies of your pet's license, up-to-date veterinary records, a week's worth of food, bottled water, a pet's medications, extra food and water bowls, an extra collar with name tags and extra leash or harness, a recent picture of your pet in the event you get separated, disposable litter trays, disposable waste bags, litter or sand, a travel sized bottle of dish liquid for cleaning bowls and pans after each use a

### Health Tip for the Season

In an emergency, it's not only important to remember your pet's medications but also documentation on the medication schedule, side effects and possible interactions with other medications. If your pet has medications that need refrigerated, have a small cooler or insulated medication bag on hand that can be filled with ice packs or even bagged ice from the grocery store in a pinch. Be sure to check with you pet's veterinarian on what temperature the medication can get to before it loses potency.

If your pet has mobility issues, make sure to pack an extra harness or sling.

### Training Tip for the Season

Pets can be trained to go to a certain place in the house by using word

traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier, blankets and toys.

All families should be practicing fire escape drills in the case of a fire but make sure you're remembering to include your furry family members too! Plan ahead on which family member will be in charge of the pets – ideally 1 person per pet, but if this is not possible, modify for your family's needs. Have several escapes routes planned in advance in case one is blocked and be sure all family members practice these drills regularly. Something that will come up during a real emergency and may not during a drill is your pet becoming frightened and hiding so know all the places your pet likes to hide. Where does your dog hide during a thunderstorm? Does your cat have a habit of hiding under the bed when the doorbell rings? Animals are creatures of habit and will most likely head to a place they feel is safe.

If you have to leave your home for any period of time, know where your pets are going! Have an updated list of all hotels, motels, and short term stay apartments that accept pets. If your plan is to go to a friend or family's home, make sure you know where your pet can sleep, relieve themselves and eat. Pets are most often lost from homes that aren't their own. If they are used to a fenced yard and the place you are staying doesn't have one, make sure their leash is attached before opening the door. If all else fails, have a vet approved boarding or kennel on hand that could house your pet until a more stable environment is found.

Pets are family and as such, should be part of every family's emergency evacuation plan.

association. For example, you can teach your dog to go to their crate, or the front door by associating the words with the actions. This could be of extreme importance during an emergency. A pet may be frightened by a smoke detector going off or by a loud storm or heavy downpour and try to hide. When seconds count, it's helpful to know you can get to your pet to help them evacuate if need be.

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### Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

If your pet sitter is caring for your pet while you're away, your pet sitter can get to your pet if they have access to your home. For this reason, always make sure your account is up to date with your pet's current medication, current veterinarian or animal clinic, current health issues and emergency contact information.

## Featured Rescue of the Month



## The S.P.A.R.R.O. & Shades Of Grey Sanctuary story-WHO WE ARE!

Southwest Pennsylvania Retriever Rescue Organization or S.P.A.R.R.O. is not your standard rescue, we are a temporary home for wayward, abandoned, unwanted, or abused dogs. All dogs that enter our organization are treated as members of a family. Some do stay forever! If a dog is found to not fit in after several attempts at placement or no interest is shown in a particular dog we just make room and they become part of Shades Of Grey Sanctuary for the remainder of their life. **S.P.A.R.R.O. IS MOST DEFINITELY A NO-KILL ORGANIZATION!** We attempt to crate train all dogs as well as teach them basic commands and how to walk on leash.

In September of 2000 we saw the need for a place for abused, abandon, neglected and wayward dogs in our area to go where they could be loved, rehabbed and find forever homes. That was the birth of Southwest Pennsylvania Retriever Rescue Organization, or SPARRO. Just one year later with the tragedy of 9/11, SPARRO was thrust into the forefront of rescue in our area. In 2000 we were able to rescue 4 dogs, but after the WTC attack and throughout 2001 we took in and re-homed 133 dogs, including 2 chocolate lab brothers directly from the NYC area just one week after the attack. In 2003 we received our non-profit status and became a federally recognized 501c

In 2009 it became obvious that while we were making an impact for young adoptable dogs, there were just as many senior dogs who would never have a chance at adoption from the pounds and shelters, or when their owners passed away or could no longer care for them. At that time the Shades Of Grey Sanctuary for senior dogs was born as a part of SPARRO. SOGS fills the need for a quiet place for senior dogs to retire and live out the rest of their life without worry that they will be uprooted again and need to find another family. These seniors do NOT go up for adoption, but become members of the pack here, with as many as 10 or more sleeping in bed with me every night, until their final day comes. We provide love, affection, medical care, hospice and when that day ultimately arrives, a swift and painless crossing to the rainbow bridge to wait for us or be reunited with their family who has gone on ahead. While finding homes for young dogs brings great reward, seeing life and happiness return to a grizzled grey face is so much more gratifying. We love our seniors and special needs dogs and in return they give us so much more than we could ever give them.

Over the years SPARRO has continued to grow and now in our 18th year we have rescued well over 2900 wayward dogs. We have helped dogs from every single state east of the Rockies and many from Canada as well. We helped with the dogs of Hurricane Katrina, the flooding in Baton Rouge LA. and victims of other natural disasters all over our coverage area. In an average year we log over 40,000 miles on our 2014 Dodge Ram picking up dogs in need or helping transport from kill shelters to accepting rescue groups. We work closely with our rescue partners to bring great dogs to waiting forever homes whenever we can. We work especially closely with the Paws Squad in Logan County WV to help the dogs of very rural Appalachia that do not get the same care and attention that we see in our local area. SPARRO always has young, beautiful retrievers available for adoption which you can see on our adoption page at [www.sparro.org/adoption.html](http://www.sparro.org/adoption.html)

### Featured Pet of the Month

Dove

Do you need a running partner? Do you love the



outdoors and taking hikes and are looking for a companion who will have the energy to keep up with you? You're looking for Dove!

Dove is a very happy, very high energy 2 year old Redbone Coonhound mix. Dove loves life and people but he gets so excited about meeting new people that he comes off as a little overzealous during his meet and greets. He thinks he is a lap dog and will try to climb up on his new friends' lap, but because of his size it usually leads to people being afraid to give this great guy a chance. Dove is house and crate trained, vaccinated and neutered.

Dove is ready and waiting for his forever family! He's been at SPARRO for 16 months – over half his life! Dove would need a home without children under 10 – he isn't aggressive just a bit too energetic and may knock over a small child. No cats! While a fence isn't being required, Dove would need more than just a daily walk to expel his energy!



June Birthdays



These pets will be celebrating a birthday in the month of June!

Nero Dowling  
Buddy Dowling  
Dottie Escalante  
Morticia Falk  
Elvira Falk  
Luke Kelly  
Maggie Mack  
Darwin Miller  
Rooney Miller  
Kyrie Robinson

Happy Birthday, all! Paw-ty hard!

### Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

#### Peanut Butter Oatmeal Banana Dog Treats

##### Ingredients:

1 egg  
1/3 cup peanut butter\*  
1 cup whole wheat flour  
1/2 cup old fashioned oats  
1 mashed banana (1/2 cup)

##### Instructions

Preheat oven to 300 degrees

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and knead until a dough ball forms. If it's too sticky, add a little more flour.

Roll it out on a lightly floured surface and cut into shapes with cookie cutters

Place the cutouts on a baking sheet and bake for about 15-20 minutes.

\* When making any recipe with peanut butter, always make sure it is NOT sugar



free peanut butter and it doesn't contain Xylitol!

## Crazy Crunchy Cat Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp Catnip (Optional)
- 1 10 oz can Tuna or Salmon
- 1 cup All purpose flour
- 1 tbsp Olive oil
- 1 Egg
- 1 cup old fashioned oats



Instructions

Preheat your oven to 350 F

Drain canned tuna and reserve about 3 tbsp of the liquid. Dump your old fashioned oats into the food processor and pulse until powdery. Add all of your ingredients in and pulse away until it forms a ball of dough. If it's too sticky, add more flour. If it's too dry, add a bit of water.

Roll your dough until it's about 1/8 inch thick. Using a cookie cutter cut out the treats. Bake for about 20-30 mins until they turn slightly golden and are quite crisp on the outside. If your cat prefers harder treats you can bake them longer. Let them cool completely!

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