



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life



PET FIRST AID

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST AID FOR FIDO FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Manual helps pet lovers meet health and safety needs of four-legged furry loved ones

[WINSTON-SALEM, August 6, 2005] — The American Red Cross is known for helping to keep our communities healthy and safe. Now with “Pet First Aid,” its guide to preventing, preparing for and responding to emergencies, the Northwest North Carolina Chapter is spreading the word that it can do the same for four-legged loved ones as well. “We also have a pet first aid course, a four-hour session that provides hands-on training for some of the issues the book addresses” said Red Cross Instructor, Tom Dunn.

“Pet First Aid” explains emergency care procedures for cats and dogs in simple terms. Written by Bobbie Mammato, DVM, MPH, it runs just over one hundred pages, features more than 130 illustrations and offers step-by-step directions for topics from giving medication to administering CPR and rescue breathing. The book retails for \$12.95 and is available at the Northwest North Carolina Chapter.

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, almost 38 million households had a dog and a little more than 33 million had a cat in 2002. “This guide is a must-have for pet lovers—homes with pets really should not be without it,” points out Tom. “We know pet owners enjoy a very special bond with their pets—they’re a part of the family. Just like with people, accidents and emergencies can happen and being prepared by knowing what to do could make a lifesaving difference.”

Guidance from “Pet First Aid” includes:

- Pay attention to what is normal for your pet so you can detect signals when something is wrong.
- Dogs who hang their heads out of car windows can be injured by flying debris. Keep your pet safely inside any moving vehicle and never transport your pet in the back of an open pickup truck.
- Keep contact information of your veterinarian, 24-hour veterinary emergency hospital, National Animal Poison Control Center and animal shelter or animal care and control agency readily available.

“This manual is another lifesaving resource that supports our mission of keeping Davie, Forsyth, Stokes and Yadkin residents healthy and safe,” said Judi Scherer, director of health & safety services. “It’s a perfect addition to home reference libraries and makes a great gift!” For more information or a schedule of available pet first aid classes in your area, please contact the Red Cross at 724-0511 or go to our website at www.nwnc-redcross.org.

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