

Dr. Oakley says....

Rebecca has a home!!! In the last article, we left off with a plea for a forever home for the wonderful little hit-by-car cat that a good Samaritan brought into the Lebanon Veterinary Hospital. She was fixed up and ready to find love. Thank you to everyone who inquired about her, she is in a great home and the new family is happy to have each other!

This month, I would like to talk about emergency kits. After hearing some lively discussions between Dr. and Mrs. Zickmann about this topic, I'd like to share what I've learned. Mrs. Z was stranded for a few hours on the side of a road during a snowstorm a while back. Dr. Z put together a big emergency car kit for her for Christmas. Imagine her surprise opening that one on Christmas morning! (I know, I'm working on him!) Suffice it to say, that it did spark some lively discussions during mealtimes and they realized that they had forgotten about me in the emergency kit. What if they had me in the car? How does that change things?

I assume that many of you listen to "Click and Clack" from "Car talk" and know how to put together an emergency kit for your cars. If you have children, that means you need to add more granola bars, blankets and DVD's to the emergency kit. If you have pets, you need to add canned pet food (and a can opener), water bowl, extra water, a leash and a copy of your pets records in a waterproof bag. This becomes very important if an emergency arises and you need to kennel your pet unexpectedly as they will need proof of current vaccinations.

What about other emergencies? In these crazy days of hurricanes, power outages and storms, what about our pets? Mrs. Z found that the Red Cross offers an app for \$1.99 called "Pet First Aid" and it has information on everything from bloat to what to do if your pet is injured. It also includes a vet hospital locator and the ABCs of first aid in case you find yourself away from home and need to provide care to your beloved pet. They also include information on preparing a pet first aid kit that includes everything from gauze, Benadryl (ask your vet ahead of time for appropriate dosing for your pet), styptic powder to stop bleeding from broken nails and many more great ideas!

This gave the Zickmanns good things to discuss and plan for and now I feel safe knowing that their new emergency kits include preparations for me, Dr. Oakley!

Peace,  
Dr. O