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DOG'S SPIRIT LIVES ON THROUGH DONATION TO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Glendale, Ariz. —Recently, the Glendale Fire Department accepted three FIDO bags that were donated by the AZ Jack Russell Rescue (AZJRR) through the Fetch Foundation. One of the bags donated was in memory of Sasha, a 13 year old rescued Jack Russell Terrier, who lost her battle to Valley Fever last December.

The FIDO bag, created by a Glendale firefighter, are medical bags containing customized oxygen masks and other medical supplies specifically made to care for animals in emergency situations like fires. The bags were placed on Glendale fire trucks in April of 2007 after the Sun Valley Animal Shelter made a generous donation of $4,000 to fund the FIDO bag program. Glendale firefighters, having saved numerous animals using the FIDO bag equipment, believe that the bags are a necessity since 70% of households have pets.

Sasha was taken in by the rescue three years ago after her owner surrendered her to the Maricopa County Animal Care and Control. She was adopted quickly but returned when she was diagnosed with Valley Fever. The new family did not want to cover the costs of treatment and without medications Sasha did not have a chance for survival. Gary and Sandy Mittendorf, owners of AZJRR, decided they would take care of her with several volunteers sharing duties of an "around the clock" treatment and care schedule. When extensive care was no longer needed, AZJRR board members Doug and Carolyn Latham took Sasha in for almost two years until her advanced age and health issues proved too much for her.

"It was important for us to donate one of the bags to the Glendale Fire Department in honor of Sasha since her foster home was in Glendale," Sandy Mittendorf said. "We also wanted to spread the word to encourage others to help the Fetch Foundation to provide these much needed bags to help save animal's lives. "

To help support and maintain the FIDO bag program, people can donate to Glendale Firefighters Charities by calling 623-930-4400 or by visiting the Fetch Foundation's website at www.thefetchfoundation.com .

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