

[Cricket's Yips 'N Tips: Our New Weekly Feature!](#)

October 12, 2009 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



Cricket Oldham, Doggie Blogger

Daylight Savings Time will end on November 1, 2009. This may not seem to be a very important date for most pets, as few of us have to worry about getting to work on time; but the beginning and ending of daylight savings time can serve as very important safety reminders for those of us who hold down the fort at home while other family members are away all day.

This is a good time to remind your pet parent to buy replacement batteries for the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Although they get busy and forgetful sometimes, the end of daylight savings is an easy reminder to change those batteries. And in case there is a fire in your home, advise your pet parent to put a small note or a sticker on your door to let others know that you are inside. (See our Fire Prevention & Safety checklist [here](#).)

You might also point out to your pet parent that it's a great time to update your pet disaster supplies kit. If you have used any items from your kit during the last six months, now is the time to replace them. Also replace any items that have expired. My kit is in a duffel bag that is kept in the front hall closet. My medications and medical records are inside a waterproof container. I also have my own first aid kit, a harness, a leash, food, water, bowls and a can opener, among other items. I even have an old toy (Fluffy the rabbit) in my kit, so I will always have something familiar with me. We'll be discussing pet disaster supplies kits in more detail later. Until then, information about creating your own pet disaster supplies kits can be found [here](#). Happy re-stocking and enjoy your week!

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[Bah-Hum-Boo!](#)

October 26, 2009 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



Happy Halloween!

For most pets, Halloween does not rate very high on our list of fun holidays. It is really a holiday for the people in our lives. Sure, I look soooooo cute in my Halloween costume. And I can even tolerate wearing it and posing for photos — for about three minutes. That is where my interest in Halloween ends.

I'd love to get my paws on that big bowl of candy by the front door, but all I get are regular old dog treats. "Candy is bad for dogs," Mom says. Sure, candy causes obesity and tooth decay in pets like it does in people and I probably don't brush my teeth as often as I should, but it smells really good and I want it anyway. I think some of the best smells come from the chocolate candy but I'm not allowed to have any chocolate. Besides causing tooth decay and obesity, the theobromine in chocolate is poison to pets. If you suspect that your pet has chocolate poisoning, call your veterinarian immediately.

I know that the strange-looking creatures in the house are my own people, but the rest of the world seems full of scary things running around outside and making lots of noise. And worst of all, they ring my doorbell. Some pets become overwhelmed and excited during the trick-or-treating and one common reaction for them is to run away. Never leave pets outdoors on Halloween: they may jump a fence or dig under a fence to escape even if they have never done it before. Protect your pets by putting them in a quiet room away from open doors, scary strangers and chocolate. *Happy Halloween!*

Posted in [Pets](#) | Tagged [Preparedness](#) | [Leave a Comment](#) »

[Did you change your batteries this weekend?](#)

November 2, 2009 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



Did you know that according to the National Fire Protection Association, having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly half? This stat refers to our human friends, but I can only assume the same goes for us pets. Having an escape plan is important, but working smoke alarms and your escape plan go hand-in-hand. Make sure your pet parent took time this weekend to replace all of your smoke alarm batteries. If not, make sure they do before you go to bed tonight!

Posted in [Disaster Services](#), [Pets](#) | Tagged [Fire](#), [Preparedness](#) | [Leave a Comment »](#)

Maintaining your pet's health

November 16, 2009 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)

The first step to keeping your pet healthy is to make an appointment with your veterinarian as soon as you bring a new pet into your home. Your veterinarian will assess your new pet's health, complete an exam and begin a vaccination program. It will be necessary to make yearly visits to your veterinarian for heartworm testing, vaccinations and an annual exam. It's crucial to keep your pet's vaccinations up-to-date.

I keep my medical and vaccination records in my disaster supplies kit. For more information on pets and disaster, [click here](#). And please remember that even if your pet howls and runs away at the site of a pet carrier, or barks incessantly when it enters the vet's office, vomits on the exam room floor or shivers and shakes when it realizes that the surprise car ride will be ending at the vet's office, your pet loves you for keeping it happy and healthy. The American Red Cross also offers first aid books for [dogs](#) and [cats](#) to help you prepare for pet emergencies.

Posted in [CPR and First Aid Training](#), [Pets](#) | Tagged [CPR and First Aid](#), [Pets](#), [Preparedness](#) | [Leave a Comment](#)

Road Trip

November 23, 2009 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)

Like many Americans, I'll be taking another road trip to Grandma and Grandpa's house for Thanksgiving dinner. My (doggie) brother will be riding in a crate in the back seat of the car. I'll be wearing my car harness because I behave better in the car than my brother.

Even a short trip in the car requires some planning when you have pets. Always keep water in the car. And when you have well-watered pets ... be prepared to make more stops. Of course when you do stop, make sure all your pets are restrained before you open a car door. Pets should always wear identification tags in case they get lost.

When I go to Grandma's and Grandpa's house on Thanksgiving, they always have special dog treats for me. But when it comes to sharing the turkey dinner, they are not so generous. They won't even throw me a turkey bone – they say that the bones can splinter and cause me to choke. The dog treats are good though. Happy Thanksgiving!

Note: Take a [Pet First Aid class](#) at the American Red Cross and learn what to do if your pet is choking.

Posted in [CPR and First Aid Training](#), [Pets](#) | Tagged [CPR and First Aid](#), [Pets](#), [Preparedness](#) | [2 Comments »](#)

I brought back more than souvenirs from vacation

December 7, 2009 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



I had a great time playing outdoors last year when I went on vacation. I ran all over, I rolled around in the grass and rested in the shade under the trees. When my vacation was over I went home with a souvenir of my trip – conjunctivitis.

By gently pulling down on the lower eyelid and pulling up the upper lid, you may see redness, swelling or discharge (watery, mucus or pus). The area may be painful or itchy. Conjunctivitis can be caused by a bacterial, viral or fungal infection – and it can be contagious to other cats or dogs. It can be caused by an allergy, a chemical irritation or a foreign object. Some breeds are predisposed to defects in the eyelid.

In any case, conjunctivitis requires a trip to the veterinarian. My vet gave me some medicine and I started to feel better right away. Now I'm looking forward to my next vacation. I'm not going to let a little conjunctivitis keep me away from the great outdoors! Pet Parent Tip: Know what to look for so you can provide the best care to your pet. [Purchase your Dog First Aid manual today!](#)

Posted in [CPR and First Aid Training](#), [Pets](#) | Tagged [CPR and First Aid](#), [Pets](#) | [Leave a Comment »](#)

[Cricket's Holiday Gift Ideas](#)

December 14, 2009 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



Cricket in her holiday best!

Pets have it good during the holidays – we ‘come as we are’ to parties and we are never expected to shop for gifts. Although we don’t give holiday gifts, we are usually happy to receive them. I put gifts that people give their pets into three main categories. Category one is things I can eat (my favorite category.) Category two contains all the things I can chew. The third category includes all the items that make me wonder: “Really?!? You know I’m a dog, right?”

Gift giving is a wonderful holiday tradition that many of us want to continue, even when times are difficult. That is why many people have been choosing to give more meaningful gifts this year. The American Red Cross [Gift of the Month](#) is a thoughtful gift that includes many important necessities that will bring help and hope to those touched by disaster all year-long. The Gift of the Month provides, among many other things, food served to those staying in Red Cross shelters and food delivered to people in disaster areas – things from my favorite gift category.

Check out the Red Cross [Gifts that Save the Day catalog](#) for more great ideas. We even have useful [stocking stuffers](#) that won’t leave the recipient wondering, “really?!?” Happy holidays!

Posted in [Pets](#), [Supporters](#) | Tagged [American Red Cross](#), [Gifts](#), [Holidays](#), [Pets](#), [Supporters](#) | [Leave a Comment](#)



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE
American Red Cross

CRITTERS



CRICKET



LIANA



VIOLET & SUNNY



TINKER



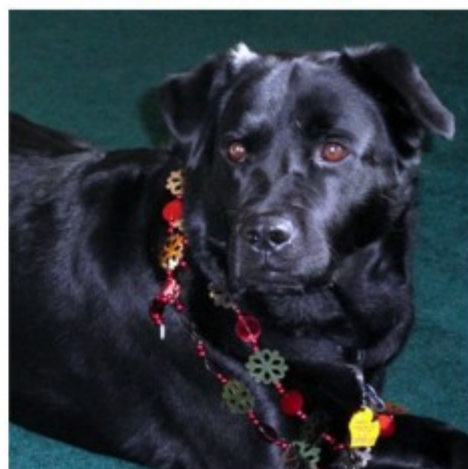
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SANDWICH



FRANKLIN



LUCY

Cricket's New Year's Resolutions

December 28, 2009 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



Looks like Otis the bulldog is having a good New Year! Image courtesy of Dogster, Inc.

1. Go for two walks every day
2. Lose ½ pound by next summer
3. Practice my [escape plan](#) in case of fire
4. Organize my toys
5. Save money
6. Brush my teeth more often
7. [Volunteer](#)
8. Don't fight with my brother — as much
9. Restock my [emergency kit](#)
10. [Donate](#) to my local Red Cross
11. Do something with this hair
12. Have a great 2010!

Posted in [Pets](#), [Supporters](#), [Volunteers](#) | Tagged [American Red Cross](#), [Disaster Supply Kit](#), [Fire](#), [Pets](#), [Preparedness](#), [Supporters](#), [Volunteer](#), [Volunteers](#) | [Leave a Comment »](#)

Arctic Ohio

January 4, 2010 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)

It seems to me that taking a simple walk outdoors becomes more like embarking on an arctic expedition when the mercury plunges. First I am bundled up in my pink coat and then my harness is put on over the coat. My collar and I.D. tags are checked – animals can lose their scent on snow and ice and become lost. When my leash is attached to my harness I'm ready to go.

The front steps are covered with pet-safe ice melt but I prefer to walk in the snow. The first stop on my expedition is my car. I sniff around the car to make sure there are no stray cats hiding under the hood. Sometimes cats hide under car hoods to stay warm, but they can be injured or killed when the engine starts unless I chase them away.

While I check out the terrain, my pet parent is watching out for salt, antifreeze and other potentially dangerous chemicals on the ground so we can avoid them. After our brisk walk we return home where I am brushed off to make sure there is no salt or antifreeze on my paws or stomach. Pets can ingest chemicals by licking their paws after being outdoors. Now I'm ready to settle down on my blanket and watch the snow fall outside the window – until the next walk.

Pet parents can learn about the signs that their pet has been poisoned in the American Red Cross [Dog First Aid book](#) or by taking a [Dog First Aid class](#).

Posted in [CPR and First Aid Training](#), [Pets](#) | Tagged [American Red Cross](#), [CPR and First Aid](#), [Pets](#), [Preparedness](#) | [Leave a Comment »](#)

[Cricket's Yips and Tips](#)

January 11, 2010 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



It's cold out there! And like a lot of small and/or short-haired dogs, I wear a coat when I venture outside in the cold. In honor of [Dress Up Your Pet Day](#) on January 14th, let's get bundled up! Of course if your pet does not like dressing up, it's best to find someone else to dress.

In a [pet first aid class](#), pet parents might learn how to bandage an injured cat's leg or a dog's bleeding foot before heading to the vet's office. In many cases, the pet will try to remove the bandage. But if the pet is accustomed to being dressed, it may be more likely to leave a bandage alone. I'm not saying that every Doberman should wear a dress – but there may be an advantage to having your pet accustomed to having clothing put on him/her. Wrap a bandage around your pet's leg and tie it on. Try to divert your pet's attention with a game or activity and see if the bandage stays in place. Keep trying until your pet accepts the bandage and you will both be better prepared for a pet first aid emergency.

Posted in [CPR and First Aid Training](#), [Pets](#), [Preparedness](#) | Tagged [American Red Cross](#), [CPR and First Aid](#), [Pets](#), [Preparedness](#), [Red Cross](#) | [1 Comment](#) »

Cricket's Yips 'n Tips: Valentine's Day gift ideas for your pet parents

February 1, 2010 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)

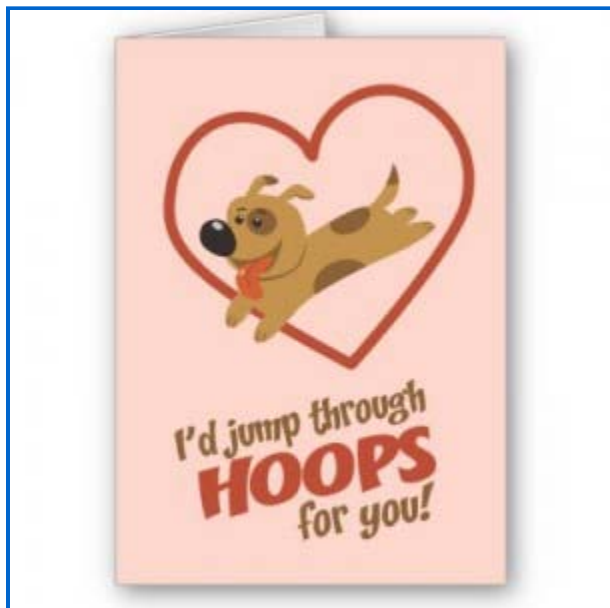


Image credit: Zazzle.com

1. slightly-used bone tied with a red ribbon
2. liver treats
3. tips on proper stretching techniques
4. the missing socks
5. extra walks for a week
6. replacement for the umbrella I destroyed
7. chew toy
8. one sleep-in Saturday
9. I.D. tags – in case they get lost
10. gift certificate for an [American Red Cross pet first aid class](#)

Cricket's Yips and Tips

March 10, 2010 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



Cricket's "signature"
paw print

I'm lucky that I live within a few miles of my veterinarian's office. It's good to know that help is close by if I am sick or injured. But what if there is an emergency and help is not right around the corner? Would you know what to do?

[Sign up](#) for the American Red Cross Pet First Aid Class on Saturday, March 13th. The class will be held at the Capital Area Humane Society from 1 – 4:30 p.m. Participants will receive a manual and a DVD that demonstrates how to perform many of the first aid steps.

It's important for pet parents to include their pets when preparing for emergencies. Take this class and *Be Red Cross Ready*.

Posted in [CPR and First Aid Training](#), [Pets](#) | Tagged [American Red Cross](#), [Pets](#), [Red Cross](#) | [Leave a Comment](#)

Cricket's Yips 'N Tips

March 17, 2010 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



Volunteer Instructor Irene Yen
patches up our doggie mannequin

My pet parent is **Red Cross Ready** now! After taking the [American Red Cross Pet First Aid class](#), my pet parent is better **informed** about pet emergencies. In class they learned about what pet parents can do in the event of an emergency until they can get to a veterinarian. They practiced bandaging an animal's injured leg as well as rescue breathing and CPR.

We hope we never have to use any of these new first aid skills. But it's better to learn about them now than to wish we had when it's too late. If you are interested in taking a pet first aid class, there will be another one in May.

Be Red Cross Ready. Get A Kit. Make A Plan. **Be Informed.**

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [American Red Cross](#), [CPR and First Aid](#), [Pets](#), [Red Cross](#) | [Leave a Comment](#)

[Achoo! Pets can have seasonal allergies too.](#)

April 12, 2010 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



You know your pet better than anyone. If your pet is exhibiting unusual symptoms such as itching, sneezing, coughing or watering eyes, seasonal allergies may be to blame. Pet parents who are familiar with their pet's normal behavior are quick to notice when an unusual symptom presents itself. A veterinarian can diagnose seasonal allergies and offer treatments.

Remember your pet's medications when you make a [pet disaster kit](#). A pet first aid kit is important as well. Keep your pet's vet records, medications and other emergency items in a disaster kit in case you and your pet have to evacuate your home. If you are temporarily separated from your pet, the kit will have everything your pet's caretaker will need to provide excellent care for your pet until you are reunited.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Tagged [American Red Cross](#), [CPR and First Aid](#), [Pets](#), [Red Cross](#) | [Leave a Comment](#)

Cricket's Yips 'N Tips: Yip Yip Hurray for Red Cross Volunteers!

April 23, 2010 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



Some Red Cross volunteers wake up in the middle of the night, grab their go-bag, and rush out to assist the victims of a house fire.

Some Red Cross volunteers are teachers. They show people how to save a life in an emergency. They help members of the community prepare for disasters. And they teach children how to escape from a burning house.

Some Red Cross volunteers drive elderly and disabled people to their doctor appointments so they can get the medical attention they need.

Some volunteers make phone calls, give speeches, file, type, photograph, write, organize, schedule, and report.

Red Cross volunteers are the BEST volunteers. So during National Volunteer Week, (April 18 – 24) give a Red Cross volunteer a little “Yip” to say “Thanks for everything you do!”

Posted in [Volunteers](#) | Tagged [American Red Cross](#), [National Volunteer Week](#), [Red Cross](#), [Volunteer](#), [Volunteers](#) | [Leave a Comment »](#)

Cricket's Yips 'N Tips: Red Cross Helps Pets Too!

May 17, 2010 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



When there is a house fire in Franklin County, it is common to see an American Red Cross van arrive at the scene. American Red Cross volunteers are trained to help people [recover from disasters](#) such as home fires and begin to put their lives together again.

People who have lost their belongings in a disaster frequently receive “comfort kits” from the Red Cross containing necessities such as combs, toothbrushes and shampoo. Comfort kits come with a variety of items depending on the needs of the recipient. There are comfort kits for adults and children – and dogs and cats! What a great idea!

Dog and cat comfort kits may contain food, treats, collars, leashes and food dishes. These things can mean a lot to a pet that has just lost everything. Thanks to the American Red Cross for the help they give to disaster victims – and their pets. [Find out how you can get involved today!](#)

Posted in [Disaster Services](#), [Pets](#) | Tagged [American Red Cross](#), [Disaster relief](#), [Pets](#), [Red Cross](#) | [Leave a Comment »](#)

I'll be waiting for you... at home

June 28, 2010 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



Every time my pet parents leave the house without me, I'm afraid they'll never come back. More than anything I want to go too. I use all my tricks to try to convince them to take me with them. But my pet parents know that I'll be safer and happier at home. I'm not allowed to go inside many places and it's too dangerous for me to stay in the car ... even for a few minutes. According to the ASPCA, it only takes ten minutes on an 85-degree day for the inside of your car to reach 102 degrees, even if the windows are left open a couple of inches. And in 30 minutes, the car interior can reach 120 degrees. When my pet parents leave without me, I sit by the window and wait for them to come home ... cool and happy and safe.

Posted in [Pets](#) | Tagged [American Red Cross](#), [Pets](#) | [Leave a Comment »](#)

Cricket's Yips 'n Tips

July 19, 2010 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



I took my pet parents to the [CHA Picnic with the Pups](#) on Saturday. We like to get outdoors and participate in dog-friendly events whenever we can. Even though it was very hot and humid outside, a lot of dogs came out to support a great cause – pets.

Our first stop was the American Red Cross booth. Their dedicated volunteers braved the heat to tell pet parents about American Red Cross [pet first aid classes](#). They even had a plush dog to use for CPR demonstrations. (There was something very strange about that dog and it smelled funny.) And they had pet first aid kits [for sale](#) for pet parents who want to be prepared for emergencies.

We saw dogs in all shapes and sizes. A nice dog named Charity came to the American Red Cross booth to check it out. She was looking for her forever home. I hope she finds it soon. There was also a small herd of Yorkies walking around, as well as some big dogs like Rotties and Danes.

While I was dog-watching, my pet parents looked at the vendor booths, entered the raffle and made bids in the silent auction. We were all careful to stay hydrated in the heat and had a great time. Dog-friendly events are a great way to get outdoors and spend some quality time your pet parents.

Posted in [Pets](#), [Preparedness](#) | Tagged [American Red Cross](#), [Pets](#), [Preparedness](#), [Red Cross](#) | [Leave a Comment »](#)

Cricket's Yips n' Tips

August 18, 2010 by [Cricket, Doggie Blogger](#)



It's nearly the peak of hurricane season. But we're lucky we live way up here in Ohio because we are never affected by hurricanes this far north.

If you lived in Ohio two years ago, you probably remember Hurricane Ike. It was just a windstorm by the time it reached us – but what a windstorm. Homes were damaged, trees were uprooted and power lines came down. Schools and businesses closed as we waited for the power to be restored to everyone. In the mean time, many people lost the contents of their refrigerators when the power went out.

The American Red Cross opened a shelter in Columbus and offered free meals and shelter to anyone in need. Since shelters don't allow pets, besides service animals, I relied on my disaster supply kit. I had food, water, treats, toys, batteries, flashlights and a blanket stored in my kit in case of an emergency. I learned how to make my disaster supply kit at Columbus.redcross.org. This reminds me – it's a good time to go through my kit and see what needs to be replenished. It's hurricane season you know.

Posted in [Disaster Services](#), [Pets](#), [Preparedness](#) | Tagged [American Red Cross](#), [Disaster Supply Kit](#), [Pets](#), [Preparedness](#), [Red Cross](#) | [Leave a Comment »](#)