



## NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**DATE:** April 14, 2013  
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### **FIREFIGHTERS DOUBLE AS VET-EMTS TO HELP INJURED PET**

**Date/Time:** Fri., April 12, 2013, 10:30 am  
**Location:** Lake Arrowhead  
**Incident:** Dog rescue

#### **Summary:**

A local family's severely injured dog is recuperating at an animal hospital after being hit by a car Friday morning, and a local fire crew played a unique role in the pet's rescue.

Lake Arrowhead engine company 92 was returning to quarters when they happened upon an injured dog attended by its owners along the side of Hwy 173. The three-member crew, all paramedics, got out and quickly provided emergency medical care, including providing bandages to help staunch the bleeding from the dog's right foreleg.

At this point the firefighters learned that owner Matthew Tippens and his mom Brenda, both of Lake Arrowhead, did not have a way to transport Sadie, a six year-old German Shepherd mix, to a veterinarian.

Fortunately the incident occurred near un-staffed fire station 93, which serves as a garage for a pair of reserve ambulances. The firefighters decided to use one of those vehicles to transport the injured dog. While en route to the vet, Mr. Tippens assisted the firefighters by helping provide supplemental oxygen to his pet. Sadie was kept warm and comfortable on the gurney, and her condition seemed to improve. Her care was eventually transferred to the staff at Rim Forest Animal Hospital.

Mr. Tippens advised that while Sadie has lost her injured leg, she is expected to recover and that he will be reunited with her as early as Monday.

Firefighters stated that while encountering injured pets is not unheard of, transporting them is quite rare.

"Because the nature of our work has us often on the road, we unfortunately sometimes see things like this," said Ryan Beckers, spokesperson for County Fire. "What was unique about this situation was the transport of the dog. We're not trained to provide ems to pets, but bandaging a dog's leg or person's arm are fairly similar. The crew made a decision to help this family in need, and we're glad to hear Sadie should recover."

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