



Just One Person Can Make A Difference

VMRC is looking for new members and we are needing your help to make that happen.

Please help us grow by spreading the word about VMRC, MRC and CERT and how important our organizations are to the community during emergency and non-emergency times.

If you can take just a moment and talk to your friends, relatives, and neighbors. And if we grow by just one, then that one

can help us make a big difference.

Our community, citizens and pets need our help.

For more information on joining VMRC, please contact Gary Barron at the EMA office at 334-361-3758.

Together we can make a difference!



Animals Matter By: Tracy Savage-Barron

ANIMALS MATTER

Regardless of what many people may think, animals have many of the same feelings and emotions that we do.

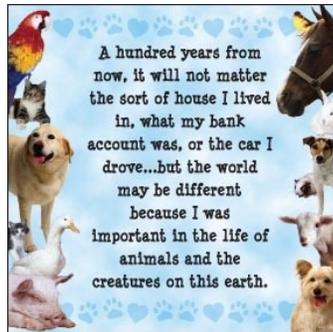
They can feel hunger and pain, they can be happy or sad, they cry, they smile, they can communicate and they can be quite intelligent.

Animals are vulnerable and are greatly affected by our actions, this is why all animals deserve our respect and compassion.

It is our responsibility as concerned and caring citizens to teach others about animal care. Let's begin by teaching children to have compassion and empathy for their furry, feathered, and finned friends which can be quite vital for preventing cruelty to animals, as well as in raising them to respect and treat those who are different from them, with kindness. And, then showing others the importance

of respecting, observing and caring for all animals, big and small. So, take a moment out of your day to observe the animals around you. If you see something out of the ordinary, discover a lost or injured pet or wildlife or witness a cruel act against an animal, please be sure to get all the information you can on the situation and report the incident to the proper authorities. It's not just in bad weather that animals need our help, but in every day life as well.

Just remember... Animals Matter.

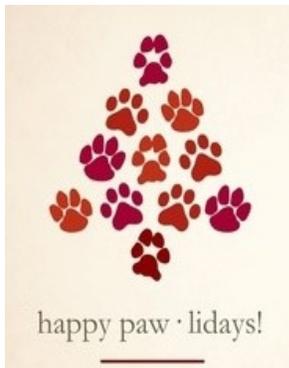


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Council Members

- ◆ Gary Barron, MRC/VMRC Coordinator
- ◆ Tracy Savage-Barron, CERT/MRC/VMRC Newsletter Editor
- ◆ Lisa Carswell, CERT Chairman
- ◆ Jim Harper, Vice Chairman
- ◆ Charles Smith, Secretary
- ◆ Bonnie Temple, Treasurer
- ◆ Janet Brown, Member-at-Large
- ◆ Everett Flynn, Safety Coordinator



Have a Purrfectly Safe and Happy Paw-liday Season and We look forward to seeing all of you in the New Year!
From all of us here at Autauga/Prattville VMRC!



Cold Weather Tips To Protect Our Pets

By: Tracy Savage-Barron



With the onset of cold weather, there are a few things we must remember about pet safety.

Even though this is the South, the temperature can dip down pretty low at times, therefore keeping our pets safe is vital to their lives.

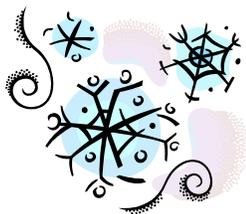
Pets are like people, they are not immune to the ever changing weather extremes and can be affected just like us, therefore causing potential risks to their health and welfare.

Here are a few tips to ensure that our pets are kept warm and safe this winter season:

1. **Keep Pets Inside** - NO pet should be left outside for long periods of time, especially in extreme temperatures, such as the cold. Good rule of thumb to remember, if you are cold, they are cold.
2. **Provide Warm Bedding** - Just like you, pets may change their sleeping/resting locations based on their need for more or less warmth. During cold weather be sure to supply areas of warmth.
3. **Make some NOISE** - A warm car engine can be appealing to those animals that may be outdoors. Be sure to make lots of noise to ward off any potential animals underneath your car, check under the hood and honk the horn before starting your car.

4. **Consider Doggy Clothing** - You may want to consider a sweater or some sort of dog coat for those pets with short hair or that may be sensitive to the cold or older dogs. Some pet owners may even use dog booties to protect their dog's feet.
5. **Provide Proper Shelter** - Always provide your pet with a safe, warm, dry place to feel secure. If at all possible, NEVER leave your pet outdoors, but if for some reason you have to, please make sure they have a warm, dry, solid shelter from the elements. And, always provide plenty of water and food.
6. **Be Prepared** - Cold weather brings the risk of severe, hazardous winter conditions. As with you and your family, your pets should be included in your emergency plan and kit. Be sure to have enough food, water, medicine and other personal supplies to get your pet through at least 5 days.
7. **Pay Attention** - Pay close attention to your pet, be sure to keep their paws clean and check for signs of stress, shivering, whining, anxious or unusually slow movement, this could be the onset of hypothermia.

These are just a few tips to follow, when cold weather sets in, to protect and keep your pet(s) safe and warm this winter. Please remember, pets are like family and should be treated as such.





**Autauga/Prattville
Veterinary Medical Reserve
Corps**

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**Coming SOON!!!
Look for us and LIKE us
on Facebook!!**



The AP VMRC (Autauga Prattville Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps) is a team off of the AP MRC (Autauga Prattville Medical Reserve Corps) and is under it's umbrella. However the Autauga County EMA (Emergency Management Agency) is the organizing sponsor. This team will help in time of disaster/emergency with the following but not limited to, helping families find lost pets, assist in gathering any stray or displaced pets/animals, care of the pets/animals during and after the disaster/emergency and assist veterinary professionals with any medical/first aid.

There are several areas that we are currently working on to help strengthen this team and hope to have some of them finalized by the next AP VMRC newsletter to be able to share with you. However, if you are interested in joining this team please contact us at the Autauga County EMA office.



Up Close and Personal– Meet Our Member’s Pets

(If you have a pet that you would like featured in our newsletter, please send pics and info to us at apcertnewsletter@gmail.com, we look forward to hearing from you.)

Meet Tiki Lynn and Chichi Bug Savage-Barron. Tiki and Chichi are the beloved children (shhh, they don't know that they are dogs) of Gary and Tracy Savage-Barron. Tiki is a Chug (Chihuahua/Pug Mix) and is almost 7yrs old and Chichi is a Yorkie, that was rescued from a bad home environment, and is now 4yrs old. A word from Tiki and Chichi... "Woof-Woof, Bark, Ruff, Grrr, Arf"... translation, "We are spoiled beyond rotten and have Mama and Daddy wrapped around our little paws".

