

TOWN OF VERNON

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Town of Vernon Offering FREE Pet CPR and First Aid Training to Town Residents

Space is limited and participants must sign up in advance

(VERNON, Connecticut) – The Town of Vernon’s Office of Emergency and Risk Management and the Vernon C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) have partnered with the Friends of Saxony Dog Park to offer free pet CPR and first aid training to Vernon residents.

The training will be offered from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 27th at Vernon Center Middle School, 777 Hartford Turnpike, in the cafeteria. Space is limited and participants must sign up in advance. The instructor is Tom Rinelli, owner of Paws-N-Claws-911, a firefighter and a 30 plus year seasoned veteran of pre-hospital emergency medical services. Participants should not bring their pets to the training.

No prior medical training is necessary. Veterinary offices typically maintain regular business hours and there are limited after hours emergency medical services for pets. Knowing how to administer emergency care to your pet is crucial.

“Since we built the Saxony Dog Park we have worked closely with the Friends of Saxony Dog Park to enhance the park and create opportunities to bring pet owners together,” Mayor Dan Champagne said. “This CPR and first aid course is a great way to empower pet owners with important skills we hope they’ll never need.”

The class is intended for anyone who wants to learn about caring for their pet in an emergency.

“Vernon provides outstanding emergency services that benefit our residents and neighboring communities,” Town Administrator and Emergency and Risk Management Director Michael Purcaro said. “Adding a preparedness component for pet owners makes sense.”

Vernon is a Heart Safe Community with a proud history of providing CPR training to its residents, Fire Chief Stephen Eppler said.

“This is another opportunity to provide potentially life-saving training,” Eppler said. “We know that bystander CPR greatly enhances the chance for a positive outcome when treating people. Similar training for pet owners could be just as beneficial.”

“Learning how to administer CPR and first aid to these treasured members of our families requires specific training,” said Vernon Police Capt. Luke Gallant, who oversees the town’s animal control officers and facility. “Proper training results in better outcomes.”

Diana Drummond, president of the Friends of Saxony Dog Park, said Mayor Champagne and the Town Council’s decision to establish the dog park has created a community of dog owners looking for ways to get involved and give back to the community.

“It’s been a rewarding experience to partner with Town Administration and the Parks and Recreation Department to make a wonderful dog park even better,” she said. “We are grateful for the opportunity to work so closely with town leaders and for their commitment to providing this park and training.”

To sign up for the pet CPR and first aid training, please see the attached flyer. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Participants will receive a handbook, certificate and emergency muzzle.

About the Town of Vernon

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of more than 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in “New England's Knowledge Corridor” with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Designated a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870-3670 or visit www.vernon-ct.gov.

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