



NEWS RELEASE

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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS KEEP PETS HEALTHY AND HAPPY

Pets give us comfort, friendship, and unconditional love; our connection to them can be among the strongest relationships in our lives.

Because pets can be part of the family, the Township of Langley Fire Department recommends owners take a few precautions to help keep them safe within the home.

“Pets are curious,” said Fire and Life Safety Educator Krista Barton. “They may bump into and knock over things, or even turn on cooking equipment, so always keep pets away from stoves, countertops, candles, lamps, and space heaters.”

Pet proof your home by taking a walk around and looking for areas where pets might inadvertently start fires, such as stove knobs, loose wires, and other potential hazards. Pet owners should consider switching to battery-operated, flameless candles to avoid interactions with flames, and ensure pets are never left unattended around an open flame.

A “pet-free zone” of at least three feet (one meter) should be established around the fireplace. Because glass doors and screens can stay dangerously hot for several hours after the fire goes out, always use a metal or heat-tempered glass screen on a fireplace and keep it in place.

As well, pets should be kept away from outside chimney vents, Barton said. As some pets are chewers, owners should watch to make sure they do not chew through electrical cords. If your pet appears to have tried to chew on an electrical cord, do not use the appliance until it is checked out by a professional.

The following tips are also offered by the Township of Langley Fire Department to help keep pets safe:

- Practice escape routes with pets – Keep collars and leashes ready in case you have to evacuate quickly with your pet, or firefighters need to rescue your pet. A pet carrier is also something to have handy as well.
- Keep pets near entrances – When leaving pets home alone, keep them in areas or rooms near entrances where firefighters can easily find them.
- Secure young pets – Especially with young puppies, keep them confined away from potential fire-starting hazards when you are away from home.
- Have working smoke and CO alarms on every level of the home and test your smoke and CO alarms at least once a month.
- If the smoke or CO alarm sounds, get out and stay out and call 9-1-1 from an outside source.
- Never go back inside for pets in a fire. Tell firefighters if your pet is trapped.

For more information, contact Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Krista Barton at kbarton@tol.ca or 604.533.6090 ext. 3320.