

Newspaper article for April 2, 2014

There's an App for That!

Need to find the cheapest gas in town? There's an app for that! How about a digital family grocery list? There's an app for that? Check your credit card balance from your cell phone? There's an app for that! There's not much that there's NOT an app for!! How about help for your pets? One app for that is the Pet First Aid App that is endorsed by the American Red Cross (ARC).

So just what can an app like this offer for us? I'll let you know some of the highlights of the app, then you can try it and decide!

Of course, as the name suggests, this app has simple step-by-step instructions to guide you through everyday pet emergencies right in the palm of your hand! It has features that can prepare and protect your pet's health with advice on administering medication, time to say goodbye, behavioral help and how to act in a disaster situation. (You knew I was going to mention that, didn't you?) It features pet emergencies with "how-to videos" and even includes size-specific CPR techniques. You can use it to locate your nearest emergency vet hospital or pet-friendly hotels wherever you are, and you can program your veterinary contact number into the app and customize multiple pet profiles with it. There's information on preventative care and much more. There is even a feature that allows you to take interactive quizzes to earn badges that you can share with your friends, along with a picture of your pet!

So, you may be asking why Red Cross would endorse an app such as this one. It's actually only one of several apps that they promote. Others you can find information on through them is the Tornado App, Hurricane App, Shelter Finder App, Wildfire App, Swim App, Earthquake App, Team Red Cross Volunteer App, and even a First Aid App for humans! They're very active in the information age.

ARC updated their website to include quite a bit of information, too! One service that they provide is the registration of safe and well persons following a disaster. It's as simple to use as visiting their site and clicking on "List Myself as Safe and Well", and completing the information there. Once your information is entered, those concerned about you may go to the same site and click "Search Registrants", enter your name and pre-disaster telephone number OR address. If you have registered, they will be able to view the messages you have posted. It's available in both English and Spanish.

American Red Cross is a primary Voluntary Organization Active in Disasters (VoAD) and we are glad to work with them locally, as well. Check out their website and apps from iTunes, Google Play or Amazon Marketplace. As always, Be Safe Out There!
