

Thisa and Thata

The Emergency Express

About two months ago I set up an emergency system for taking care of my dogs never dreaming that it would be needed almost immediately. It's something that everyone should really do. It's very important to do it and to put one specific person in charge of getting it done.

When you are ill is no time for making decisions. The only thing you need to worry about then is yourself.

Whatever you do make certain that the person you put in charge knows all of your dogs and is one hundred percent reliable under emergency conditions. Also make certain where you want your dogs to be placed during the time you are unable to care for them.

Many of you have Kennel help and a family at home to take charge but some of us particularly single people and those in their later years do not.

Dog people can be quite wonderful during emergencies. When I was living in California twenty years ago just myself and three dogs my father died and on one minutes notice Doris Rossini made room for all of my dogs in six hours time. I dropped them off at her place on the way to the airport. Debby Kaiser and Joyce Shelp did the same thing for me ten years later.

This time it was a lot more complicated since nobody lives that close by. On Saturday, Oct 18, I had to go to the emergency room never dreaming they would put me in the hospital that quickly. It always happens on a weekend. They called my emergency number and Linda Selmon was there in one hour flat along with Penny and Bill. It's a good thing because I was not budging one inch until they got there. I gave Linda my keys and that was the last thing I knew for twenty four hours.

They picked up my dogs brought my car back to the house arranged with Joe Bihari to open the kennel for them on Sunday. They took my dogs home. Groomed them and crated them for the night and the next day they were at Joes. Safe and cared for in a place that they all knew.

On top of all of this Jack was supposed to go to Philips for a few weeks. Linda made certain he knew the dog was at Joes and Philip arranged to get him. Today I picked up my two girls from Joes looking very well fed and happy as clams. Jack is off with Philip on another adventure just as we planned. All of this got done despite my being in the hospital incommunicado for eight days. It got done because that wonderful reliable dog network went into action.

Years ago when I was part of that network I was the liaison for lost dogs at Kennedy airport. When Laramie of Jo Mar was found after escaping his crate I went down identified him and brought him home with me. His anxious owners picked him up at my house in the middle of the night. I was just glad that I could help. I guess what goes around comes around. This time I was the recipient of the Emergency Express. Thank you one and all with special love from all three of my dogs.