



**Community
Kōkua
Foundation**
FOR FIRE SAFETY
AND RECOVERY

The Eddy Project

The American Red Cross counts 500,000 pets in the U.S. affected by fire every year through displacement, injury and death. That's a number so big, it's hard to imagine the faces of any of them. But Phil Reller doesn't have to imagine. For him, it's personal.

Phil lost his mom, Melba, and his brother, Britt, in the Marco Polo fire of 2017. Also perishing in the conflagration was their beloved rescue dog, Eddy. Refusing to succumb to the unimaginable pain, he instead felt inspired to see something good come out of that preventable tragedy. And thus, the Community Kōkua Foundation for Fire Safety and Recovery was born and with it, The Eddy Project.

The Foundation's mission is to "equip the larger community with the tools it needs to prevent fires and restore lives devastated by fire, including education, advocacy, and public/private partnerships." The Eddy Project seeks to give pet owners the tools and knowledge to help navigate the additional havoc and devastation when an animal is involved.

The Project's first advice? Have a Plan! Make sure your family knows the exit points available in case of emergency and have a meet-up place, like next door under the mango tree. Have a leash ready by the front door and a leash or loop of rope at the other exits.

Microchip your dog, and make sure the registration is up to date. Remember, the Hawaiian Humane Society no longer provides this service. Two free online databases you can register with: mypethealth.com and foundanimals.org.



Britt Reller and his beloved rescue dog Eddy perished in the 2017 Marco Polo fire.

Plan ahead for long-term care for your pet in case you have to live for six months in a hotel or other place that doesn't accommodate them. The Project is developing a network of volunteers, rescue organizations, and businesses to assist when the need arises.

"The American Red Cross is happy to support the Eddy Project to promote pet welfare in fire emergencies and disasters. Having a plan and being prepared helps ensure that our four-legged family members remain safe."

Maria Lutz, American Red Cross, Pacific Islands Region

The Eddy Project has begun to distribute free stickers to alert First Responders to the presence of pets in residence. They will be available at these and other and other pet-friendly establishments:

- Ali'i Animal Hospital and Resort-Kakaako & Ali'i Animal-Kailua
- Doggone Groomers-Kaneohe
- Leeward Training of Hawaii-Mililani Waena Park (starting Sept.)
- Petsmart-Kapolei & Honolulu

To learn more visit communitykokuafoundation.com