



Keeping Your Kennel Healthy When You're Not 10 No-Cost Tips

United All Breed Registry 888-908-9299

Originally published by email September 16, 2014

"Dad is in the hospital again."

"I go for my MRI tomorrow, please pray."

"My cancer is back. Will be selling most of our dogs next month."

These are the posts we see on social media every week from our friends that breed pets. Poor health is just a part of life these days. Maybe it's your own health crisis or a beloved family member's. Either way, taking the time it takes to address health issues can make running a business feel like an extreme sport.

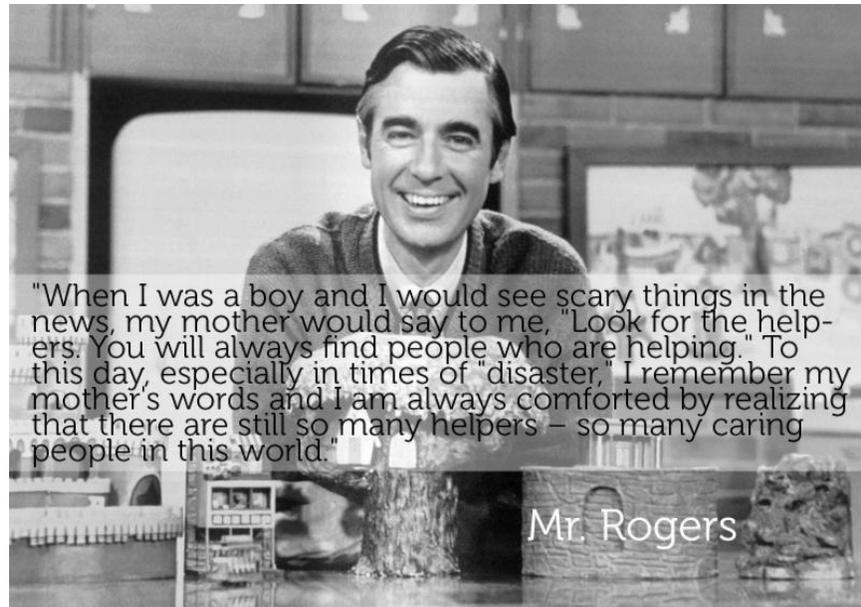
Today we'll look at a few things pet breeders can do to plan ahead for time off (it WILL happen) and keep things running smoothly when the rest of your life gets rough.



Enlist Helpers. Keep a list of available helpers with current phone numbers. Even people who can't work with the dogs directly can clean your house or run errands, and that will help you get done what you need to do in the kennel. Consider them all part of your team. Don't be shy about asking for help...remember there is more happiness in giving than in receiving!

Be Modest. Modesty means knowing your limits. If you feel like your kennel is too big to manage even when you are in good

health, trim back. Do a better job with fewer animals, and you'll really appreciate having a more reasonable workload if a health crisis hits.



Train Your Help. Make sure that everyone in your kennel knows how to do everything you do. Pre-assign responsibilities to certain individuals in the event that you are ever out of commission. Have clearly written instructions for every aspect of your kennel's daily operation. Label everything clearly...feeds, medicines, etc. You can set things up so well that even a complete stranger can step in and figure out what needs to be done.

Connect Your Helpers. Make sure that everyone on your helper list has access to each other's phone numbers. Encourage them to meet together in your absence to coordinate a plan for your kennel's care. Permissions. Leave written, signed permission papers with key helpers, granting them authority to medicate, vaccinate, transport, sell or seek veterinary help for your animals in your absence.



Arrange for Permissions. Leave written, signed permission papers with key helpers, granting them authority to medicate, vaccinate, transport, sell or seek veterinary help for your animals in your absence.

Post Important Numbers. You and your helpers will appreciate having certain critical information on one piece of paper: Your bank, your insurance company, your vet, your fire department, your feed supplier, etc.

Organize Supplies. Keep a shopping list of feeds, medicines and supplies you regularly purchase for your kennel, including where you normally buy them (or a few optional sources). Try to keep everything in stock at all times, in case of a health crisis or natural disaster.



Keep (or Get) Your Files in Order. Every animal should have a clearly marked folder or binder containing registration papers, pedigree, vaccination record, health records, purchase receipt, breeding record, etc. Make an effort each week to check that your records are up to date. Ideally most of this can be scanned and data can be entered in a computer.



Plan to Work from Anywhere. Get yourself an iPad or tablet and you will be able to keep track of emails, sales contracts, kennel management schedules, supply purchasing etc. from the comfort of your bed, from your dad's room at the nursing home, or from anywhere! If you register with UABR, you can even register litters and animals from a mobile device or by calling our office.

Arrange a Safety Net. If your animals have to leave your kennel for a period of time, due to a health crisis, natural disaster or other emergency, where will they go? It's wise to make "buddy kennel" arrangements in advance with a few other breeders just in case your animals need temporary shelter.

Don't let a health crisis in the family put you out of business. Protect your animals and your investment by organizing now for that worst case scenario.

