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Fire kills nine pets

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STAFF WRITER

RIVERDALE — Fire today severely damaged the home of a Bloomingdale animal control officer, killing a dog, four cats, two birds and two ferrets.

Police said the fire was reported at 2:15 p.m. by a motorist passing on Route 287 north who saw smoke coming from the two-story, wood frame house on Van Duyne Avenue belonging to Fabrizio and Symone Negrini. Mrs. Negrini, police said, had left the house to pick up their children at school when the fire broke out. Authorities believe the fire started in the kitchen area.

"The fire department was able to rescue two of the three dogs in the house," said borough police Capt. John Peine, who is a local volunteer fireman. "We rescued the dog on the first floor and one in the basement. We lost a dog on the second floor and also the four cats, two birds, and two ferrets."

The first arriving fire unit at the scene was Assistant Fire Chief Daniel Sturm, who used a FIT5 (a throwable fire extinguisher donated by the Riverdale Ladies' Auxiliary), which he threw through the window near the fire.

"It knocked down the fire for about 10 minutes and enabled us to make entry and rescue some of the animals," Peine said.


The blaze, said Peine, caused "pretty extensive" damage to the first and second floors.

Assisting in dealing with the blaze, which was extinguished after two hours, were volunteer firefighters from Pequannock, Pompton Lakes, Bloomingdale, Wayne, the Riverdale first Aid Squad, and animal control staff from Wayne and Bloomingdale.

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