



AVON FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE ANIMAL RESCUES FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2009 AND 2010.

- In the calendar year of 2009, Avon Fire & Rescue Service rescued 138 animals and in 2010, 132 were rescued (see appendix 1 for breakdown of animal types)
- AF&RS do not charge for animal rescues (see appendix 2 for Animal Rescue Press Release from the Chief Fire Officers' Association Feb 2011)
- AF&RS are currently undergoing an animal rescue training programme for operational personnel, and at present there are approximately 100 trained personnel in animal rescue techniques and seven specialist animal rescue advisors. AF&RS has a range of specialist equipment for the rescue of both small and large animals, which consist of strops and lifting gear, particularly for larger animal rescues.

Appendix 1 – Avon Fire & Rescue Service animal rescues for calendar years 2009 and 2010

Below is a breakdown for each animal category:

| Number of incidents | Type of Call | Incident detail | Animal Type | Year |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------|
| 2 | SpecialService | Rescue from height | Farm animal, e.g. Horse or cow | 2009 |
| 2 | SpecialService | Rescue from height | Farm animal, e.g. Horse or cow | 2010 |
| 51 | SpecialService | Rescue from height | Cat, dog or other domestic pet | 2009 |
| 48 | SpecialService | Rescue from height | Cat, dog or other domestic pet | 2010 |
| 16 | SpecialService | Rescue from height | Bird | 2009 |
| 22 | SpecialService | Rescue from height | Bird | 2010 |
| 6 | SpecialService | Rescue from height | Other | 2009 |
| 1 | SpecialService | Rescue from height | Other | 2010 |
| 2 | SpecialService | Rescue from below ground | Farm animal, e.g. Horse or cow | 2009 |
| 1 | SpecialService | Rescue from below ground | Farm animal, e.g. Horse or cow | 2010 |
| 20 | SpecialService | Rescue from below ground | Cat, dog or other domestic pet | 2009 |
| 9 | SpecialService | Rescue from below ground | Cat, dog or other domestic pet | 2010 |
| 2 | SpecialService | Rescue from below ground | Bird | 2009 |
| 2 | SpecialService | Rescue from below ground | Bird | 2010 |
| 5 | SpecialService | Rescue from below ground | Other | 2009 |
| 14 | SpecialService | Rescue from water | Farm animal, e.g. Horse or cow | 2009 |
| 21 | SpecialService | Rescue from water | Farm animal, e.g. Horse or cow | 2010 |
| 3 | SpecialService | Rescue from water | Cat, dog or other domestic pet | 2009 |
| 4 | SpecialService | Rescue from water | Cat, dog or other domestic pet | 2010 |
| 1 | SpecialService | Rescue from water | Bird | 2009 |
| 1 | SpecialService | Rescue from water | Bird | 2010 |
| 1 | SpecialService | Rescue from water | Other | 2010 |
| 16 | SpecialService | Lift heavy animal | No details recorded | 2009 |
| 20 | SpecialService | Lift heavy animal | No details recorded | 2010 |

270 Total



THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

The professional voice of the UK fire and rescue service

Press Release

Responding to animal rescues

For many years UK firefighters have responded to a variety of rescues involving pets, livestock and wild animals.

Animals in distress pose a potential serious risk to the public, members of other agencies and to firefighters. For the fire and rescue services public safety is paramount.

This makes fire and rescue services wary of making a charge for rescuing animals as it may result in individuals attempting to carry out the rescue, thereby putting themselves in danger. If this should happen, the financial cost of rescuing the animal and would be rescuer may well be greater and may well have more serious implications. It is therefore important that firefighters are adequately trained to ensure their own safety and that of others.

In 2008 the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) established the Animal Rescue Practitioners Forum. Fire and Rescue Services from across England, Wales and Northern Ireland are represented on this forum. The forum is developing training standards for animal rescue, and a national protocol to improve the safety of personnel, the public and animals at incidents. Notable practice is shared via the CFOA website.

The forum also has representation from the RSPCA and the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) who are able to share examples of animal behaviour and inform fire and rescue services of the important role their trained professionals can offer at animal rescues.

- Ends -



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Notes to Editors:

The Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA)

CFOA is the foremost official organisation for principal fire officers in the UK. The Association was formed in 1974 following local government re-organisation to allow principal fire officers the ability to meet and discuss fire related or government influenced matters. Membership of the Association comprises almost all the senior management of fire and rescue services in the United Kingdom and is the driving force in managing change and implementing reforms in the service.

CFOA provides the chair and secretariat to the Practitioners Forum, the body through which practitioners and stakeholders in the fire community work together to provide advice to Government on policy development, ensuring that specific policy initiatives are consistent with working practices on the ground and are deliverable.

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