TOLEDO FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

C-78 Pet Rescue Or Resuscitation

Emergency Manual

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Policy/Procedure

Recognizing the important role pets play in many people's lives, Toledo Fire and Rescue Department personnel shall take action to preserve the life of animals involved in accidents or tragedies. Through respectful treatment of deceased animals on the fireground, it is hoped that the emotional needs of those experiencing the loss of their pets will be addressed, at least to the extent the TFRD can control.

The following rules and or guidelines may assist rescuers in this endeavor:

1. Command shall have the authority to override any decision to attempt animal rescue or resuscitation. The Incident Commander shall be informed of all actions involving animal rescue and all activities shall be coordinated with command.

2. At no time shall fireground operations be compromised. No animal rescue shall be attempted if it places civilian life at risk, or delays the rescue of civilians. At no time should the safety of firefighters become unduly compromised for the sake of animal rescue. In addition, no rescue shall be attempted if such actions would allow a fire to gain headway or extend into exposed property.

3. Rescue should be attempted following all established and accepted fireground safety rules, including such considerations as the "Two In, / Two Out" rule, utilization of a "Back Up" team if needed, and or assignment and maintenance of a RIT.

4. Resuscitation efforts should, if possible, be performed in an area offering privacy. This might include an area of safety inside the fire building, the action area of a Rescue Transport Unit, or the cab of an apparatus on scene.

5. When efforts to rescue or resuscitate an animal are deemed to be futile, or the decision is made to terminate an attempt, the remains of the animal shall be treated respectfully and with proper decorum. Animals that are in public view shall be covered, utilizing plastic blankets, burn sheets, bedding

materials, or other available and appropriate materials. Animals that are inside a structure should be left in place and covered appropriately. Command shall be notified of their location, so that the owner can be made aware of that fact.

6. Fire personnel shall be mindful, regardless of personal feelings regarding this matter, that their actions may be of singular importance to the owner of a pet suffering an injury. A member's representation of the Department for a few moments may be remembered for a lifetime.

See Also:
C-7 Animal Management
C-19 Dead or Injured Animals

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