



Animal Rescue

February 2012

Publicity Line

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

Animals in distress pose a potential serious risk to the public, members of other agencies and to firefighters. In addition to domestic and wild animals, the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) has to consider animals when responding to fires and road traffic collisions.

Tragically, members of the public have been killed and seriously injured whilst attempting to rescue their pets and animals. For the fire and rescue service public safety is paramount.

FRSs need to assess the nature and risk of an incident when charging for animal rescues as it may result in individuals attempting to carry out a 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 have more serious implications.

It is therefore crucial that firefighters are adequately trained to ensure their own safety and that of others. All fire and rescue services seek to ensure they can provide the most effective and appropriate response to deal with an incident.

In 2008 the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) established the Animal Rescue Practitioners Forum.

FRSs from across England, Wales and Northern Ireland are represented on this forum. The forum is developing associated training standards, new equipment, procedures and sharing best practice.

Membership of the forum also includes the RSPCA and the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA), who are able to share their expertise and experience of animal behaviour to ensure safe and effective joint working at incidents. Through the forum, a national agreement has been developed to ensure safe and effective partnerships working with the RSPCA and their inspectors.

A copy of this agreement can be found on the [CFOA website](#). (please note these MOUs will be moved to the NFCC site shortly.)

England ✓	Wales ✓	Scotland ✓	Northern Ireland ✓
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NFCC will:

- Support FRS rescues where animals in distress pose a potential serious risk to the public
- Continue to support the CFOA Animal Rescue Practitioners Forum to develop training standards for animal rescue and to share best practice.