

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Creating the Safest Community

www.twfire.gov.uk

Chief Fire Officer Tom Capeling



Freedom of Information Request Ref Number: KS/31 05 16 1

Date of Response: 24th June 2016

Request:

Do you have any specialist equipment for animals, for example animal breathing apparatus?

Response:

Yes. Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service carry various types of animal rescue equipment but nothing along the lines of 'specialist kit' such as animal breathing apparatus.

Request:

If so what equipment do you have, when was it purchased and how much did it cost?

Response:

Please find below the information relating to the types of animal rescue equipment that the Authority owns:

Small Animal Rescue Kit:

Type	Total
Dog Graspers	3
Pet Tubes	2
Animal Carry Bag for vertical rescue	2
Long Reach Rescue Poles with animal rescue attachments	6

Service Headquarters Nissan Way Barmston Mere Sunderland SR5 3QY
Telephone 0191 444 1500 Fax 0191 444 1512



Large Animal Rescue Kit

Type	Total
Paratech Gold Lifting Bi-Pod System	1
Hampshire Animal Slings	2
Kick Shield	1
Anti-Spill Straps	2
Sea Catch Hooks	2
Steering Lines	n/a
Strop guides	n/a
Heavy Duty Crooks	2
Lifting Beam & Chain Set	1
Various Lifting Stropps	n/a
Horse Harnesses	3
Lead Ropes	2
Animal Hobbles	2
Various blocks, shackles & winches	n/a

The Authority also has a large Horse Training Manikin which is used for lifting and rescuing large animals such as horses and cattle.

The crews who are specifically trained with Animal Rescue Level 2&3 are equipped with dry suits and specialist Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kit to allow them to deal with rescues in water and contaminated areas.

We are unable to provide the exact date the equipment above were purchased however the purchase began in 2010. Approximate costs for all of the equipment over the years, taking into account price changes; inflation etc. is estimated around £10,000.

Request:

In the year 2005 how many call outs were attended where animals were involved?
What animals were involved in these call outs?

In the year 2000 how many call outs were attended where animals were involved?
What animals were involved in these call outs?

In the year 2015 how many call outs were attended where animals were involved?
What animals were involved in these call outs?

Response:

Please find the information below. 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.

Animal types	2000	2005	2015
Domestic e.g.cat, dog, rodents, horse, bird etc.	77	62	45
Livestock e.g. horse, cow, sheep, goat, pig, poultry, fish, exotic (llama / ostrich), deer, etc.	8	5	5
Wild e.g. horse, deer, wildfowl, game, aquatic, exotic etc.	33	28	30
Animal not recorded.	2	0	0
Total	120	95	80

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