

# Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Creating the Safest Community

[www.twfire.gov.uk](http://www.twfire.gov.uk)

Chief Fire Officer Tom Capeling



**Freedom of Information Request Response Ref Number: KS/ 22 06 16 1**  
**Date of Response: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

## Request:

How many calls has the service received for animal rescues in the last five years?  
What animals have been rescued in that period?

## Response:

Please find the information below. Please note, following an email sent on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016 seeking clarification about the time frame requested and calls. The requester responded: *June, 2011; June, 2012, June, 2013; June, 2014; and June, 2015. The number of incidents attended.*

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.

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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.

The table below shows the total number of animal rescues between June 2011 and May 2016 along with the types of animals rescued:

<b>Animal types</b>	<b>June 2011 - May 2012</b>	<b>June 2012 - May 2013</b>	<b>June 2013 - May 2014</b>	<b>June 2014 - May 2015</b>	<b>June 2015 - May 2016</b>	<b>Total (June 2011 - May 2016)</b>
Domestic e.g. cat, dog, rodents, horse, bird, etc.	45	57	69	64	40	<b>275</b>
Livestock e.g. horse, cow, sheep, goat, pig, poultry, fish, exotic (llama / ostrich), deer, etc.	31	12	11	9	4	<b>67</b>
Wild e.g. horse, deer, wildfowl, game, aquatic, exotic, etc.	43	23	28	30	13	<b>137</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>479</b>

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