



NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services

221 N. Figueroa Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles, California 90012 / www.LAAnimalServices.com

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Contact: Brenda F. Barnette, General Manager

Email: Brenda.barnette@lacity.org

Phone: (213) 482-9558

Cat Stuck Up A Tree? ***LA Animal Services' SmART to the Rescue!***

Los Angeles- LA Animal Services (LAAS)' Small Animal Rescue Team, or SmART for short, is the first small animal "search and rescue" team of its kind in the City of Los Angeles.

People think cats have nine lives and that they will come down from a tree or rooftop when they get hungry. "Not always so," says Armando Navarrete, Team Leader for SmART. "Cats may become dehydrated when they are stuck up in a tree and may become weak and could fall to their death if they aren't rescued."

The SmART team consists of six LAAS Animal Control Officers with extensive experience and training in rescuing distressed small animals in the multitude of urban and wilderness environments Los Angeles supplies. A Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) who is trained in rescue is also part of the team.

SmART rescues all small animals whether they are a stray, owned, domestic or wild. Examples of recent SmART rescues include: a cat stranded 65 feet up a tree, a hawk with a leash on its leg entangled on a TV antenna, an unweaned kitten trapped between two walls, a monitor lizard wedged in a drain pipe, a cat stuck in a storm drain, a dog that fell over a fifty foot cliff, and a cat stranded in the LA River.

All seven SmART members are NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Certified to perform Swiftwater Rescue Operations and Low Angle Rope Rescue Operations across the country. NFPA training is the same received by Fire Departments and Mountain Search and Rescue Teams; only SmART has made modifications to apply the techniques for rescuing our four legged companions.

SmART responds 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When an animal is in distress in the City of Los Angeles, please call your local Animal Care Center at 1-888-452-7381 for assistance.