



Minneapolis Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

Revised 8/28/2009

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9-401.00 PURPOSE

The Minneapolis Fire Department (MFD) does not make primary responses to pet emergencies but does encounter ill or injured animals in the course of their assigned Fire, Rescue and EMS duties. When this happens, the fire personnel assigned as the Incident Commander (IC) will make the decision whether or not to commit resources to the rescue and/or resuscitation of these animals.

At no time should MFD personnel put themselves in harms way at the risk of attempting to rescue or resuscitate an animal. The scene should be considered safe and the appropriate PPE (medical exam gloves under leather or cat scratch gloves, full turnout gear w/helmet and face shield down) donned. Then if conditions warrant the safe removal of an ill or injured pet, the following recommendations shall serve as guidelines:

Animal w/pulse – A reasonable resuscitation effort should include BVM ventilations attached to a large (dog) or small (cat) ventilation mask for a period of 20 minutes prior to stopping the effort.

Animal w/o pulse - A reasonable resuscitation effort should include BVM ventilations attached to a large (dog) or small (cat) ventilation mask for a period of 10 minutes prior to stopping the effort.

Animal w/return of respirations – Any animal that has been successfully resuscitated should be turned over to the care of its owner or responsible relative, friend or neighbor for transport by them (or in their absence animal control) to the nearest veterinarian facility (see attached list).

911 Dispatch Request for Animal Rescue– Dispatchers have been provided a list of emergency veterinary facilities and the following scripted information:

“Our emergency responders do NOT have the capability to respond to primary animal or pet rescues or emergency medical situations. If your pet is in need of emergency care, please contact the nearest general veterinary hospital or emergency medical center. Before you transport your pet to the doctor, you should call ahead to alert them of your pending arrival.”

9-402.00 24 HOUR EMERGENCY VETERINARY FACILITIES

University of Minnesota, Veterinary Medical Center
1365 Gortner Avenue, St. Paul
(612) 625-9711

Affiliated Emergency Veterinary Services
7717 Flying Cloud Drive, Eden Prairie
(952) 942-8272



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9-403.00 FIREFIGHTER INJURY

Any animal injured or in pain can bite or scratch you. Even the friendliest of pets must be handled with care for your safety. If you are accidentally bitten, scratched or your eyes, ears, nose, mouth or an open area to your skin are exposed to blood or body fluid or you experience an allergic reaction as a result of handling an animal, seek immediate emergency medical care and complete a Supervisors Report of Injury.

9-404.00 BASIC ANIMAL FIRST AID

Fractures:

Muzzle animal and gently lay animal on a board, wooden tarp or door padded with blankets. Secure animal to the support. Do not attempt to set the fracture. Wrap extremity fractures in a trauma dressing and apply SAM splint above/below the fracture site. Spine, ribs or hip fractures should be immobilized using tape/board.

Bleeding (external):

Muzzle animal and put direct pressure using trauma dressing and gloved hand to wound. Hold firmly to clotting occurs. As a last resort, apply a tourniquet for uncontrolled severe bleeding.

Bleeding (internal):

Recognize the symptoms (bleeding from nose, mouth, rectum, coughing blood, white or pale gums, rapid or weak pulse). Keep animal as warm and quiet as possible until owner, neighbor or friend can transport or animal control can arrive.

Burns:

Muzzle Animal, chemical burns should be flushed with large amounts of water, apply ice or cold water to thermal burns and treat for shock (symptoms include weak pulse, shallow breathing, dazed appearance or nervousness) by keeping the animal quiet and warm. If unconscious keep the animals head level with the rest of its body.

9-405.00 Animal Muzzle & Restraint

Speak and move calmly and quietly. **Dogs** should be approached from the side and behind its head-do NOT attempt to muzzle a dog from the front. Quickly slip the muzzle over the nose and secure it snugly behind the ears. **Cats** should be held by the scruff of the neck firmly and working from behind the cat, quickly slip a nylon muzzle over the cat's face. The muzzle will cover most of the cats face, including the eyes. Secure muzzles snugly from behind. Most cats can be restrained by holding the scruff of the neck. The "cat sack" (located in the BART kits on each rig) can be used for fractious or very frightened cats. Slip the sack over the cat from tail to head and cinch down the tie or wrap the cat in a towel, making sure his/her front legs are covered and against the body. Be aware that scratch gloves (located on Rescue 1 & 9) may reduce the handler's dexterity and can still be easily penetrated by a cat's teeth or a birds beak. **Birds** should be wrapped in a towel and gently folding his/her wings against the body. Keep you hands out of the way of the beak. **Small animals or reptiles** should be wrapped in a towel or rag, gently folding his/her legs against the body for protection.