



## ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Govt. of India  
(Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying)  
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Date: 05.02.2024

To

1. The Director/Director General of Fire Services of All States/UTs
2. The Director, Animal Husbandry Department of all States / UTs
3. The Chief Wildlife Warden of all States/ UTs

**Subject: Assistance of State/UT Fire Services Department for Animal Rescue in Precarious Situations – Request for Cooperation**

Sir/Madam,

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a statutory body established under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and is an apex body with the mandate to promote animal welfare in the country and safeguard the rights of animals as well as to ensure that the five freedoms of the animals are upheld and no animals are subject to any unnecessary pain or suffering.

2. In this regard, it is stated that as per Article 51-A (g) of the Constitution of India, it is the duty of every citizen to protect wildlife and exhibit compassion for living creatures. Additionally, Article 48A outlines the directive principle for States to safeguard wildlife.

3. Further, it is stated that the minutes of the meetings (1st to 38th) of the Standing Fire Advisory Committee/Council, constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, recommend the provision of special services for rescuing animals, offered free of charge for all types of life rescues. The committee underscores the importance of furnishing and reporting details of animal lives lost, injured and rescued.

4. It is pertinent to mention that each year, a multitude of animals find themselves trapped in precarious locations such as building ledges, pits, open drainage or wells, overhead wires, trees, and other challenging situations. These animals, including cats, dogs, cattle, birds, and other wildlife, often suffer and perish due to stress and starvation when not rescued promptly. In many instances, the lack of skilled rescue workers and equipment poses a significant challenge to timely rescue efforts.

5. It is observed that your department's firefighters are widely acknowledged for their dedication and longstanding history of saving lives, including those of animals. To enhance awareness about the invaluable service rendered by the State Fire Service Department in rescuing animals from diverse precarious situations.

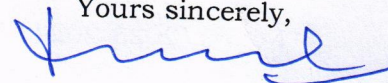
6. Therefore, it is requested to issue directives to local fire service units to ensure that they are thoroughly equipped and prepared to provide proficient animal rescue services, collaborating seamlessly with local animal welfare organizations.



7. The Animal Husbandry Department and Wildlife Department of the concerned State(s) shall extend all necessary support, including training, if required, to the State Fire Service Department. This support may encompass education and hands-on skills in animal handling and restraint, patient assessment, first aid, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

8. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We firmly believe that your collaborative efforts can significantly contribute to the well-being of animals in distress.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. O. P. Chaudhary)  
Chairman, AWBI