



BART SAVES LIVES

Rescue Stories from Basic Animal Rescue Training



What is BART? Basic Animal Rescue Training (BART) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization run by volunteers in the veterinary profession. BART's mission is to empower firefighters and other first responder personnel with the training and equipment necessary to safely and effectively handle pets, horses and livestock that they encounter in emergency situations, such as house and barn fires, vehicle

accidents and natural disasters. People want and need their animal family members to be cared for in emergencies. BART teaches first responders animal restraint and handling, patient assessment/first aid and pet CPR in hands-on classes taught by veterinary personnel and pet volunteers. Emergency responders learn how to help our four-legged loved ones while maintaining their own safety, and where to find veterinary help for local emergencies as well as larger disasters. Departments trained receive a BART emergency medical kit which contains animal restraint and rescue equipment. The BART organization was developed to honor the memory of Bart, a German Shorthaired Pointer who lost his life in a house fire.

BART operates entirely on charitable donations - all training and medical kits are provided free of charge. We hope you enjoy these rescue stories from our trainees and will make a donation to support BART!

Minneapolis Firefighters Team up with BART to Make a Difference

Rich Schmitt, NREMT-P, BART Volunteer

The Minneapolis Fire Department and its Basic Animal Rescue Training (BART) trained rescuers score big with residents. On November 27, 2006, while tending to an injured motorist, firefighters sensed the elderly woman's anxiety went beyond her minor injuries. Further questioning revealed the woman was more worried about her German Shepherd left at home alone.

While the woman was transported to a local hospital, Captain Rita Juran and crew went to the victim's home not far away. Capt. Juran made a new friend in the hungry dog and saw to it that food and water were readily available. Juran and other firefighters also walked and played with the shepherd in the back yard before leaving the home. Capt. Juran along with Firefighters Preusse, Dooley and Wilson went above and beyond and came away with a new sense of accomplishment, while easing the concerns of the injured community resident.

Minneapolis firefighters have also performed several pet rescues since their BART training in Spring of 2006. In October 2006, Minneapolis Fire Station 4 personnel responded to a house fire. A dog was removed from the scene and provided oxygen by the first responders. The dog was revived on the scene in response to this care.

A second pet rescue in Minneapolis took place on November 21, 2006 and produced a large degree of appreciation from some very small residents. As Captain Jeremy Norton and crew responded to a residential kitchen fire, they mentally prepared for the unexpected. What *wasn't* expected was the homeowner's plea to rescue some furry friends. The fearful occupants of the Minneapolis home evacuated immediately as instructed when their kitchen became ablaze, leaving several pets trapped inside the smoke filled home. Upon arrival, firefighters entered the home and reappeared with the family's Guinea Pig, Long Haired Hamster and several cats.

Subsequent assessment of the animals revealed no serious injuries. The helping hand to get the pets out of the burning home was just what BART had ordered. The relieved homeowners expressed great appreciation for the pet rescues, and said that their pets are like family members to them.

Capt. Norton has also experienced the tragic side of an attempted animal rescue when he pulled an occupied kennel from a different home on fire. Norton and crew attempted to revive a Bulldog found in the kennel, but it was too late. The Minneapolis firefighters expressed a great deal of appreciation for BART training nonetheless. Capt. Norton said, "Without our BART training and equipment, an appropriate attempt at reviving this dog would not have been possible."

In November 2006, Acting Capt. Isabel Moreno of the Minneapolis Fire Department and her crew responded to a structure fire. Firefighter Hupp discovered a cat on the scene that was coughing up smoke. Lifesaving measures were started as taught in the BART training. On the instructions of the Incident Commander, the emergency responders administered oxygen and transported the cat to a local veterinarian for further care.

These rescues are just a small part of what the Minneapolis Fire department has accomplished since their BART training. The relationship between BART and the Minneapolis Fire Department continues to grow and the community's human and animal residents benefit from it with each rescue.

Andover Fire Department BART training was Just in Time!

The entire Andover Fire Department underwent BART training on April 25, 2007 and within a week used their new skills and equipment to assist 2 pet cats that were recovered from house fires. This account of the May 1 fire was sent to BART by Andover Fire Chief Dan Winkel and Paramedic Pat Thompson: Our department responded to a neighboring city for an attached garage fire with reports that the owners were out of the house but very worried about their cat that was still inside. Nobody saw the cat while extinguishing the fire, however during the salvage and overhaul (fire terms for checking for extension of the fire) the cat kept running past firefighters up and down the stairs. We had the homeowner assist us with catching the cat, which was a lot dirtier but in good condition. Several Andover firefighters advised the homeowners that they should wash him off to prevent smoke inhalation and toxin ingestion; later on the cat was seen all wet and wrapped up in a blanket after being bathed at the neighbors, and doing just fine. Chief Winkel commented "I'm glad we have not had to perform any other types of emergency animal care but it is sure nice to know that we can if needed."

Going Above and Beyond

The Woodbury Public Safety Department sent us two stories: **Situation number one** on March 4th involved Police-Paramedic officer Jeff Benysek and firefighter-EMT Scott Tenner. The team attempted to resuscitate a dog unfortunately without success. According to the police report:

A man and his wife came to 2240 fire station looking for medical rescue for their 12 year old terrier that had an obstructed airway. Obstruction was dislodged and removed however attempts to re-establish a pulse were unsuccessful. Resources were given to the family for grievance and next course of action.

One of our officers wrote a "pat-on-the-back";

A distraught couple approached the 2240 fire station with their small dog that was choking. Benysek and Tenner did everything they could to assist them in a very professional manner. Life saving attempts by the team were not successful but the couple was very happy with the efforts made. Benysek and Tenner are great examples of the professional team we have!

An additional officer added this supplement to the pat-on-the-back: *In addition to attempting to revive the dog, Jeff went to the owner's home to offer his assistance and condolences. The sobbing owner asked Jeff if he could help bury the dog. Jeff attempted to help the owner dig a hole, but was unable to due to the ground frost. Jeff's compassion was most surely appreciated by the owner and was certainly above the call of duty.*

EMS Personnel Save Truck Driver's Best Friend from Wreck

J.B. Guiton, EMS Coordinator, Department of Public Safety, City of Woodbury

Woodbury's second situation involved several of their police-paramedics and firefighter-EMT's. Rich Schmitt, a police officer-paramedic who was on the scene summed it up this way: *To all, One of the philosophies of how we do this job and "who we are" as public safety employees is that we do what's needed at any given time and that we do what others won't or can't do. Another great example of that happened this weekend.*



On Saturday, 3-18-06, a semi truck rolled over at 494 and I-94 in the usual spot. Upon police and fire arrival, the driver was out of the truck worried about "Josie-Girl", a 3 year old Golden Retriever trapped under the wrecked semi tractor. Josie-Girl was tossed from the turning truck and trapped underneath the frame and motor.

Paul Kroshus and I located Josie-Girl under the frame of the truck and assessed her condition. JG was breathing rapidly and only a small portion of her hind quarter was visible. The rest of JG was pinned underneath the frame and motor of the truck. JG would not have lasted long as it appeared that her breathing effort was changing. Police Medics met with Fire Capt. Neily and determined what resources we would commit to rescuing JG. We agreed, we would get her out!

Officers and fire fighters worked together to secure the scene, secure the truck and extricate JG. A special THANK YOU goes to James Olson and Ernie Hokanson who did the primary extrication. The two fire fighters had to work underneath the cab of the over-turned truck and cut metal and fiber glass to get to JG. These men were relentless at their effort....I also owe them an apology for..."get her

out...get her out...get her &^%(^%out"!!!!!!!!!!!!.... SORRY! Once extricated, James and I loaded Josie-Girl into the Tahoe and rushed her to the "Emergency vet" in Oakdale. (I know I know...medic vehicle....so shoot me!) They were given forewarning by WCSO dispatch of our arrival.

Josie-Girl suffered an abdominal bleed and is doing well.

I contacted the owner to tell him where his dog was and he cried. He wanted everyone involved to know how he appreciates our effort. He is an over the road driver and he stated "That dog is my life" He is being released from Regions Hospital this same date and headed to visit his dog.

After being involved with this call...and thinking about the people there working to get her out, all I can say is WOW! Way cool and Thank You!

I'm Dreaming of a BART Christmas?

EMT-Paramedic Scott Tomek was working for the North Saint Paul fire department on Christmas Eve of 2005. The department was called to a house fire, the home of a family attending church service. As they were putting out the flames, they encountered a minimally responsive 8 year old Australian Shepherd dog, which they later discovered was named "Millie". Due to Tomek's BART training through the Woodbury Public Safety Department, he was prepared to triage and support Millie on-the-scene. The fire department then rushed Millie to the Oakdale Veterinary Emergency Clinic for additional care. Dr. Sue Antes took Millie in and reported that she had suffered from extensive smoke inhalation. However, due to the timely medical care and attention that Millie received, she was quickly stabilized and was able to be reunited with her family on Christmas Day.

Support BART training in your community! To make a donation, make checks payable to BART and mail to: Basic Animal Rescue Training, 158 New Brighton Road, New Brighton, MN 55112.

Donations can also be made online on BART's website at www.BasicAnimalRescueTraining.org

Basic Animal Rescue Training is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and donations are tax deductible.