



Marion County Board of County Commissioners Marion County Fire Rescue

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THREE-MONTH OLD CALF RESCUED FROM WELL Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (June 15, 2009) – Marion County Fire Rescue’s (MCFR) Technical Rescue Team responded to the 5300 block of SE 34th Street at 10:24 a.m. and found a three-month old female calf trapped in a well. The owner of the calf, Thomas Wesley Harrell, discovered her in the 12-foot deep well when he went to feed his cows this morning. It appeared the calf fell into the shrubbery-covered well while she was grazing in the area. Harrell notified authorities and MCFR’s Technical Rescue Team was deployed. It is believed the calf had been in the well for approximately 24 hours.

MCFR’s Technical Rescue Team requested the response of the University of Florida’s College of Veterinarian Medicine Disaster Response Team, also known as VETS (Veterinary Emergency Treatment Services), which has specialized equipment and training for large animal extrications. Prior to the VETS team arrival, MCFR firefighters lowered Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Jodoin into the well to check on the calf and to gauge the size of the well’s opening, which helped them to determine the best way to lift the calf out.

When the VETS team arrived, both agencies constructed a metal A-frame which provided a high-point anchor to lower Dr. Roger Clemmons into the well. Dr. Clemmons administered a sedative to the calf, then firefighters as well as VETS team members extricated her, hind legs first. After the sedative subsided, she was reunited with her mother, who had kept a watchful eye on rescuers during the entire operation. The calf sustained minor scratches to her front legs, but is not believed to have any broken bones or major injuries.

MCFR’s Technical Rescue Team has specialized training in extensive extrication, rope, cave and confined space rescues as well as wilderness search and rescues. The team has responded to various other animal emergencies including the recent rescues of a paint foal from an old septic tank, seven baby ducks from a storm drain and a miniature horse from a hay feeder, all of which occurred last fiscal year.

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