

Cat grounded after spending five days in a tree

Centennial, CO -- On June 29, 2016, Centennial Animal Services received a phone call from a Centennial resident about a black and white cat that climbed into a tree in his backyard five days earlier and was still there. The resident was concerned that the cat was unable to get out of the tree and had gone five days without food or water.

Officer Christinia Tafoya and Officer Susan Kenney responded to the call and discovered the cat more than 35 feet up in a large tree. Officer Tafoya climbed a ladder to try to lure the cat out of the tree with cat food, but the feline didn't budge.



The officers contacted firefighters to assist, but the fire department's ladder truck was unable to get within reach of the tree. Next, the officers tried to contact utility workers for help, but were unable to find any available utilities vehicle to assist. The resident then called Sal's Landscape & Tree Service and spoke with arborist Sal Paniagua, who agreed to come out to the residence and attempt to retrieve the cat from the tree. Centennial Animal Service officers arranged for a disaster and ropes-certified Animal Law Enforcement Officer from The Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region to come the morning of June 30, in case the arborist was unable to reach the cat.

Arborist Sal arrived and ascended the tree with ropes and a harness. However, the black and white cat climbed further up and out onto the branches, reaching a height of about 50 feet, and almost fell several times. Below the tree, Officer Tafoya and the homeowner stretched out a blanket in case the cat lost its balance. Sal was somehow able to reach out and grab the cat before it fell.

Sal attached the cat to his harness and lowered them safely to the ground. Officer Tafoya inspected the cat and determined it would need veterinary care for dehydration. It turns out it wasn't the first cat rescue Sal had conducted, and Centennial Animal Services usually receives two calls per year for such operations.

Officer Tafoya took the cat, which did not have tags or a microchip, to an emergency veterinary clinic for treatment and it stayed overnight for observation and to receive food and fluids. By the next morning, the cat was feeling much better and Officer Tafoya transferred it to the Buddy Center in Castle Rock.

A week later, Officer Tafoya received a phone call from a citizen who said they were missing their black and white cat, "Rozz." The citizen lived near the area where the black and white cat was found in the

tree. Officer Tafoya let the citizen know that Centennial Animal Services had found a cat that matched the description of “Rozz” and put the citizen in contact with the Buddy Center.

The Buddy Center confirmed that the black and white cat that was rescued from the tree was “Rozz.” With the combined efforts of Centennial Animal Services, Sal’s Landscape and Tree Service, and the Buddy Center, the furry feline was reunited with her family after a five-day ordeal.