



**CITY OF
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N E W S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release:

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Mount Dora Police and Firefighters rescue cat stuck behind water heater

Mount Dora, Fla (May 24, 2019) – Mount Dora Police and Firefighters teamed up to rescue a cat stuck behind a water heater in a home.

On Tuesday, May 21, the Mount Dora Police were called to a home on 1st Avenue for a report of a cat that was trapped. Upon arrival, Officer Ronnie Murchinson met with the distraught homeowner who said her two-year-old cat, named Pepper Pot, was trapped in a small space behind a water heater. Officer Murchinson attempted to free the cat, but was unable to help it get out. Murchinson called for Sgt. Karen Dancel to assist and with her help, both tried to free the 25 lb. cat that was wedged tight. Sgt. Dancel removed some of her gear so she could crawl into the space to try and free the cat. Sgt. Dancel is an animal lover and was determined to help free Pepper Pot from the confined space.

After 45 minutes of trying to free the scared cat, Mount Dora Firefighters arrived to help. Firefighters worked in the space and with a few attempts, Pepper Pot was freed and reunited with the homeowner.

After the rescue, Sgt. Dancel was sent to the doctor because she is allergic to cats. Sgt. Dancel was cleared without medical incident.

We have provided clips from the body cam worn by Officer Murchinson.

Clip 1 – Officer Murchinson arriving at the house with the homeowner stating she didn't know who to call and the officer stating "you can call us with anything you need"

Clip 2 – Officer Murchinson telling the homeowner the next steps and reassuring her that "the cat is family"



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Clip 3 – Sgt Dancel arriving and Officer Murchinson explaining how the cat is stuck

Clip 4 – Sgt Dancel inspecting and the cat meowing loudly

Clip 5 – Sgt Dancel and Officer Murchinson trying to help the cat – it’s meowing loudly. Clip is appx 2 minutes

Clip 6 – Sgt Dancel removing gear with Officer Murchinson explaining what she is doing

Clip 7 – Sgt Dancel crawling into the space to help the cat

Clip 8 – Mount Dora Firefighters arriving

Clip 9 – Pepper Pot being freed and the homeowner hugging Officer Murchinson

I’ve also included a slow motion clip of the cat coming out for your use.

There are 3 pictures of Pepper Pot in the FTP link.

<https://mounddora.files.com/f/8326d29aaf5069c1>

If you have any questions, please contact PIO Lisa McDonald at

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