

Essential writing skills for working in government

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Briefing Note

Purpose

Context

Critical information

Next steps

Background

Appendices

Context

- The ministry aims to ensure that any personnel acting as primary responders to incidents of animals in critical distress in motor vehicles:

Provide for an efficient and rapid response

- A rapid response (e.g., via 9-1-1 dispatch) to rescue animals as quickly as possible and take immediate steps that are necessary to relieve their distress (e.g., provide them with necessities).

Provide for a safe and effective response

- The ability to effectively assess critical distress, enter a vehicle safely and safely remove an animal.

Are accountable to the public

- Oversight for their actions.

- The ministry recognizes there are several **operational enablers** that may help ensure the above:



Guidance for call
dispatch (9-1-1)



Guidance on
how to assess
critical animal
distress



Clear authority and
ability to enter
vehicle safely



Guidance on how to
relieve immediate
animal distress (e.g.,
provide necessities)



Process for engaging an
animal welfare inspector
once an animal is
removed from a vehicle

Jurisdictional Scan: USA and Canada



13

In Canada, **all provinces and territories** enable police and peace officers and animal welfare inspectors to enter vehicles to relieve distress.

- Ontario would be the first in Canada to enable other personnel.



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American states have dedicated statutes or regulations related to animals in motor vehicles. These statutes enable a variety of persons to take action to relieve distress:



19 States enable **Police and Peace Officers**

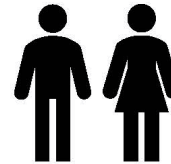


13 States enable **AW Inspectors**
(Humane or Enforcement Officers)

13 States enable **Animal Control Officers**



11 States enable **firefighters**



14 States enable **any person** (under certain conditions)



5 States enable **Emergency Responders**
(e.g., paramedics)



Others include: Security Guard (1); Dept. Investigator (1); Public Safety Officer (2); Dog Warden (1); Search and Rescue/Rescue Squad (2)



In the **United Kingdom**, only the police have warrantless entry powers to relieve distress. However, the *Criminal Damage Act, 1971* provides some protections for individuals under certain circumstances.