



Animals in need

Here are some suggested situations of animals in need for the phone call activity.

A goldfish is being kept in a small bowl with dirty water and no plants

A plastic toy fish can be used in a clear bowl of water. A small amount of paint or food colouring could be used to pretend that the water is dirty. The fact that the fish is in a bowl means that it will be very difficult to maintain a high enough level of oxygenation (this will be exacerbated by a lack of plants), water quality and temperature, which are all very important for a fish to remain alive and healthy. Goldfish should also be kept in small groups of five or six rather than by themselves. The inspector would probably give advice to the owner about what he/she needed to do and then would go back to visit some days later to check the advice had been followed. See our advice pages about keeping goldfish in bowls: www.rspca.org.uk/utilities/faq/-/question/ENQWADAWAFishInGoldfishBowls

A cat is stuck in a tree because its collar is caught on a branch

A toy cat can be used, wearing a buckle-fastening collar, which often cause problems for cats. The RSPCA recommends that if cats wear a collar it should be the quick-release type. The inspector would rescue the cat, with the help of others if necessary, and then would give the owner some advice about putting a quick-release collar on the cat. See our advice about cats and collars: www.rspca.org.uk/utilities/faq/-/question/ENQCADCatsAndBirds

A dog has been left alone in the house while its owners are on holiday

A toy dog can be left in the home role-play area, with a postcard saying "Dear Fido. We are having a lovely time. Hope you are OK. Help yourself to food when you get hungry. Back in two weeks." Abandoning an animal with no one to look after it is against the law and the owner could be prosecuted.

A pet bird is in a cage so small that it can't stretch its wings

If a toy bird in a small cage cannot be found, then the picture of the bird in the cage could be enlarged and displayed (see activity sheet *Bird in a cage*). A caged bird needs to be able to stretch its wings in all directions when in its cage. The inspector would need to give the owner some advice about what needed to be done. See our advice on caring for birds: www.rspca.org.uk/utilities/faq/-/question/ENQWADCaringForBirds and then would go back to visit some days later to check the advice had been followed.

A rabbit is in a small hutch on its own with no food or water

A toy rabbit could be placed in a make-believe hutch made from a cardboard box. The inspector would need to check the rabbit over to see if the rabbit was healthy. If the rabbit was not in immediate danger then he/she would give the owner some advice about what needed to be done. See our advice on caring for rabbits: www.rspca.org.uk/allabout-animals/pets/rabbits and then would go back to visit some days later to check the advice had been followed.

A dog is left in a car on a warm day

A toy dog can be put into a sit-on play car and left outside in the direct sun. This would cause a dog to suffer and could be fatal. If the owner could not be found quickly, the police would need to assist the inspector by gaining access to the car. See the RSPCA advice on dogs in cars: www.rspca.org.uk/utilities/faq/-/question/ENQCADDogsInHotCars