

Cat Stuck on a Tree

What to Do When a Cat Can't Get Down from a Tree

Cats climb by holding onto the tree with the claws of their front paws and pulling their hind body or by pushing themselves forward with their hind legs. The claws on their front paws are sharp and curved, allowing them to grip well and not slip. However, these claws are only useful for climbing upward. Eventually, cats will reach a height from which they can no longer jump down and they are unlikely to want to climb down backwards.

At this point, it's important to keep a cool head!

1. **Stay calm and don't scare the cat!**
2. **Ensure that the area around the tree is quiet, make sure there are no screaming children or barking dogs that may further frighten the cat.**
3. **Speak calmly to the animal.**
4. **Try and coax the cat down with strongly scented food. Sometimes hunger outweighs fear.**
5. **If it's a stray cat, put down the food and then move out of sight. The cat may be afraid of unfamiliar people.**
6. **See if you can use a cat ladder, ladder, or board as assistance.**
7. **Always make sure not to put yourself in danger.**

If the cat doesn't come down on its own within the first 24 hours, you should seek help.

Option 1: Call the fire services for help*.

The fire services typically come in a vehicle equipped with a long ladder and a cage at the top. The ladder is extendable, allowing firefighters to reach the cat. They should have a transport carrier, thick gloves, and a net on them. Should this not be the case, these items can usually be borrowed from a local animal welfare organisation. The fire engine must be able to park next to the tree, otherwise the rescue won't be possible. It's advisable to hold a stretched net or cloth under the ladder (with the help of assistants) so that if the cat is startled and falls, it does not get injured.

*Please note:

This applies to Switzerland – other countries' fire services might not respond to calls to rescue a cat from a tree.

Option 2: Seek assistance from a professional tree climber.

If the fire services can't reach the location, a professional tree climber can help. They are skilled in climbing tall trees and frequently rescue cats. Again, it's advisable to have a safety net underneath in case the cat falls.

Please Note:

Both the fire services and professional tree climbers usually charge for their services.

Attention: If a cat's body activates its fat reserves due to lack of food, it can develop hepatic lipidosis (fatty liver). The fat metabolism in the liver becomes imbalanced after a few days. The cat lacks certain enzymes to use the fat activated by the food shortage as an energy source. As a result, the fats accumulate in liver cells and destroy them, eventually leading to liver failure. Incidentally, the risk of fatty liver increases with the cat's weight, so please avoid radical diets!



Because every life matters!