Fire Department Rescues a Deer From a Frozen Pond

Video Source: PETA.org/DeerRescueVideo

Have students watch the video, which is about two minutes long. Read them the information below about the rescue, then project the award given to the rescuers (PETA.org/DeerRescueAward) onto the board. Finally, use the questions to initiate a class discussion.

Oregon’s Sunriver Fire and Rescue received an award from PETA for helping a deer who was stuck on a frozen golf course pond on December 8, 2017.

Concerned citizens had spotted the deer struggling to stand on the frozen pond, and they alerted police, who decided that the situation called for the Sunriver Fire and Rescue team. The firefighters arrived on the scene with an ice sled and ice immersion suits, and one proceeded onto the ice in the sled toward the deer. He spoke in a comforting way to the terrified animal and used the front of the sled to slide the deer gently over to the edge of the pond and onto land. The deer finally stood up—to applause from the firefighters—and ran off, unhurt.

“These firefighters wasted no time in getting a defenseless deer out of a scary situation,” says PETA Vice President Colleen O’Brien. “PETA encourages people everywhere to follow their big-hearted lead and always come to the aid of animals in need.”

PETA sent Sunriver Fire and Rescue its award certificate as well as a box of delicious vegan cookies!

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think people called the police to help this deer?

2. How do you think the deer felt before being rescued and then afterward? What makes you think so?

3. How do you think the rescuers felt after the deer made it off the ice? What makes you think so?

4. Have you ever seen an animal who needed help? Explain what you did or would encourage others to do in the future.