FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flagler County Fire Rescue retrieved missing dog from a 20-foot steep embankment along the Intercoastal Waterway

November 25, 2020 – Flagler County Fire Rescue retrieved missing dog from a 20-foot steep embankment along the Intercoastal Waterway.

The dog was found stuck in the mud after wandering into a densely wooded area and falling from a sheer drop along the water’s edge.

“The crew from Station 41 was dispatched to assist Animal Control on Saturday afternoon.” Reported Lieutenant Mike Pius. “Together, we jumped into action and the rescue effort was underway.”

Mattie, a small, older, Jack Russell Terrier is blind and went missing during a stroll with her owners, Mr. & Mrs. Burke. They looked for hours for their missing beloved pet before calling Animal Control.

Flagler County Animal Control Officer Dawn Morton and helper Ronnie Williams were the first to arrive on the scene. They visually located the dog through a set of binoculars on the other side of the bank. After assessing the situation, they called for additional help.

The Fire Rescue crew on call consisted of Lieutenant Mike Pius; Firefighter Paramedic John Raffo; Firefighter Paramedic Marianne Houston; and Firefighter EMT Noah Dunaway, a graduate from the Flagler Palm Coast High School Fire Leadership Flagship Program.
Upon arrival, Firefighter Houston climbed down the steep embankment and assessed the stranded dog at the water’s edge, then stood-by until the crew gained access to a canoe provided by a kind neighbor.

“Firefighter Houston and the dog were picked-up in the canoe by the rescue crew who then paddled 50-yards back to a floating dock into safety,” reported Pius. “The dog was delivered onto the dock and walked unassisted to the Animal Control officer.”

Though no one knows how long the dog was stuck in the mud, she remained calm during the entire rescue operation. Mattie was reunited with her owners, remarkably unharmed.

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