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Animal lovers rescue bitch stuck in ridge even as forest dept lazes on

By Vishakha Sharma
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The rescue mission in progress

Stuck on a ridge of the Taljai tekdi for 48 hours, a bitch was rescued by members of ResQ Charitable Trust (CT) and brought to safety on Saturday, after the forest department backed out.

One Ashutosh, a resident of Sahakar Nagar, had informed the ResQ hotline about the animal's woes.

Sunil Uttam, a volunteer from RESQ CT, said, "On the evening of July 10, we received a call on our ResQ hotline from Ashutosh saying a dog had fallen off the edge onto a ridge; is safe but stuck since there is no path for it to come up or go down.

He said the animal was stuck eight feet down the ridge and that there was a pile of sand at the bottom that will break the fall of the dog if it jumps."

Sunil said, "Since it was late in the evening, Ashutosh said it might be better to attempt rescuing the dog in the morning since it was a jungle area. He said the animal was stuck there since two nights and two days and he has been feeding it."

Volunteers Rupal Zingde, Niketa Malhotra, Utkarsh Maske and Sunil along with Ashutosh reached the spot the next day.

"The spot was different from what we had imagined. It was on a hill, with a vertical stone/mud wall of about 40 feet. This dog was stuck at 15 feet from the top on a mud ledge. We decided to approach from the top," Sunil said.

"We went to the spot right above the dog. I looked around and found a small, narrow, exposed path leading almost up to the dog.

At 10 feet from the dog, there was no foot hold and also nothing to hold on to. I told my team to drop the rope so I can hang on to it. They secured the rope to a sturdy tree and dropped the rope for me to hang on.

This way, I managed to reach the dog. The dog was tired and drowsy already. We then put it into our butterfly net which was tied to the rope, and the dog was carefully pulled up," Sunil said.

Then there was the challenge to pull Sunil out. "The rope that took me to the dog had become wet and muddy due to the sudden rain and affected my grip.

I used the body harness and very carefully started to cross over towards the path. I slipped just when I reached the spot, hung by the harness and was flung back right where I started, rolling along the mountain face, knocking my head, shoulder and what not else. I was dragged up later.

This operation was a first for all of us." The dog was taken to a kennel and released into the same locality by evening of the same day.

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