Cats can easily make their way up trees (or on rooftops). However, getting down tends to be a bit more difficult. Sometimes the more you try to help a cat down a tree, the more stressed and scared it becomes. What should you do if you discover a cat stuck in a tree? There are a few different methods to try.

* Ask anyone not directly involved in the situation to leave—The cat is probably experiencing a high level of stress and nerves, and should be left alone for awhile. If any dogs are in the area, try to remove if possible.

* It is important that any person in the area remains calm—to include the owner or any family member. People panicking or acting anxious around the cat will only make the situation worse.

* If there is an owner or familiar person around, that person can try to coax the cat down. A cat is more likely to come to a person it knows. An additional incentive would be to use some cat food, treats, or a laser pointer to sidetrack the cat. You could try putting a bowl of food by the tree and leaving the area for a half hour.

* Lay something against the tree that the cat can climb down. This could be a long, fallen branch or an extension ladder. Give the cat time to use this method.

* Buy a couple cans of wet dog food. At the highest point you can reach, spread some canned dog food against the bark of the tree. Run a line of it all the way down to the ground, if possible. Dog food has a stronger scent than cat food and will hopefully grab the cat’s attention.

* Sprinkle a large amount of bird seed at the base of the tree. This will attract birds and those birds might be enough motivation for the cat to climb down the tree.

* If the cat isn’t very high, you might attempt to get the cat yourself. Be aware this may be a feral cat and might fight you trying to help it down or climb higher up the tree. Take precautions to protect yourself.

* Give the cat time to come down on its own—most times cats do climb down on their own as long as they are given enough time and space.

**THINGS TO AVOID**

- Do not call the Fire Department. Their response to the scene will only make the cat more nervous and make getting the cat down from the tree more difficult.
- Do not spray the cat with water. This could cause the cat to fall out of the tree and possibly injure it.