



# PRESS RELEASE

City of Pompano Beach

100 West Atlantic Boulevard | Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Press Release Date: 7/23/18

## Pompano Beach Firefighter: “Help Save Scruffy”

On Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Pompano Beach Fire Station 61 located at 2121 NW 3 Avenue, Pompano Beach Firefighter/Paramedic Nicole Velarde, was returning from a call with her crew aboard a Pompano Beach Fire Rescue unit when she spotted a small dog crate inside the fire station truck bay with a small dog inside. Upon further examination, she found an injured terrier mix puppy inside the crate. The puppy had injuries all along his back. She thought perhaps a resident brought the injured puppy to the fire station for help but when she went inside none of the firefighters knew about the crate being dropped off. She brought the pup inside the firehouse into the air conditioning and gave him some water. The puppy drank the entire bowl. The paramedic bandaged the puppy and at the end of her shift took the adorable injured dog to a veterinarian clinic at 9800 Pines Boulevard in Pembroke Pines. The veterinarian told Firefighter Velarde that the puppy is approximately five months old and the injuries are most likely burns and are infected.

The puppy is undergoing a surgery sometime today as the puppy needs to be sedated to determine how badly the dog is injured and what exactly happened, as the puppy is in too much pain to examine while conscious.

Determined to save the pup and pay the veterinarian, Firefighter/Paramedic Nicole Velarde, an animal lover, has started a Go Fund Me page under her name to raise funds for the puppy's medical bills. The page is entitled, “Help Save Scruffy”.

More pictures are available upon request.