

“Convo!”

Speak confidently

A3: Discuss 1 - Animal police in the Netherlands students always read aloud

Hours before a rare snowstorm hit the Hague in the Netherlands last month, Sergeant Erik Smit got a call from the office: A Jack Russell dog was locked out of its house on a third-story balcony.

Neighbors heard it barking and knew that the owner, who had left for work at 7:30 A.M., would not be back until the end of the day, when the balcony would be covered by several inches of snow.

Sergeant Smit of the national police force rang a few doorbells and yelled some questions to residents, but no one could help. He then called for a 22-ton fire truck with a crane and platform.

A half-hour later, at a taxpayer cost of roughly €500, the rescued dog was warming up in an animal ambulance. Sergeant Smit got back into his police car and continued his day. “He’ll have to call me and explain the situation,” he said of the dog’s owner, who would eventually be fined €150 for animal neglect.

Sergeant Smit is one of about 250 full-time members of the animal police force in the Netherlands. Of the approximately three million calls made to The Hague area police each year, roughly 3,000 involve animals.

“Obviously, the first thing I do is to look after the animals, but often when you look further, you see the things aren’t going so well for the owner of the animals,” said Sergeant Smit.

copy and paste line by line

- before - after - then - next - finally - also - as well - for example - such as - in other words
- this means that - but - although - however - instead - similarly - it’s like - because of this/that
- since - so (that) - that’s why - if (not) - unless - as long as - otherwise - in fact - of course - anyway

Please give as much detail and information as you can, and use as many connectors as possible:

1. Summarise the article in a few sentences.
2. What pets do people usually have at home? Why?
3. How do people take care of their pets?
4. What do animals need to be happy and healthy?
5. Have you ever had a pet? If so, describe it in detail.
6. What are the benefits of having a pet?
7. Why is it important to protect wild animals?
8. How can people help animals that are in danger where you live?
9. Do you think all animals should live in nature, or is it okay to keep some as pets? Why?
10. How do people in your country treat animals?
11. What are some things that people can do to take better care of animals?