

Contacting the RSPCA

**When calling them choose the “domestic or kept animal” option, because a trapped pigeon is likely to be a racing pigeon or pet or a domestic dove that has been released. As such, they are protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006.**

If you believe that the bird will need additional care after release, please make every effort to be there if and when the RSPCA attend and **ask to have the bird handed into your care**. We believe that in many cases rescued pigeons are killed if they turn out to be unbanded to economise on the cost of transporting them to a rescue centre.

Use the **RSPCA** cruelty line ( **0300 - 1234 - 999** ) to report trapped pigeons. **PLEASE SELECT Option 3 followed by option 1.**

You will probably get through to a call centre. Remember that call centre staff often **do not care** about pigeons, **do not have any knowledge** of pigeons and their advice will often be unhelpful. Give as much information as you can, insist on having an inspector visit the location. Ask for a reference number that will enable you to chase your call.

Some inspectors will respond others will ignore the call. Follow up any call you make at hourly intervals and make a note of your calls. If the RSPCA rescues the pigeon, write a letter of thanks. If it lets you and the bird down, write a letter of complaint detailing the outcome. This might help other pigeons. The address for both praise and complaints is:

CUSTOMER SERVICE COORDINATOR  
RSPCA  
WILBERFORCE WAY  
SOUTHWATER  
HORSHAM  
WEST SUSSEX RH13 9RS