Icy plunge saves pooch

Mary Rowland gets a big, sloppy kiss from her English springer, Smudge, yesterday after she jumped into the East River to rescue her 6-month-old puppy. Heartwarming details on Page 3.
Pip & pup plucked from icy fate

By LAWRENCE GOODMAN and JENNIFER HAVILAH

A Manhattan woman jumped into the icy East River yesterday to save her dog from drowning.

"What would you have done?" said Mary Rowland, 47, after she was treated for hypothermia.

"Would you want to go home and tell your little kids that their dog drowned?"

Rowland, her husband Bob Casey and their pooch Smudge were jogging on the path beside the river, near the Williamsburg Bridge, when the 6-month-old English springer got too curious and squirmed through the fence.

The puppy plunged 10 feet to the water. Mary jumped in after him, and the two were in the river for 20 minutes.

Her frantic husband stayed on shore, trying to get passers-by to help.

A construction worker, his feet anchored in the fence, hung upside down from the shoreline wall, but was unable to reach the pair. Another worker threw out a hose.

"By the time they put the hose out, I couldn't grab it," Mary said. "My knuckles were frozen."

Finally the captain of a passing boat fished the woman and her dog out of the water.

She was released after treatment at Cabrini Hospital.

Smudge recovered quickly and was able to go home with his family.

DOG Gone LUCKY: Mary Rowland and her pet pooch Smudge were rescued from the East River yesterday by a passing boat.