



Large Animal Rescue Training Reference Sheet

Introduction

In today's society, first responders may be called to incidents involving large animals. Proper training of best practices and appropriate use of specialized rescue equipment can improve the chances of a successful rescue and minimize risk of injury to both animals and first responders. This reference sheet has been developed as a part of the workshop offered by Equine Guelph. The techniques reflected in the reference sheet should not be attempted without appropriate training. The improper use of the referenced technique(s) can potentially cause serious injury to both first responders and animals.

Cast Horse Roll

<https://youtu.be/C5q34rwuukY>

- Animals can become trapped on their side or back when they are unable to get their feet under themselves in order to stand up (i.e. the animal is on its side with its limbs against an object or wall).
- The Cast Horse Roll is a manipulation technique that will allow you to roll a large animal safely away from an obstacle when it is unable to right itself.



Equipment

- Halter (use an emergency rope halter if a halter is not available)
- Webbing (15m x 12-15 cm with sewn loop ends. Centre of the webbing is clearly marked).
- Reach tool

Operation

- Review "Action at Scene"
- An animal handler is appointed and places a halter on the animal and establishes head control

Operation (continued):

- Responders approach the animal from its back (safe zone)
- Create a loop with the webbing (image 1)
- Using reach tools place the loop around the pastern of the lower (or down) limb (image 2)
- The webbing is carefully tightened and is pulled at 45-degree angle towards the animal's head
- The animal handler calls the command "haul"
- The responders pull on the webbing rolling the animal onto its opposite side away from the obstacle
- Drop the webbing
- Animal handler maintains control of the head but allows the animal to use its head and neck to right itself

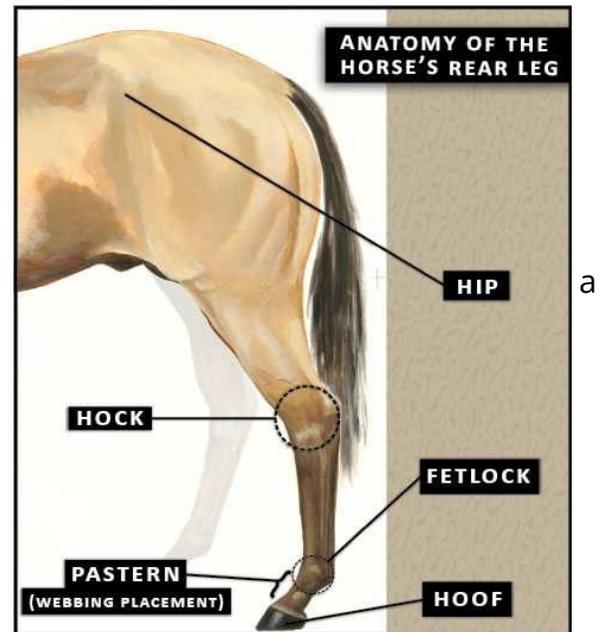


Image 1



Image 2

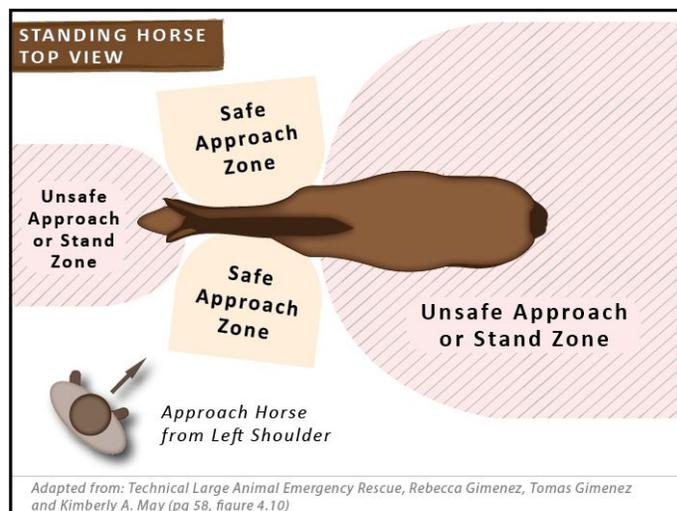
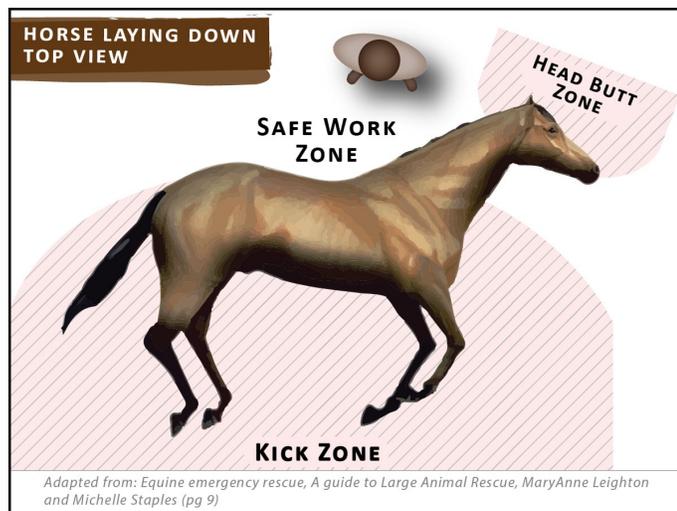
Safety

- Establish and maintain head control at all times
- Ensure the webbing is of sufficient length to create a safe distance for responders once the animal has been rolled (i.e. responders need to be clear of the kick zone)
- Caution is advised as the animal will often struggle and flail its legs as it rolls and rights itself

Reminders:

Action at Scene

- Establish scene safety
- Establish incident command and operate under the Incident Management System (IMS) framework
- Establish an Incident Action Plan
- Acquire rescue equipment and human resources (i.e. may need a veterinarian on scene or an individual with specific livestock expertise)
- Establish containment facilities



Animal Safety

- Heads, tails and limbs are not handles – DO NOT use them for pulling (serious injury and potentially life threatening injury can result)
- Always protect the animal's eyes
- Establish and maintain head control at all times.
- Allow a rescued animal the time it needs to stand if it has been rescued from a downed position. DO NOT force it to stand and move.
- Some animals may need sedation prior to performing the rescue to reduce the risk of injury to the animal and responders

Resources

- Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Inc. (Training) (tlaer.org)
- British Animal Rescue and Trauma Care Association (bartacic.org)
- College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida ([Large Animal Rescue Training](http://LargeAnimalRescueTraining))

Local Resources:

Veterinarian: Equine: _____

Livestock: _____

Poultry: _____

Mutual Aid Department(s): _____

Livestock Hauler(s): _____

Heavy Tow Operator(s): _____

Heavy Machinery Operator(s): _____

Fencing Supply Company: _____

Livestock Specialist(s)(i.e., local producer): _____

Equine Guelph thanks the large animal rescue training professionals for providing and reviewing content.