

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.

Sideways Drag (Simple and Hampshire Slip)



Photo Credit: Diane Gibbard

- This technique allows rescuers to safely pull a large animal over the ground and over an edge i.e. out of a trench
- It can be used on an animal that is standing or is in sternal or lateral recumbency.
- There are two configuration methods: simple and the Hampshire slip

Equipment

- Halter (use an emergency rope halter if a halter is not available)
- 2 – 3 webbing straps (15m x 12-15 cm webbing with sewn loop ends. Centre of the webbing is clearly marked.)
- Strop Guide or Lunge Whip (may not be required if the webbing can be “flossed” under the animal).
- Reach tool(s)

Operation

- Review “Action at Scene”
- An animal handler is appointed and places a halter on the animal and establishes head control
- Responders approach the animal keeping in mind the safety zones
- **Simple configuration** (on a recumbent and standing animal):
 - ◊ *On a recumbent animal* use the:
 - ◆ flossing method to slide one piece of webbing under the animal towards its belly to rest behind the front legs. The second piece is flossed to a point ahead of the hind legs. OR
 - ◆ use a strop guide/lunge whip to slide under the animal from the back side to a rescuer on the limb side (out of the kick zone). The webbing is then attached and pulled back under the animal. One piece is placed behind the front legs, the second piece is placed ahead of the hind legs.
 - ◊ Ensure the webbing is centered on the midline of the animal’s belly. Each piece of webbing is now passed back over the animal such that the ends meet behind the animal.
 - ◊ *On a standing animal* i.e. entrapment in a trench, it is more likely that a strop guide will be required to guide the webbing around the animal and place it as described above
- **Hampshire Slip**
 - ◊ Two pieces of webbing are passed underneath the animal from the back side towards its belly using the flossing method or a strop guide. The webbing should lie just behind the front legs and ahead of the rear legs. The webbing should be centered on the midline of the animal’s belly.
 - ◊ Using reach tools lift the animal’s top leg allowing the webbing to be passed between the legs as follows:
 - ◆ Front end: the webbing is pulled between the front legs and passed under the neck and brought to the back to meet the other end behind the animal
 - ◆ Back end: the webbing is pulled between the rear legs and passed under the tail and brought to the back to meet the other end behind the animal
 - ◊ This method allows rescuers to safely move the animal as the placement of the webbing prevents the animal from rolling as it is pulled. The animal is also partially lifted as the webbing is pulled.

(Hampshire Slip continued):

- The webbing is pulled taut in preparation for hauling.
- The animal handler calls the command "haul"
- When the animal is free of its entrapment drop the webbing
- The animal handler maintains control of the head but allows the animal to use its head and neck to right itself

Safety:

- When using the flossing technique be careful to avoid abrasion or friction burn injuries to the animal
- Ensure eye protection for the animal
- Use edge protection if pulling the animal out of a trench
- If the animal is being pulled for any distance it should be pulled onto a tarp or glide to prevent abrasions and cuts.
- If a glide is being used, guide ropes should be attached with additional rescuers prepared to "haul" at the same time rescuers are pulling/hauling the animal.

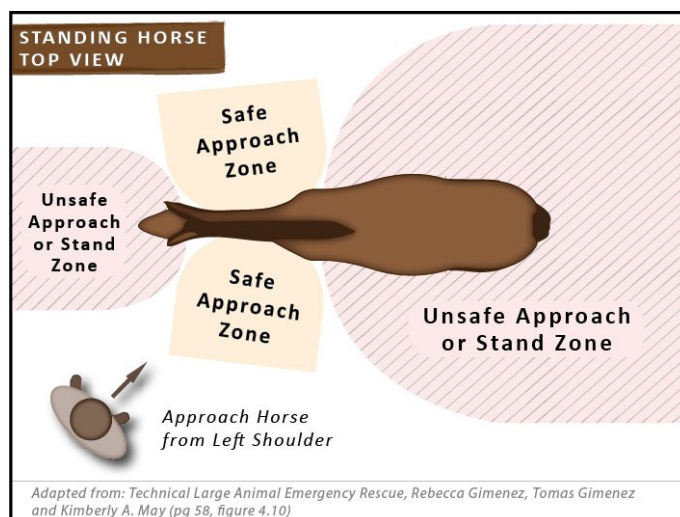
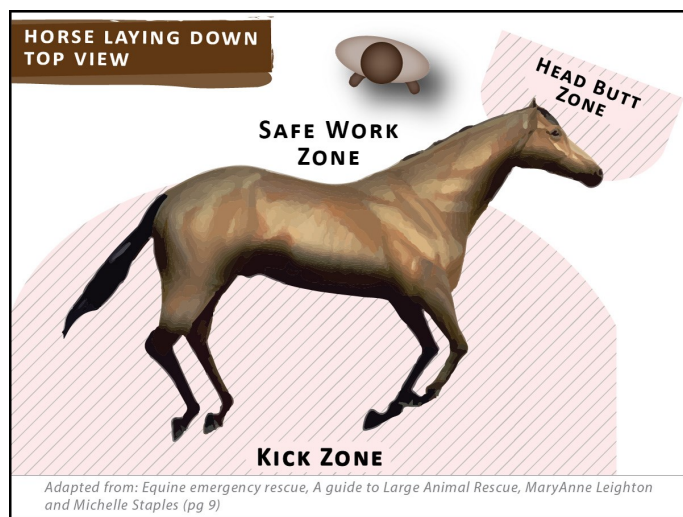


Photo Credit: Toni MacPherson

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.*