



Introduction

In today's society, responding to incidents involving animals is both an expectation and an acknowledgment that such incidents will likely involve people putting themselves and others at risk of injury. Through proper training of best practices and the use of specialized rescue equipment the odds of a favourable outcome for both animals and responders is improved. This reference sheet has been developed as a quick reference tool for the various manipulation techniques used in Large Animal Rescue. The techniques reflected in the reference sheet should not be attempted without appropriate training.

Mud Rescue

- Mud can have great suction forces that can be overcome with the injection of air or water into the space around the trapped animal's legs and belly.
- Injection of air or water at the same time as a vertical lift or sideways drag is being employed will safely and effectively free the trapped animal.



Photo Credit: Rebecca Gimenez-Husted

Equipment

- Halter (use an emergency rope halter if a halter is not available)
- Eye protection for the animal
- 2 – 3 webbing straps (15m x 12-15 cm webbing with sewn loop ends. Centre of the webbing is clearly marked.)
- Becker Sling (if available)
- Becker Beam (or comparable equipment to spread out the animal's weight and prevent the webbing/straps from coming together in a vertical lift)
- Plywood (for creating a safe working area)
- Water and/or Air lances (set of 4 each)
- Water and/or air manifolds
- Air compressor
- Nikopolous Needle
- Safety harnesses and lines for rescuers
- Reach tools
- Strop Guide
- Carabiner(s)
- Reach tool(s)

Operation

- Review "Action at Scene"
- An animal handler is appointed and places a halter on the animal and establishes head control
- Establish scene safety for rescuers (safety harnesses and lines, shoring around the trapped animal)
- Depending on the consistency of the mud, you may need to liquefy the mud by injecting water through the water lances around the legs and abdomen. This will help with the placement of webbing.
- The Nikopolous Needle is used to guide webbing around the animal in the appropriate configuration for extrication.
 - ◊ Air or water is injected into the Nikopolous Needle to break the suction forces of the mud as the needle is pushed down and around the animal's abdomen
 - ◊ The webbing is attached to the free end of the Nikopolous Needle. The Nikopolous Needle is then pulled back around the animal following its original path.
 - ◊ This is repeated for the second piece of webbing.
- If the animal is trapped near the surface of the mud, a strop guide may be sufficient for guiding the webbing around the animal
- The Vertical Lift, Forward Assist and Sideways Drag are potential rescue configurations depending on the type of extrication method to be employed.
- An air lance or water lance is worked into the mud by each leg of the animal. This requires one rescuer at each leg.
- Water or air is injected into the lances as the lift is initiated. The lances are manipulated in the area around the leg to break the suction forces. Care must be taken not to injure the animal's legs.

Safety

- Ensure eye protection for the animal
- Use edge protection/shoring to create a secure working area for rescuers.
- 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.
- The Vertical Lift requires personnel trained in the technical aspects of performing these types of lifts. It is beyond the scope of this reference sheet.

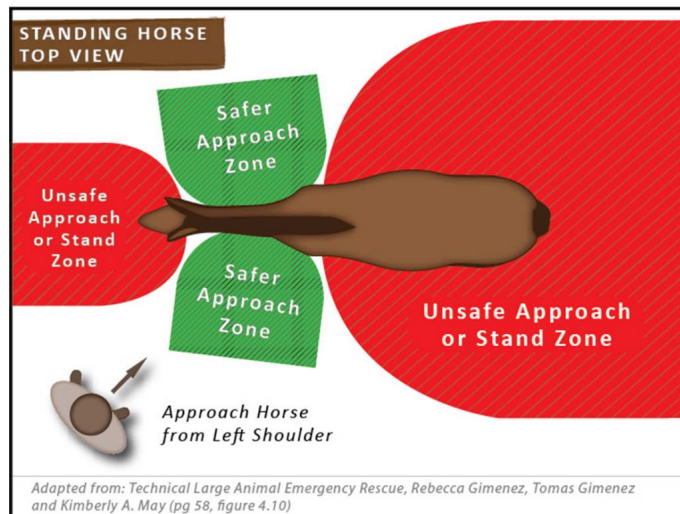


Photo Credits - Toni MacPherson

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.*