



LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE RECOMMENDED PRINCIPLES

- Utilize the ICS system. Make sure the Safety Officer (may require two Safety Officers...one for the operation and one for the animal) is experienced with all aspects of the rescue operation if possible, both the type of animal involved (its anatomy, behavior, tendencies, etc.) and the technical rescue operation (equipment, techniques, placement of essential personnel, etc.).
- Use Efficient, Simple, Lowest Risk Approach for Rescue Operation
- Use a SILENT APPROACH to the scene
- Start Loud Tools/Equipment away from the animal(s) and then move closer while the noise continues – Monitor the animal's reaction and stop or slow the advance if needed
- Develop and apply a Restraint and Containment Plan for during and after the rescue
- Take the time to perform a Risk Assessment prior to starting the Rescue Operation
- Take the time to formulate an Action Plan prior to performing the Rescue Operation
- Have Plan B - ? should Plan A fail or not complete the Rescue Operation
- Utilize Available Resources (veterinarians, transporters, specialty teams, animal handlers, containment systems, etc.) – Contact resources immediately and do not delay...they can always be canceled but time is critical and can be easily wasted by the efforts of untrained or ill-equipped responders
- Be ready for the situation to change and be ready to alter the equipment and techniques used to match that current situation
- Have an IMMEDIATE EXIT strategy for ALL responders involved
- Assign a person who is extremely familiar and experienced with handling the type of animal involved as the “Animal Handler”.
- Be aware of and avoid the Danger Zones!
- EVERYONE thinks Safety First! Promote situational awareness
- Do NOT use the Head/Neck or Lower Legs as pull points or handles UNLESS that is the ONLY available option then you MUST protect those areas as much as possible during the maneuver
- Wear appropriate Protective Attire – Helmets/Head Gear is a MUST for all rescuers, including the Veterinarian and any non-emergency services persons!
- Do NOT have an animal(s) in a water or mud environment sedated or anesthetized unless absolutely necessary and the head (nose) can be safely held/secured above the level of the water or mud...Sedation could cause the animal to drown (Animals will lower their head when sedated/anesthetized)
- Be knowledgeable about the victim's behavior under stress
- Be knowledgeable about human (owner/bystander) behavior under stress
- Have a structured scene/rescue operation management plan in place
- Utilize appropriate Communication Tools (radios, phones, etc.)
- Have a Scene Security SOG (Standard Operating Guideline) and Use It – Large Animal Rescue incidents often make it to media outlets for publication or to social media which can result in positive or negative scrutiny.
- Do not go it alone! Always have a Buddy!
- Take it SERIOUSLY – An Animal Rescue is or could quickly become a Human Rescue!
- Create SOG (Standard Operating Guideline) for various LAR incidents (before they happen) – Be Prepared!
- DO NOT Allow the Owner to Participate in the Rescue Operation (unless cooperative and calm) – Use them as a Resource (get a trailer for transport, blankets for warming, hay/water, buddy animal, etc.)

LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT LIST

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

- Personal Protective Equipment (Helmets, Gloves, Eye Protection, Life Vests, Safety Harnesses, etc.)
- Identifying Vests for easy identification on an incident scene when working with unfamiliar mutual aid or outside resources (Similar to traffic vest with labels for IC, OPS, Safety Officer, Animal Handler, Vet, Logistics, etc.)

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- Equine and Human First Aid Bag (basic supplies for hemorrhage control, wound irrigation, bandaging, vital sign assessment, splinting, emergency warming blankets, etc.)
- Battery Operated Handheld Radio Communication System (recommended greater than 1-mile serviceable distance)

BASIC AND RESOURCED EQUIPMENT

- Tarps (large enough to cover deceased large animals and to use for staging equipment, etc.)
- Hand Tools (shovels, saws, hammers, fence tool, wire cutters, axes, hatchets, loppers, pry bar, etc.)
- Battery Operated Tools (reciprocating saw with various blade types, drill, grinder with various discs, impact wrench, etc.)
- Portable Lights / Flashlights / Head-lamps
- Generator (for remote locations where vehicle access is limited)
- Cribbing, Wheel Chocks, or other stabilization tools
- Backboards / Plywood (to cover holes, overturned trailer windows, etc. during extrication or rescue or use as shoring boards to distribute weight in unstable ground situations or for use as "pig-boards" to herd smaller livestock animals)
- Rubber Mats (rolled rubber matting, square or rectangle stall mats, etc. to provide traction on slick surfaces)
- Emergency Rope Halters, Livestock Halters (various species and sizes) and Lead Ropes (at least 10 feet long)
- Crops, Buggy Whips, Equine Training Devices, Cattle Paddles, etc. (to help stimulate movement of large animals when necessary or defend personal space)
- Webbing Application and Rescue Technique Flip-Chart/Manual (for quick reference to show those not familiar with specific applications or techniques what is expected and how things are supposed to appear and be performed)
- Local Resource List (livestock handlers, horse transporters, livestock transporters, beekeepers, exotic / wildlife animal handlers, veterinarians (various species), heavy equipment companies and operators, temporary stabling/housing or containment locations, carcass removal, large wreckers, abattoirs (slaughter facilities), all-terrain vehicles and operators, certified chemical immobilization (darting) professionals, septic tank companies, etc.)

MOST COMMONLY USED SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

- Webbing Straps – At least two 3-4-inch-wide by 30 feet long with loops on both ends.
- Head Protector / Head Carry Device (Commercially manufactured or a child's and adult's life jacket)
- Large Animal Glide Kit (glide, body attachment straps, hobbles with rope and pulley, head strap, etc.) and at least one Slip Sheet (L.A.R.G.E, LARRCo, MSPCA, or other commercially manufactured, etc.)
- Arm Extensions (Pike pole, boat hook, cane, or commercially manufactured equipment)
- Simple Vertical Lift System complete with Sling, Spreadbar, Rope, Carabiners, and Rigging Hardware for System (Becker Sling and Spreadbar System, or other commercially manufactured system, etc. – NOT A LONG-TERM HOSPITALIZATION SLING SUCH AS THE ANDERSON OR LIFTEX SLINGS)
- Rescue or Arborist Rope, no less than 300-foot (rated for load and rescue operation)
- Temporary Containment Fencing (corral panels, Homemade LAR containment and relocation fencing, etc.)

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Additional Carabiners (rated for load – steel and aluminum – locking gate)
- Additional Pulleys and other Rigging Hardware to set up basic change of direction and mechanical advantage systems for relocation of large animals using manpower
- Strap Guide Webbing Application Tool (Aluminum, cold-rolled steel, or commercially manufactured)
- Nicopolus Needle Webbing Application Tool (Conduit or commercially manufactured)
- Mud Lances with operating attachments (PVC pipe, aluminum, conduit, or commercially manufactured)
- SCBA / Portable Air Tanks / Air Compressor (for mud lances, air bags, etc.)

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT OPTIONS FOR HIGHLY TECHNICAL OR UN-COMMON SPECIALIZED RESCUES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST