

## BASIC PRINCIPLES OF LARGE ANIMAL TECHNICAL RESCUE

- 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 animals 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
  - Use the Incident Command System!
  - Be aware of and avoid the Danger Zones!
  - Always have a Safety Officer or two if warranted (preferably knowledgeable about the species of large animal being rescued and about technical rescue operations)
  - 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.)f