

REGISTER NOW FOR A COURSE THAT COULD SAVE YOUR HORSES LIFE...
Be Prepared to Handle the Worst-Case Scenario in the Best Possible Way!"

Prior*Proper*Preparation*Prevention

Reality Based Emergency Preparedness Training for Horses and Horse Owners

What is the principle and purpose behind this sought after clinic that everyone is raving about?

Think about the following and ask yourself "what would happen if..."

- *You were driving down the highway on the way to a horse show and the horse trailer overturns trapping your horses inside*
- *If you were riding on a trail and attempt to cross a shallow creek when your horse becomes stuck in the muddy bank*
- *You wake one morning to a knock on your door alerting you that your horse barn is on fire and your horses are still inside*
- *You get a call from boarding facility owner stating that your horse is down in the stall and they cannot get him to stand or remove him from the stall*
- *You go to the barn to feed one night and notice your horse is not waiting at the gate as normal, only to discover him at the bottom of a ravine entangled in field fencing but still alive*

Keeping those scenarios in mind, would you know what to do, who to call, how to react, or when to request additional assistance and resources. Would you depend on 911 and the emergency responders to know how to rescue your horses, not knowing if they have received the specialized training needed to handle equine emergency rescues. Emergency responders risk their lives to save victims every day, however the majority of the time those victims are human and therefore that is the focus of their training and expertise. They are experts in their field and are proficient at their duties, however when it comes to incidents involving equines, knowledge of equine anatomy, psychology, behavior under stress, and handling is not foremost on their minds.

Think of how your equine partner would handle being trapped in a situation with no self-escape, only to be approached by vehicles with loud sirens and flashing lights then approached by multiple responders, or "predators", wearing emergency gear, smelling of smoke, and making scary noises. Then those same people gather around your equine partner, who already is stressed and acting on instinct alone, and touch, push, and pull on sensitive parts of its body apply long lengths of rope and straps, start and use noisy equipment, deploy poles, ladders, hoses and heavy equipment in order to perform the rescue operation. This is where you can take your horsemanship to a whole other level and through love, language and leadership you can help your equine partner be more confident and calm, instead of reactive and fearful if ever he/she should be involved in a life threatening emergency. Remember, you may not be by your equine's side during the stressful event or rescue operation...so his/her ability to remain calm and confident could potentially alter the outcome of the rescue operation. Most equine owners are shocked to discover that their equine, who may act like a partner with them, rears or kicks when panicked or trapped, flees when approached by strangers, or is one of the victims left behind in a barn fire evacuation by a fire fighter because it could not be haltered, or is left behind to endure the wrath of a Category 4 hurricane because it would not load onto an unfamiliar trailer under the direction of an emergency responder, or unfortunately meets a tragic end because the additional stress and the lack of understanding of anatomy and psychology between the rescuers (predators) and your equine (prey animal) during the rescue operation results in further injury.

Have you ever thought about what you would do or how you would react if you were in an emergency incident with your horse requiring him/her, or you both, to be rescued in order to survive? As horse owners, we tend to remain steadfast in our comfort zone, thinking that we are as prepared as we can be for any emergency. One should be applauded for being prepared for an emergency, but it is difficult to be prepared for something that you never thought about happening... simply because we tend to believe it won't or can't happen to us....or even have that "if it isn't broke, don't fix it" mentality as day to day operations have been occurring for years without incident. Don't think you will never be exposed to these type of situations...because it can happen to you when you least expect it!

Think about the following...

- *Imagine that you are riding with friends on a trail, crossing a creek bed, when suddenly your horse goes down and becomes stuck in a muddy area. Would you know how to free him/her from the mud and move him/her to solid ground without causing further injury?*

- *Do you know how to better prepare your horse trailer, horses, and yourself for safe travel? If you are involved in a motor vehicle accident and your horse trailer overturns, trapping your horses inside... What would you do? What would happen to your horses if you were transported to the hospital?*
- *During a mandatory evacuation where you and your family had to leave with no time given to load your horses for transport... Have you ever considered if your horse would be able to be safely and willingly evacuated during a natural disaster by emergency personnel, wearing strange clothing, smelling of smoke and other odors, sounding frightening while breathing through a mask attached to an air tank, or would he/she be left behind to perish or try to survive alone.*
- *If there was a fire affecting the barn your horse was in and you could not evacuate him/her, would he/she willingly turn and face a firefighter attempting to save its life or would he/she act on instinct alone and panic inside the stall not permitting a successful rescue but ultimately resulting in a tragic outcome.*

Now....think about how the benefits of “Prior, Proper, Preparation” through educational presentations and live demonstrations could physically, mentally and emotionally improve this unfortunate experience for all involved, especially you and your equine partner. Consider the importance of “Prevention” in lowering the risk of an emergency incident ever occurring as the result of human neglect or error. This is where the “Prior*Proper*Preparation*Prevention - A Reality Based Emergency Preparedness Training Clinic for Horses and Horse Owners” becomes a vital addition to your learning journey and life with your equine partner. This life saving and extremely interactive horsemanship clinic is a joint venture between Kelly Sigler, natural horsemanship professional and Justin and Tori McLeod with the North Carolina Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team (NC SMART). The clinic instructors are highly sought out professionals in both the emergency services and equine industries. In combining their education, certifications, achievements and experience, the need was recognized to join forces and offer this specialty training to not only emergency responders but equine owners and professionals too! For more information about the course instructors please read their individual bios below.

This eye-opening and thought provoking training clinic is presented in an audio/visual presentation format with hands-on demonstration and practical exercises complete with an emergency evacuation drill and a simulated barn fire evacuation. Attendants will be provided with knowledge of equine anatomy, psychology, and behavior under stress as well as some basic rescue techniques and equipment, an understanding of emergency rescue operations and communication, and a wealth of training concepts and exercises to better prepare their equine now for the unexpected emergency rescue responses and operations of the future. Some of the topics covered will be trailer accidents, barn and wild fires, incidents on the trail, being stuck in the mud or down a ravine, natural disasters, physical entrapments, cast or down unable to stand, trailer safety and transportation, equine behavior and handling, trailer loading, emergency evacuations, medical considerations and treatment, etc. This clinic is open to all equine enthusiasts and professionals, especially students of the any Natural Horsemanship program.

Responder, handler, and equine safety, as well as incident prevention, are echoed throughout the course and is accentuated throughout the lecture presentations and hands-on practical exercises. Equines are different than humans – they do not follow rules of physics or have the ability to understand complex human verbal communication – but instead fight or flight under fear and stress. Their innate characteristics cause them to become stressed and respond to their surroundings the only way that evolution and the process of natural selection has taught them to do so, fight or flight for “their” survival, not yours. Those behaviors, fight or flight, can be extremely dangerous, and sometimes fatal, to those who respond to help with the rescue effort. This is where the proper training and education proves to be vital to those who my one day be involved in, encounter or respond to a large animal incident.

Attendees will learn how Natural Horsemanship at all levels, beginner to advanced, along with some technical rescue modalities is a vital component to one’s horsemanship journey and can prepare you and your equine partner for high stress emergencies while preventing life-threatening situations from becoming worse or occurring at all. This clinic demonstrates how an understanding and communicative relationship with your equine along with Basic Equine Emergency Rescue and Trailer Safety training could someday save your equine partners life...and possibly your own!

Those who register for the clinic can participate as “Participants with Horses” or “Horseless Participants (Auditors)”. Participants with Horses can interact with their horse and work on their horsemanship skills while learning how to prepare their horse for the feel of straps, ropes, and webbing and pressure being applied to those sensitive areas of the body. They will have the opportunity to observe their horse’s behavior when approached by a firefighter in a simulated barn fire evacuation (complete with fake smoke and full firefighter

gear) and to attempt a timed evacuation themselves. There will be multiple horse trailers on site that will be utilized for the emergency evacuation evolution where you will discover whether your horse will willingly load in an unfamiliar trailer with different noises and smells or load under the direction of an unfamiliar person or a firefighter in full gear. Horseless Participants can audit the demonstrations and training exercises, in addition to the lecture presentation. All attendants are encouraged to take notes and photographs (no video permitted) throughout the course. Registrants paying the full registration fee will be provided a basic resource manual, complete with detailed information and pictures from the audio/visual presentation, to keep for future reference. This is just the proverbial "tip of the iceberg"....there is so much more!

If an emergency occurs, "Call 9-1-1 and your Veterinarian" but don't miss an opportunity to receive Natural Horsemanship and Basic Equine Emergency Rescue and Trailer Safety training to prevent and prepare for those potentially life-threatening emergency situations.

Expect the Unexpected...Be able to Respond instead of React!

CLINIC INSTRUCTOR BIOS

Kelly Sigler, Horsemanship for Your Journey – www.kellysigler.com

Kelly, a highly accomplished equestrian, is a 3 Star Parelli Natural Horsemanship Professional, Director and Instructor for the International Society of Rider Biomechanics, and founder of Natural Horsemanship Espanol. Kelly showed a keen interest in horses as soon as she could walk. At 8 years, she started taking riding lessons, and immediately began finding anything and everything to jump. Barrels, logs, picnic tables, and anything else that she could prop up. Determined to have her own horse, she raised and saved \$1,000 by the time that she was 12 years old and purchased her first horse, a Quarter Horse. This horse not only carried Kelly all over town but became her show horse in 4H events. The 4H organization held a jumping clinic which sparked Kelly's interest and she never looked back. She found a jumping/hunt seat trainer, and began taking lessons. She then began showing in all of the local shows that she could and having quite a bit of success. She won numerous local championships in hunter over fences as well as jumpers. In high school, Kelly began to develop an interest in eventing and with limited opportunities locally she had to wait until after college to expand her interest and pursue her passion.

Kelly then moved to South Carolina, which is one of the biggest areas for eventing. There, she acquired a Thoroughbred gelding who she competed heavily in dressage as well as through Training level in eventing. Excelling in dressage, he was the Combined Training and Dressage Regional horse of the year in Training Level. Kelly reached a plateau with him in jumping as he did not have the heart to go to Preliminary. She then sought out a horse that could take her there. Another Thoroughbred, off the track, "Fortis Atticus" (AKA George) entered her life. Practically donated to her because of his unpredictable and sometimes uncontrollable behavior, she saw his potential, and when she jumped him, she knew that he had the heart and the ability to go where she wanted to go. With the encouragement from David O'Connor and Jim Graham, she competed through the Intermediate Levels with amazing success. He succeeded on the regional, national and international level. In 2002, George helped bring his team to 2nd place in the USEA Chronicle of the Horse Area IV Adult Team Championships which qualified him and Kelly to compete in the National Adult Team Championships. In 2003, he was named the Central Texas Preliminary horse of the year, and Kelly was named the Preliminary rider of the year.

As Kelly was experiencing highs in the show arena, she was also experiencing lows. As she started to move up the levels, she began to lose her confidence. At the time, she had no idea how the lack of leadership would affect her horse and horsemanship. George began to be more difficult to handle, and he stopped loading into the trailer. At this point, she knew that she had to do something. After days of attempting to load this top competition horse who had been all over the country and internationally to show, Kelly became very discouraged. Following the advice of friend, she sought the assistance of a horsewoman who was studying the Parelli Natural Horsemanship program. Overwhelmingly interested in pursuing the Parelli Levels program, Kelly ended up moving her horse to a "Parelli friendly" barn. Shortly after the move, Kelly and her horse began their journey in Parelli Natural Horsemanship.

She was dedicated to the program and completed a ten week school module and attained her Level 2. That following summer, she received her Level 3 during her first University Module. She stayed on, attending two more University Modules in which she continued to develop her savvy, and received stars in Young Horses, Foundation Training, Horsemanship, Dressage, Jumping, and Reining. In the Fall of 2005, she attended the new 6 Week Course Module as well as took part of the Faculty training. At that time, she also received her 2 Star Parelli Instructor rating, followed by her third star in 2009 and her Level 4 in January of 2010. Kelly now lives outside of Aiken, South Carolina at her farm, Looking Glass Farm, with her husband, Jim, her son, Reed and her four legs / four hooved family.

Justin & Tori McLeod, NC Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team—www.4HoovesSMART.com

Founded in 2009, North Carolina Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team (NC SMART) is a private specialty rescue team owned and operated by Justin and Tori McLeod. Based out of Spring Lake, North Carolina, NC SMART responds with a trailer unit consisting of basic and specialized rescue equipment and no less than two crew members to assist with the technical rescue or recovery of large animals (specifically equine and livestock) within a 100 mile radius. We also instruct Basic Technical (Equine) Large Animal Rescue and Equine Transportation and Trailer Safety Training Courses through a local community college or a third party contract for independent departments, organizations and individuals.

Tori has owned and managed horses and livestock for over 30 years. She is currently employed as a Supervisor in a 911 Emergency Communications Center and a Basic Large Animal Technical Rescue and Equine Transportation and Trailer Safety training course instructor. In addition to her career, she is an Assistant Instructor for Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue, Inc. (TLAER™ – www.tlaer.org), owner / operator of 4Hooves Farm Equine Services, a NC REINS educator (North Carolina Regional Equine Information Network System), a Board of Directors member and Recruiting / Training Officer for the Moore County Equine Emergency Response Unit (www.mceeru.com), and studying Level 2/3 in Parelli Natural Horsemanship. Tori has been training in and instructing the specialty of Large Animal Technical Rescue since 2001 with world renown subject matter experts, Dr. Tomas Gimenez and Dr. Rebecca Gimenez of TLAER™, Inc. and continues to work closely with them. She previously spent several years as a small and large animal veterinary technician, equine facility manager, and Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic and volunteer Emergency Rescue Technician. Tori has since continued her continuing education in fire and rescue related topics and strives to improve upon the current large animal rescue protocols and techniques based on information and training she has received and the continuing advancements in equipment and modalities.

Justin met Tori in 2006, and that is where his career in large animal technical rescue began. He has received numerous certifications relating to the fire and rescue services. He currently works full time as a Firefighter Engineer / Emergency Medical Technician with an established county fire department and volunteers and works part-time with other local fire departments. Justin is also a training course instructor for Basic Large Animal Technical Rescue and Equine Transportation and Trailer Safety and holds the same positions and titles as Tori within the TLAER™, 4Hooves Farm Equine Services, and MCEERU organizations. He is progressing through Level 2/3 in Parelli Natural Horsemanship program with two of his horses. Having grown up around horses and cattle it was only natural that he combine his career with the lifestyle he was accustomed to and concentrate his efforts on the specialty of large animal technical rescue. Along with Tori, Justin has been training in and instructing this specialized rescue curriculum since 2006.

If you are interested in attending an upcoming course or coordinating a course in your area or if you would like more information about the “Prior*Proper*Preparation*Prevention – Reality Based Emergency Preparedness Training for Horses and Horse Owners” clinic visit www.kellysigler.com or www.4HoovesSMART.com or contact Tori McLeod at (910) 494-8210.



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