

Large Animal Technical Rescue:

Preparing for Large Animal Rescue and  
Protecting the Rescuer



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Goals

- Spur thought, interest and enthusiasm
- Understand behavior and animals response
- General and critical concepts
- Some manipulation techniques
- Understand the tools necessary to manage and assist with trailer incidents



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Disclaimer

- Not all inclusive, very limited scope
- Some images will be graphic involving injuries to people, horses and cattle
- Special thanks to:
  - National Farm Medical Center



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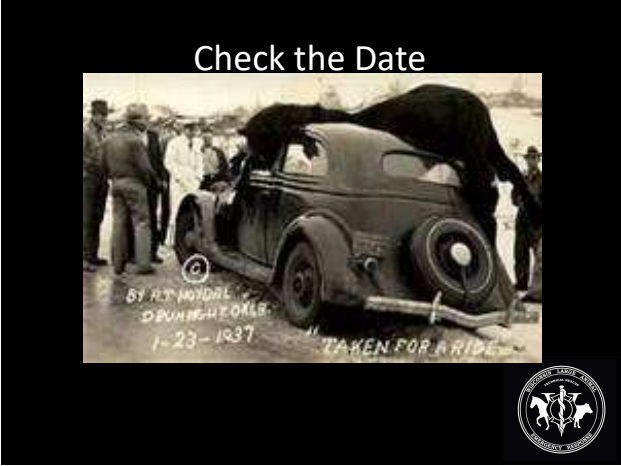
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### Why should we care?

- Increase the safety of our staff and community
- Improve the health and safety of our animals
- Protect yourself and others from unnecessary financial loss
- Increase our communities' emergency capabilities
  - Disasters occur at a local level
    - Fire, Ice, Auto, Natural, Technical



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### Why should we care?

- 1<sup>st</sup> Responders have Incident Response Priorities
  - Life Safety
  - Incident stabilization
  - Preservation of property and the environment
    - Value of the animals



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### Why should we care?

- NFPA 2500-2014 Edition & 2017 Edition
  - Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents
  - Chapter 9
- Covers Animal Technical Rescue
  - Gives guidelines for Awareness level, Operations level, Technician Level



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**Fire/Rescue services are well suited:**

- Comfortable with hazardous situations
- Crossover training/experience
  - ICS
  - Confined space
  - Slow and swift water
  - Rope: High/low angle
  - Decontamination
- Have equipment and personnel



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**Stakeholders in Large Animal Rescue**

- Animal professional/care giver
- Owner
- Veterinarian
- Law Enforcement
- Fire/emergency response
- Press/Media
- Good Samaritan



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**General Concepts**



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## Large Animal Behavior

- Are prey animals
- Are herd-based animals
  - Can be used to our advantage (sometimes)
- Aggression and fear are motivational factors that produce "fight" or "flight"
- Unpredictable due to stress or pain
- A main concern in life is food
  - Can be used to our advantage



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## Understanding the Animal

- Read an animal to anticipate its behavior
- Pay attention to the
  - Ears: position and movement
  - Eyes: expression
  - Head: elevation and movement
  - Stance: leg posture and position
  - Tail: movement and posture



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## Read you Patient



Copyright 1999, Large Animal Rescue Co.  
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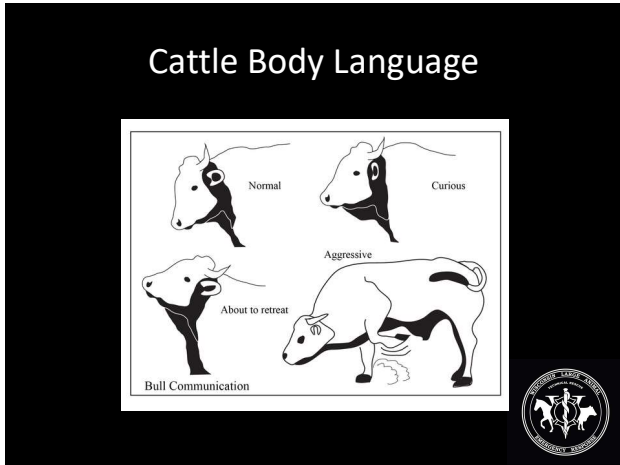
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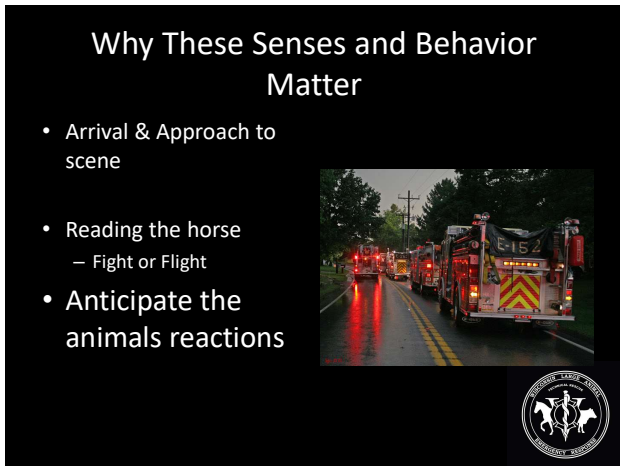
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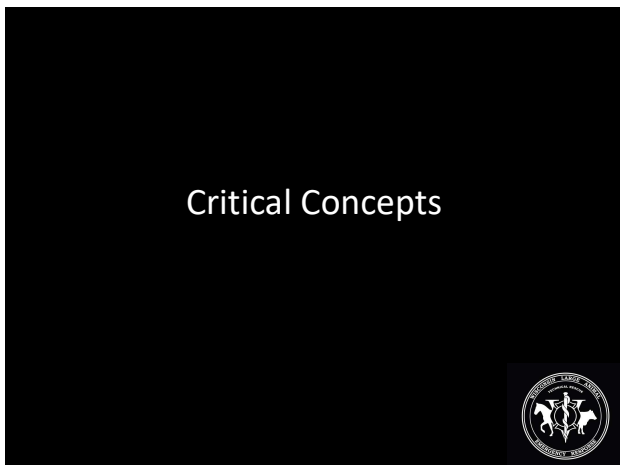
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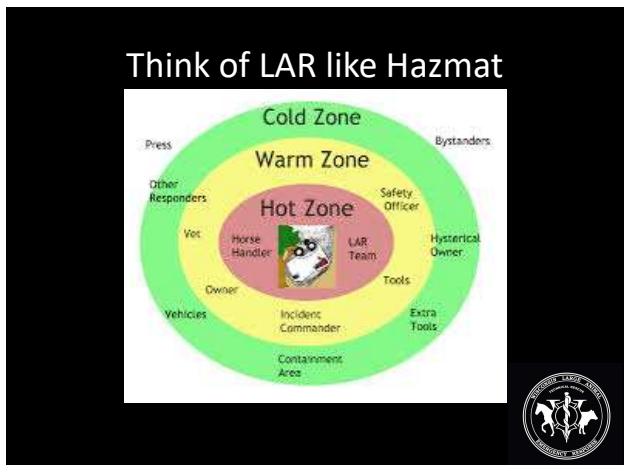
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- ### On-scene
- Quiet approach
  - Low light/noise levels
  - Don't rush in
  - Scene size-up
  - Attend to human injuries first
  - IC establishes operation and safety zones, staging areas
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Our arrival to the scene of the incident is not calming to the animal!

Thomas Gimenez



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### Moving trapped/recumbent animals can be immediately dangerous to your life and well being

- In performing this type of procedure you can:
  - Die
  - Be permanently injured
  - Become trapped and a victim yourself



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### Do's and Don'ts

- Remain calm
- Ask for help
- Think before acting, don't react
  - Size up & situational awareness (360 degrees)
- Utilize ICS
- Don't refuse help or guidance
- "A Rescuer should never become a Victim"



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AP Photo By John Bazemore



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### Things to Remember

- Containment of animal
- Keep situation calm
  - Animal and Human
- Resist the temptation to put yourself into a compromising position
- Wait for help- you could be the expert
- Use Personal Protection Equipment(PPE)



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### Plan for containment



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### Plan for containment



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### Plan for containment



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### Simple Containment



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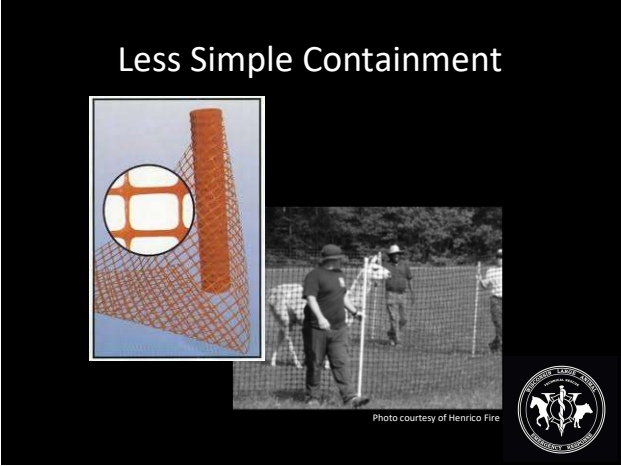
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### Keeping the situation calm

Animal: Feed, Friend, Pharmaceutical, Blindfold



Remove emotional people



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### Our Positioning...

- Stay in safety/neutral zones or out of the line of fire
- You can be pushed by the head, hind end, front end and stepped on
- Stay alert, don't be distracted
- Support personnel must be alert, attentive to animal handler, don't cause a distraction



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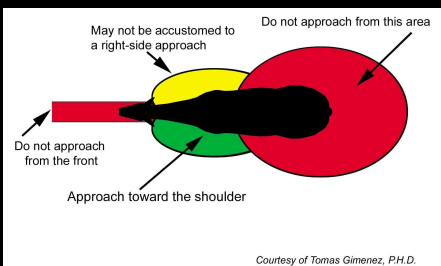
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### Approaching & Working around a standing horse



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### Concepts for working on Cattle

- Cattle want to see you
- Cattle want to move around you
- Cattle want to be with and will go to other cattle
- Cattle want to go back to where they have been
- Cattle can only process one thought at a time

By Curt Pate



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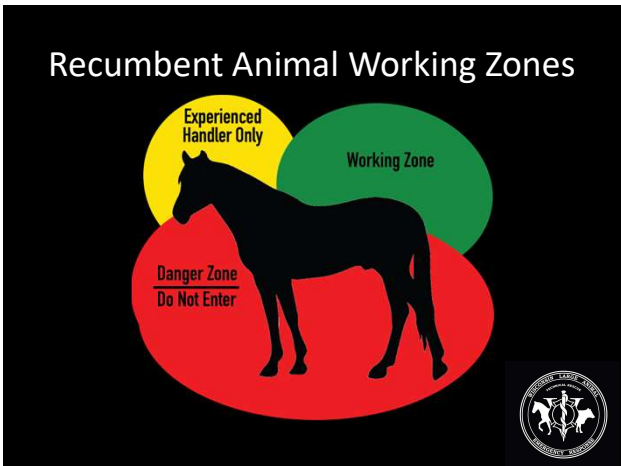
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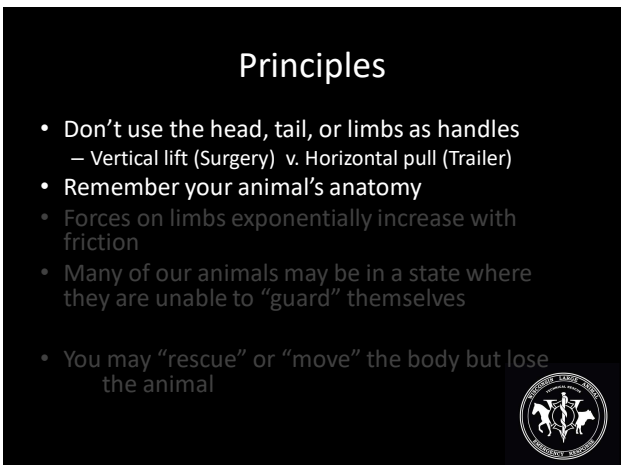
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## Anatomy

- Determines
  - Equipment access
  - Equipment placement
  - Purchase points for leverage and manipulation
  - Period of time that animal can be recumbent



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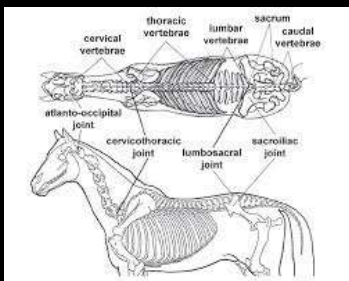
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## Anatomy Dictates Equipment Access



Center of Gravity



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## Strap Placement



Image by Iron Free Horse



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### Principles

- Don't use the head, tail, or limbs as handles
  - Vertical lift (Surgery) v. Horizontal pull (Trailer)
- Remember your animal's anatomy
- Forces on limbs exponentially increase with friction
- Many of our animals may be in a state where they are unable to "guard" themselves
- You may "rescue" or "move" the body but lose the animal



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### Do No Harm



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### Principles

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## Techniques

- Start with the least technical options
  - Always choose the lowest risk, least technical, fastest means of movement
- Equipment – Many choices (cost and availability)
- Many times proper technique, not muscle, will result in a successful, safe procedure



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## Equipment



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## Rescue Strap

- Consists of 3"-4 " synthetic web
- 15-18 feet in length
- Can be purchased from trucking supply
  
- Can be made from 2½", 3", or 4" hose line
- Loops sewn into the strap at each end



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### Hooks/Manipulators

- BigEasy, Welded stock, pike poles, paint pole, cane, etc...



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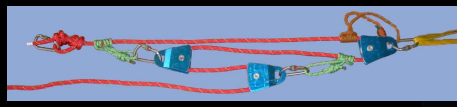

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### Mechanical Systems

Significant training, cost and teamwork needed for successful outcome



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### Other Odds and Ends

- Rescue Glide
- Knife/bandage scissors
- Webbing
- Rope
  - Multiple 20-30 foot lengths
    - Halters, extension to straps



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### Examples of some Assist/Drag Techniques

- Rolling a Lateral Recumbent Horse
- Side Assist/Slide
- Rear Assist
  
- There are others...



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### Why learn assist techniques?

- Safety, Safety, Safety  
– People and animals
- Increase chance of maintaining health/soundness/production



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### Rolling the Lateral Recumbent



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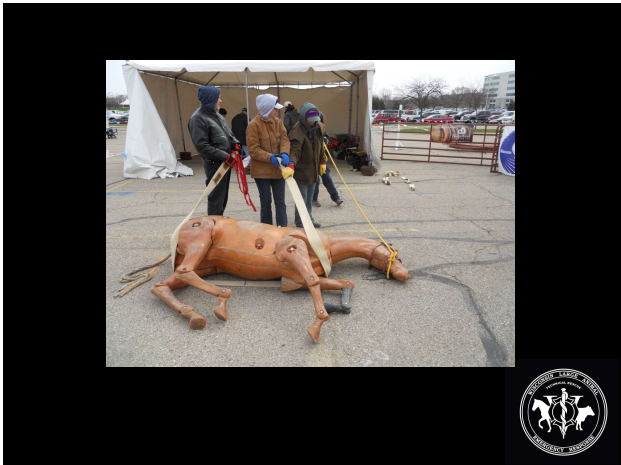
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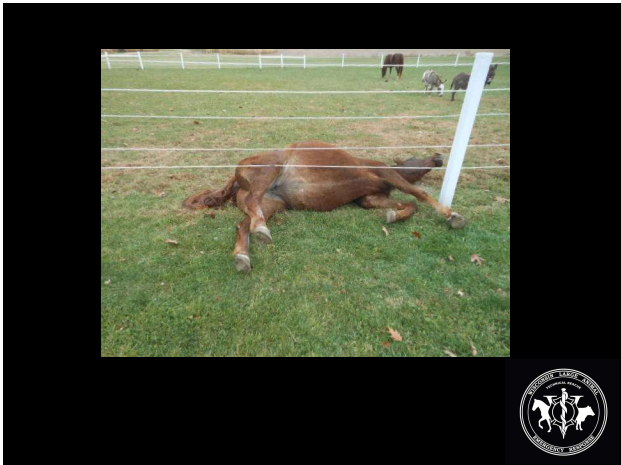
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### Side Note: Animals and Ice

- 06' and 07' review of incidents: 85% of rescues & fatalities requiring emergency personnel involvement resulted from humans helping domestic animals



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Thank You

Questions?

Howard Ketover, DVM  
Contact Office: 608-845-6006 (24 hour)  
Cell: 608-577-4886  
howard@wlaer.org



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