



Animal Emergency Incident Management Network
(Australia & New Zealand)

Education

David King
October 2022



Face to face conference

- 5th & 6th May 2023
- F+RNSW Emergency Services Academy (Sydney)



Face to face conference

- Think about topics and speakers you would like to hear?



- Many observations end up just being *“lessons identified”*
- How can we learn from our actions without fear of persecution or ridicule
- How can others share from our experiences?



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Turning our lessons learned into action

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After Action Review

Complete this form after performing a rescue operation or participating in an animal incident. The AAR is an opportunity to share the learnings from the incident with the other stakeholders in the AEIMN (ANZ).

Date and time of the incident	07:17 21 st October 2021	State	NSW
Person completing the AAR	David King	Location of the incident	Maraylya

Incident

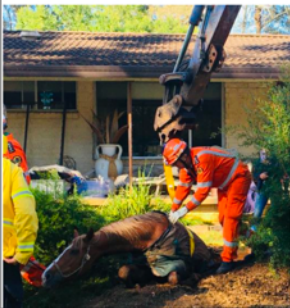
Describe the incident and what you and your team did to undertake the rescue operation or to participate in the animal incident. Please include images if available.

"HORSE FALLEN INTO A SEPTIC TANK - INFT NEEDING HELP TO GET HER OUT"

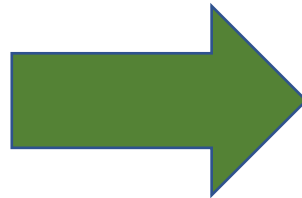
[07:17] NSWSES Hawkesbury Unit was called down to Maraylya this morning to a 20 YO Brood Mare called "China" that had fallen into a septic tank. The mare had broken through the concrete lid of the septic tank and had its back half inside the tank.



The mare thrashed every time there was any stimulation - movement or noise.
The owner wanted to get her Vet in from Randwick (over an hour away) but was convinced to obtain a local Vet as soon as possible.
A member of the RFS (and ex-mounted Police) was our horse handler (she has done a LAR awareness course at the local Vines pony club).



When Vet, Kate from Agnes Banks Equine Clinic, arrived, "China" was sedated using a moderate to heavy sedation as we didn't want the horse going too heavy and falling back into the septic tank - but we didn't want any reaction to us rigging and lifting the horse. The sedation also needed to counteract the 'adrenalised horse' so it was given a bit more than normal.
An excavator was sourced from a nearby property and relocated cross country into a nearby paddock. One of the RFS members is a heavy machine operator.
Once sedated, we initially rigged the horse using a modified 'forward skid' technique - but lifting from behind the 'withers' to allow us to safely lift up as well as out from the concrete tank.





ADVISORY SHEET

This advisory sheet is designed to provide guidance or advice on animal incidents. It must be used in accordance with organisation specific policy, procedures and techniques.

Relocating horses or livestock by boat

AEIMN ADVISORY SHEET

Animal Emergency Incident Management Network
(Australia & New Zealand)

Relocating horses or livestock by boat

Date	26 th September 2022	Version	DRAFT 0.2	Authorised by	AEIMN(ANZ) board (PENDING)
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Horses and livestock can be successfully transported by boat using a combination of sedation or a general anaesthetic administered by a veterinarian, basic large animal rescue techniques and a flat bottom barge or bow-loader type vessel.

Safety

Dynamic risk assessment

Always perform a comprehensive dynamic risk assessment prior to undertaking any movement of horses or livestock by boat, including:

- **Risks to personnel involved in the relocation**
 - Everyone working in close proximity to an animal with a helmet
 - Everyone in close proximity to the water with a life-jacket
 - Everyone involved in the relocation activity is (being) briefed and aware of their specific role
- **Risks to the animals whilst in transit**
 - Is a veterinarian available to sedate or anaesthetise the animal(s)
 - Is the veterinarian comfortable to perform field sedation or field anaesthetics?
 - Is the veterinarian comfortable to accompany the animal(s) whilst in transit?
- **Risks sedating and/or anesthetizing the animal**
 - Does the veterinarian have sufficient quantities of the drugs?
It is recommended the veterinarian have greater quantities of drugs on hand than normally anticipated.
 - Does the veterinarian have a means to safely euthanise the animal in case things go wrong (euthanasia solution drawn up and an IV catheter in)?
- **Risks accessing the animal(s) requiring relocation:**
 - Walking or wading out to the animal?
 - Non-powered boat?
 - Powered boat?

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Techniques / Information

Anaesthetised and transported by vessel (laying)

A horse(s) can be anaesthetised and moved in a laterally recumbent (side laying) position by:

1. Anaesthetising the animal.
2. Restraining and securing the animal to a Rescue Glide (using hobbles and restraint straps).



Thompson, Leighton and Riley (2015)

3. Pulling the Rescue Glide and animal into the vessel.
The Rescue Glide neatly fits the ramp on a Bow-loader vessel allowing the animal to be skidded up and into the vessel. A simple redirection (or 2:1 or 3:1 hauling system) will aid pulling the animal up into the vessel.



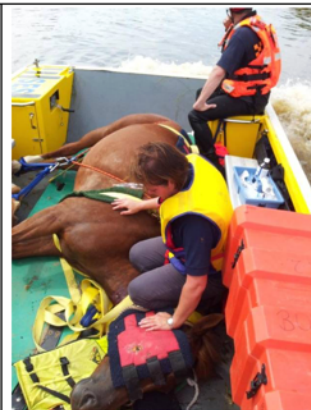
NSW SES Hawkesbury unit transporting a cow by boat (2011)

Relocating horses or livestock by boat

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4. A veterinarian should accompany the animal in case the animal starts to come out of the general anaesthetic. The veterinarian should have additional anaesthetic drugs pre-drawn and ready in case of an emergency.



Thompson, Leighton and Riley (2015)

Sedated and transported by vessel (standing)

Animal(s) can be sedated and moved in a standing position by:

1. Fitting the barge or Bowloader vessel with four (4) portable yard panels in a box configuration. Fencing panels are typically 2.0 – 2.1m wide. Ensure they are securely pinned together and tethered to the vessel. Leave the front panel to swing open (or removed) to facilitate loading.



2. Fitting a Barge or Bowloader vessel with rubber matting on the floor and the ramp to avoid the animal(s) slipping.

3. Sedating the animal(s) at a level that allows the animal(s) to be safely walked onto the boat and be restrained within the yarding.

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4. Carefully load the animal(s) ensuring they remain restrained at all times.



5. A veterinarian should accompany the animal(s) in case in case the animals require additional sedation. The veterinarian should have additional sedation pre-drawn and ready in case it is required.



13 x miniature horses, 2 x regular (paint) horses, 2 x female calves, and 1 x pony were safely relocated at West Coraki during the Northern Rivers Floods by local vets and members of the public (March 2022)

Post flood care of horses

Post flood care of horses

Date	23 rd September 2022	Version	DRAFT 0.1	Authorised by	AEIMN(ANZ) board (PENDING)
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Post flood care of horses poses a number of challenges to horse owners and veterinarians. It is important to care for and monitor all horses that have been in contact with flood water, standing in flood water for any period of time, or may have been swimming through deep flood water and struggled to keep their head above water; or have been moved through moving flood water.

Safety

Owners & veterinarians

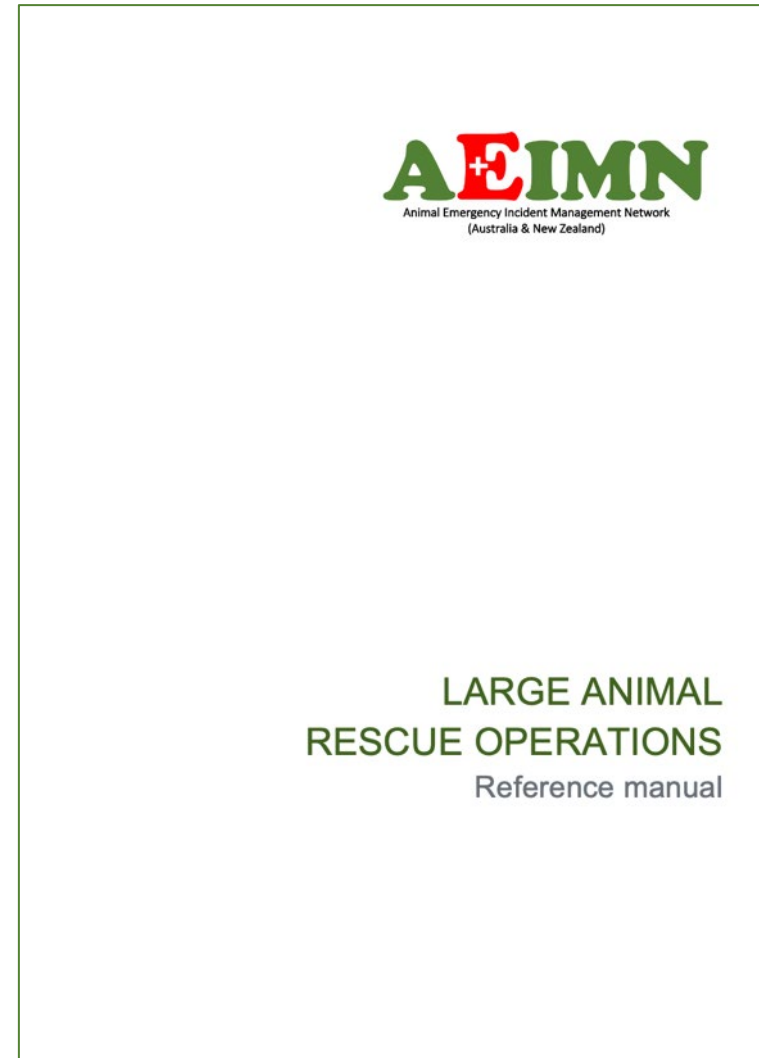
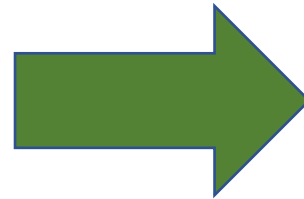
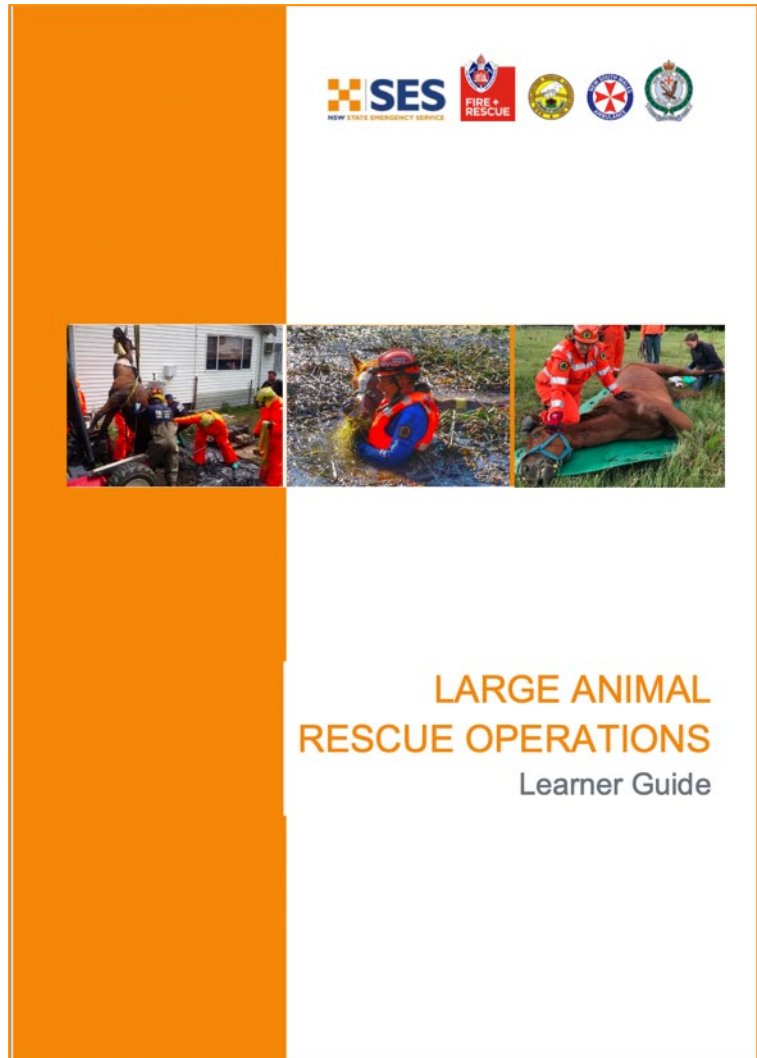
- Always wear suitable personal protective clothing (PPC) and personal protective equipment (PPE) such as safety eyewear, boots and gloves when ever exposed to flood water and / or flood mud
- Always carefully wash your hands after coming into contact with flood water and / or flood mud.

Welfare

During, and following, a flood event, it is vital that horse owners maintain their animal welfare responsibilities by ensuring their horses have adequate access to food, clean water (not flood water) and shelter.

It is important to provide good quality dry feed for these horses. Mouldy feed contains toxins that can be fatal to horses. Similarly, if there is no dry pasture available, horses may be forced to eat toxic weeds in the paddock. If feeding hay that has been stored in sheds, it is paramount that it is opened and checked prior to being fed out.

Large animal rescue operations resource



Large animal rescue operations resource

Topic 6 – Skidding a large animal

Rescue glide

Where possible, incorporate a Rescue glide into any skidding techniques to reduce friction and to protect the animal.

Animals that have been standing in water for any length of time will have very soft hide which is easily abraded or cut when skidding the animal over dry mud (clods) or rough surfaces.

A rescue glide sheet is a hard plastic sheet (either 6mm or 10mm thick) that can be laid down onto the surface to skid the animal over.

Joining glide sheets

The rescue glide sheets can be:

- ▶ joined together (lengthways or sideways or combination) to accommodate different sized animals and the position of the animal
- ▶ can be skidded one sheet over another sheet to reduce friction even further. The sheets can be leapfrogged as the animal is skidded

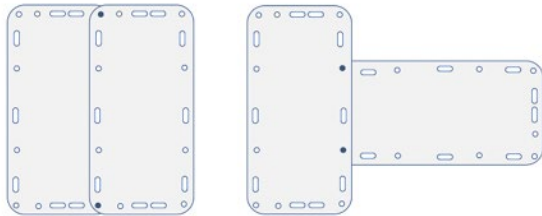
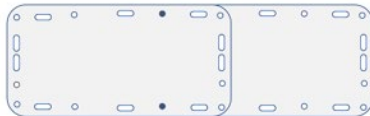


Fig 37. The Rescue glide can be configured in various positions to suit the position or size of the animal. The two glide sheets are joined using the nylon nuts & bolts

Topic 6 – Skidding a large animal

Securing the animal to the Rescue glide

The Rescue glide is usually supplied with two tie-down strap sets. Place the stainless steel ring on the shoulder or hip of the animal. Each tie-down strap set has two yellow Velcro straps to secure the leg side and front or rear of the animal to the rescue glide; and a black Velcro strap, passing through an 'over centre buckle', to secure the spine side of the to the Rescue glide.

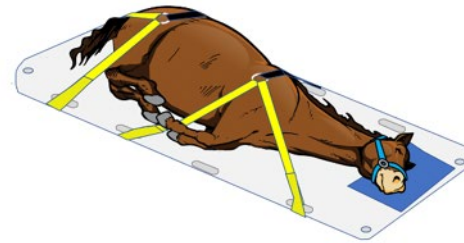


Fig 40. Animal secured to the Rescue glide using the tie-down straps

Place protective pads beneath the stainless steel rings on the shoulder and hips to protect nerve bundles in these regions.

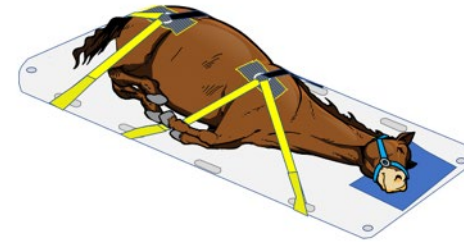


Fig 40. Place padding on the shoulder and hip under the tie-down straps (stainless steel rings)

Pull through the slack and close the over centre buckle to tighten the restraint strap.



REMEMBER

The animal handler or Vet can accompany the animal whilst in transit on the Rescue glide.

Large animal rescue operations resource

Topic 9 – Rescuing a large animal from water

Rescuing a swimming animal from a boat or relocating an animal by boat

- ▶ The boat will need a coxswain and two animal handlers to safely restrain and move an animal by boat. Rescuing a large swimming animal is only feasible one animal at a time.
- ▶ If you observe a swimming horse or cow struggling to keep its head (nostrils) above water, it will need assistance or will likely drown
- ▶ Alternately, to relocate a horse, you will first need to lead a horse into the water
- ▶ Carefully position boat beside the animal
- ▶ Use an improvised halter (or halter and lead rope) to keep the horse's head elevated. You can pinch a cow's nostrils (thumb in one nostril and forefinger in the other and squeeze) and lift the cow's head up and out of the water. You may also be able to loop a rope around the horns or grab an ear to keep the cows head elevated. Don't use a halter on a cow as it will likely run off with the halter when it reaches the other side.

REMEMBER

Attention should be given to keeping the animal's head above the water so they don't aspirate any water. This can lead to severe pneumonia which is often fatal.

Take all precautions to avoid the nostrils going under water at any time.

- ▶ You can also hold the tail over the side of the boat to keep the animal against the side of the vessel
- ▶ Do not let the animal get anywhere near the propellor(s)



Fig. 59. Rescuing a sheep in water (Goulburn Post 8th January 2019)

Annexes

Annex 6 – Horse rugs and accessories

A horse may be wearing a rug, hood or other accessories when found in a range of entrapment situations. Rescuers should know how to safely take off rugs and accessories, if required.

Rugs

Rugs can be light weight summer cotton rugs or heavier canvas or padded winter rugs.

Typically rugs are secured on a horse using a combination of buckles, clips or ~~velcro~~.

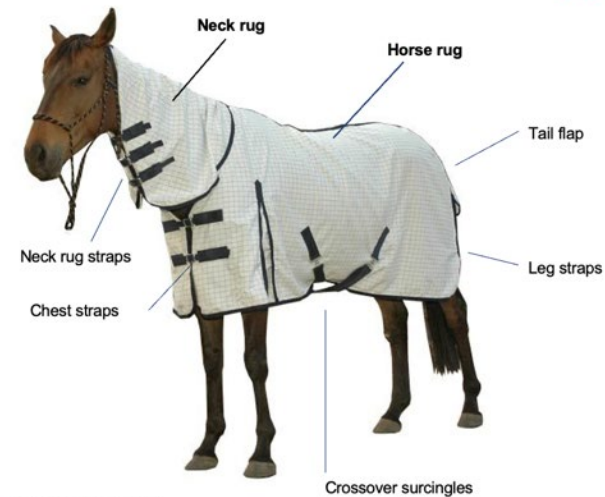


Fig 100. Horse rug components



Fig 101. Leg straps are usually crossed over between the hind legs

Questions

