

South County Large Animal Rescue

Emergency Evacuation Program

Contents of first aid kit for large animal evacuations: minimum requirements

Restraint and ID

- Halters, preferably cotton; various sizes; *without* lead rope permanently attached
- Lead ropes, preferably cotton, with bull snaps
- Spray paint; several colors; small cans, and grease markers
- Blindfolds
- Twitch, preferably Watson model
- Head bumper
- Leg boots with Velcro closures
- Long (about 30 foot) 1/2 inch diameter cotton rope, with spliced loop in each end

Wound care

- Flush solution, 1 or more gallons (1 gallon distilled H₂O + 2 1/2 T non-iodized salt + 1 oz. Betadine solution)
- Trigger spray bottle
- 60 ml catheter-tip syringes
- Betadine or Nitrofurazone ointment (water-soluble)
- **No peroxide or grease-based ointments**
- Non-sterile exam gloves, 1 box
- Clean small towels
- High quality paper towels
- Sleeves of 4x4 gauze

Bandage and splinting material

- Non-stick pads, e.g., Release or Telfa, 3" x 8"
- Soft gauze rolls, e.g., Kerlix or Sof-Kling
- Ace Bandages, 4"
- Leg cottons or quilt batting; 12" and 6" wide rolls
- *Note: Disposable diapers work well*
- Esmarch tourniquet, if you are comfortable with its application
- Split PVC pipe, 4" split in thirds and halves, 3 feet long
- Duct tape
- Elastikon tape, 3"
- Velcro straps
- Adhesive tape, 1"

Miscellaneous

- Hand washing soap and/or pre-packed wipes
- Flashlight and penlight
- Belt pouch of some sort
- Bucket and 5 gallon can of water
- Small bottle chorhexadine or other disinfectant
- Kit Bag

Contents of each kit should be standardized as much as possible, so that drills and actual evacuations can follow the same protocols no matter what rig you are in. These kits should be checked and inventoried at the beginning of each fire season, and should probably not be kept in the trailers if those trailers are used for personal use as well. This is because they will be pretty bulky, and will get in the way of normal use, and there will be temptation to use the contents for everyday use.

Getting ready for an evacuation should require as little thought as possible, and should involve (ideally) the reflex execution of a set of pre-determined actions.

Also, keep in mind that *human safety is paramount* and that not all battles can be won. It will sometimes, maybe often, be necessary to just admit that a particular horse cannot be caught, or loaded, or salvaged even if successfully evacuated. Evacuation efforts will necessarily involve some triage, and the abandonment of some animals.

If you have any suggestions or questions, you may call or e-mail me at any time, and I'll respond as soon as possible.

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