



**LARGE ANIMAL  
RESCUE TEAM**

# INTRODUCTION

IT CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE

HORSES AND CATTLE ARE NOT  
PEOPLE

SPECIALTY TRAINING IN LARGE  
ANIMAL TECHNICAL RESCUE

# Little Fork's Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Team



# Additional Apparatus and Equipment



# What is TLAER???

Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER) is not disaster medicine

TLAER does NOT refer to rescue of neglected, starving or abused animals - AKA "skinny horse rescue....."

It is the practical considerations behind the safe extrication of a live large animal from entrapments (loose on the road, upside down in ditches, stuck in mud, etc.) in local emergencies and disaster areas.

It is not a CART.....

# **It is a Specialty Operation !!!!!**

**Normally 5-6 Hour Duration**

**Numerous resources may be needed**

**- Heavy earth movement equipment**

**- Animal control officers**

**- Heavy rescue equipment**

**- Vets, law enforcement, fire/rescue**

**Can be a confined space rescue**

**THE MEDIA WILL BE THERE !!!!!**

**ICS is essential**

# Little Fork Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Team

11 Fire and Rescue Volunteer Technicians

All are either EMT or FF certified –some both

Trained as TLAER Technicians at the Virginia Tech Mare Center  
located in Middleburg Virginia

All are ICS Certified

Covered by Workers Compensation and “wrap-around” insurance

Sovereign Immunity coverage

Command Officers minimally certified as Fire Officer I

Dispatched by the Culpeper County 911 dispatch center (540) 727-7900

# NFPA 1670 - Chapter 17

## Animal Technical Rescue

### **Awareness Level**

- **Recognized Need**
- **ID Resources Necessary**
- **Site Control and Scene Management**
- **Containment; Portable Fencing, Cages, Traps**
- **Recognize General Hazards and Mitigation Procedures**
- **ID and Use of PPE for Animal Rescue Incident**
- **Request Assistance to Determine Technical Rescue vs. Recovery**
- **ID Special Equipment and Haz Mat considerations**
- **Understand Political, Social and Public Safety Issues**

# NFPA 1670 Operations Level

**ID Needs and Implement Procedures for:**

- **Risk Assessment**
- **ID Body Posture Cues to Determine Animal Disposition**
  - Create Improvised Restraint Device to Establish Control
  - ID Safe Attachment Points to Animal for Low Angle Extrication
  - Use of Harness, Leash, Webbing to Assist Low Angle Movement
  - Use of Animal Packaging Device for Low Angle Move
  - Perform Low/High Angle Lower and Raise
  - Recognize Need for Chemical Restraint
  - Alleviate Suction on Legs in Mud Rescue
- **Use Behavioral Clues for “Flight/Fight”**
  - Use of Containment Techniques for Greater Control
  - Operate Ladder to Gain Access Above and Below Grade
  - Perform Basic First Aid Using Appropriate Techniques
  - Utilize Auxiliary Equipment to Facilitate Safe Placement of Rescue Devices

# Code of Virginia

- ▣ 8.01-225.2. Immunity for those rendering emergency care to animals.

Any person, including a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine, who in good faith and without compensation renders emergency care or treatment to an injured animal at the scene of an emergency or accident shall not be liable for any injuries to such animals resulting from the rendering of such care or treatment.

# An animal emergency is a human emergency



# THE CAT



**I SELL CATNIP**

VIA 9GAG.COM

**AND CATNIP ACCESSORIES**

MEMEFUL.COM

# THE DOG

**Think this picture is cute?**

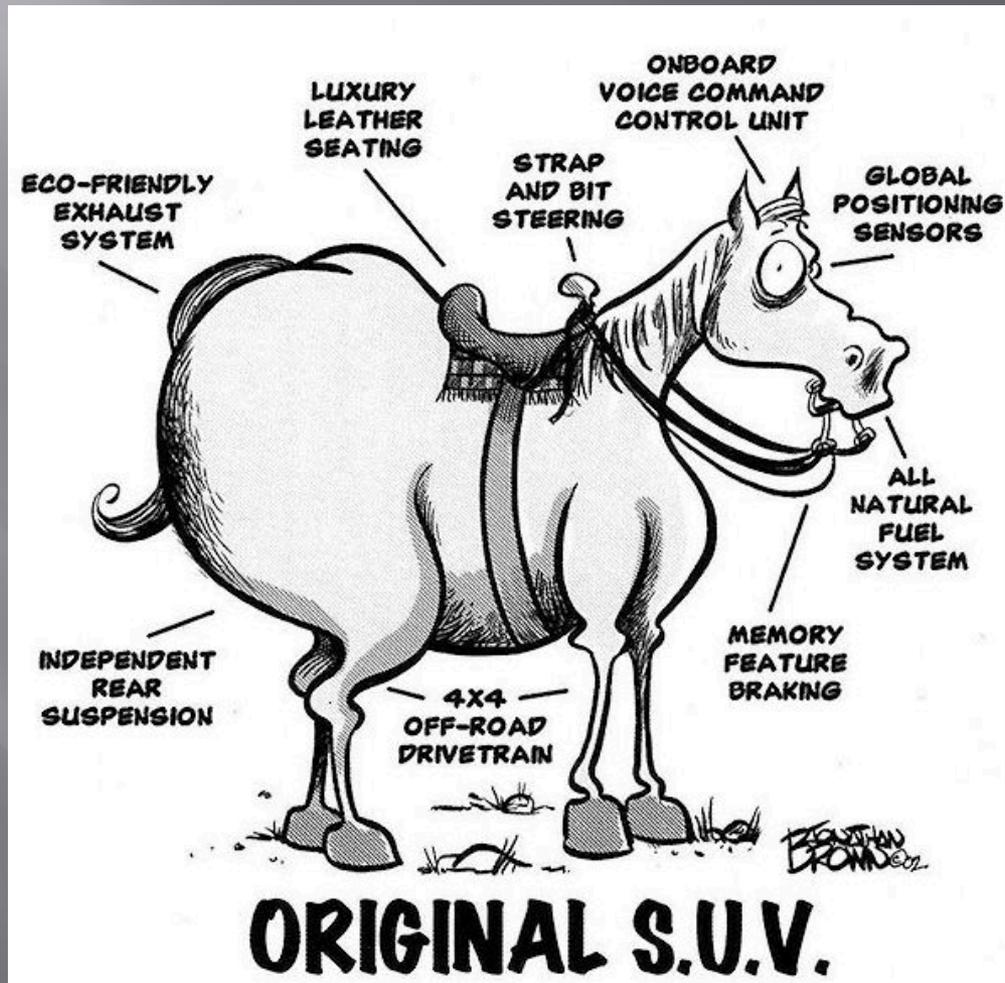
**Look closely.**



**You CAN prevent dog bites.**

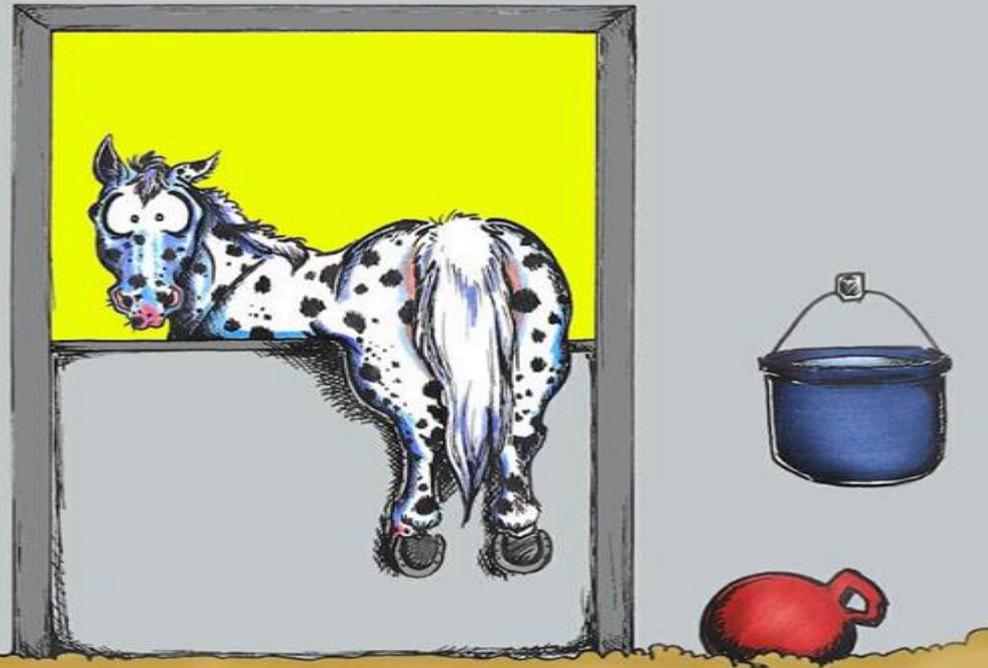
**Learn more at [www.DogingtonPost.com](http://www.DogingtonPost.com)**

# THE HORSE



## Horse: *noun*

1) A four legged mammal looking for an inconvenient place and an expensive way to die. Any day they choose not to execute the Master Plan is just more time to perfect it.



Margene Schmidt  
© 2012

[www.theideaoforder.com](http://www.theideaoforder.com)

# Excerpts from “Equine Emergency Preparedness in Virginia” Co-Op brochure –ARE YOU READY ???

*Down/Trapped Horses* Horses can become down or trapped following natural disaster, accident, or illness. Ditches, sink holes, and septic tanks are potential hazards that you can have on your own property. If you find your horse in a situation where he is trapped, contact your local fire and rescue service and your veterinarian. While you are waiting for assistance, make sure there is access for people and equipment into the area.

AND

*Trailer accidents* include overturned trailers or trailers being struck by another vehicle. Injuries to horses in trailer accidents can vary, even when overturned. Horses, being prey animals, will often struggle and panic when these accidents occur. However, some horses will be very quiet, resulting in less self-induced injury. In both situations, emergency personnel should be contacted first. They will be essential in scene control. Additionally, fire and rescue personnel have the skills and equipment necessary to extricate humans and animals from damaged trailers and vehicles.

# Most Firefighter and EMS Personnel Exposure to Equines



H O R S E S

They'll eat you.

# October 31, 2012 Cow Stuck in Pool – First Question from an Assist Responder Was: “Does that thing bite????”



# NATURAL LAWS HAVE NO PITY

## Deaths caused by bulls and cows:

**2,334 deaths that occurred during farming in the U.S. between 2003 and 2007.**

**5%, or 108, involved cattle as either the primary or secondary cause, that's a yearly average of about **22 deaths caused by cattle.****

- Report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention /U.S. Department of Health and Human Service.

# HOW NOT TO DO IT

**Unsafe procedures or equipment**

**Poor communication with other agencies**

**Minimal training in large animal handling, medical issues and prey animal behavior**



# The BIGGEST TLAER Safety Obstacles Are THE HUMAN FACTORS:

**FRANTIC, DISTRESSED  
OWNERS AND BYSTANDERS**

**Aka “I know horses,.. I own /or use to  
own one.....”**

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL  
THAT ARE INEXPERIENCED IN  
LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE ASPECTS**

# The Owner



# HORSE BEHAVIOR AND HANDLING



Millions of Years of Evolution  
HORSES ARE “PREY ANIMALS”  
Herd is Protection



# Seeing Horse Behavior From Their Point Of View

For people the most dangerous species we have is ourselves

Horses have always been creatures of defense

Throughout their evolution they have never hunted other animals

Their consciousness has always been devoted to or taken up to some degree, by threat awareness, evaluation and avoidance

This is an essential for understanding horse behavior

This happens all the time...



**We often ignore the fundamental instinct of a horses behavior – the need for self-defense**

**We can't appreciate nor empathize with what frightens them nor do we comprehend the extent of their anxiety about danger**

**We know we are safe but why do we assume that they do?**



# Horse Behavior

## What Does It Mean To Be A Prey Animal?

### Hunted and not the Hunter

- Does not come naturally to humans, the most successful hunter on earth

### Past Assumptions -

- Mimic horse behavior - be recognized as a horse

Horses don't lie, they know what our intentions are as we approach them

### Humans cannot copy horse behavior

- Looking, smelling or moving like a horse
- The sounds horses make
- Perceiving the surrounding world as a horse

# They are constantly assessing the environment for danger

Domesticated horses are provided food, shelter and security

How do they know that they are safe?

- No lions in the hedges and wolf packs in the woods
- Horses don't rationalize by thinking intellectually

Horses do not listen to the fact that they are safe from predators in stables and fields

Horses feel safe when they do what they have always done

- Assess their surroundings for potential danger and act on that

Self-defense is still at the heart of modern horse behavior

# Environmental Danger

## Fergus



What is happening in this scenario?



**This is an animal that has developed a fear of predators over a long time**

**The wild instincts which helped them survive are still there .....**

**These instincts include:**

- To avoid predators**
- To seek food and if necessary shelter**
- To form a herd and maintain herd integrity**

**Providing a horse with food, shelter and company forms a relationship and gains it's trust**

# What would you want to do if you were a horse?

**Look around and evaluate the situation.....**

**This is exactly what most horses are not allowed to do**

**When pushed, pulled, tapped or encouraged with voice aids - they are not being allowed to do the one thing that will reassure and calm them - assess the situation**

# OPPOSITION REFLEX



**Contra Costa Times**

## Some common misconceptions about horses which are attempting to assess surrounding “threats”

- It is trying to get out of working
- It is being silly
- He is only a grazing animal, work does not come naturally, so he wants to distract himself from it
- The horse always spooks at things because she is “high-spirited”
- It has a short concentration span because it is young

# Horse Behavior and How to Manage It



# **Step 1: Relax, reduce noise, reduce the adverse atmosphere**

**This is the time to establish goals and plans for any  
extrication**

**We can only work with a calm horse**

**A horse will be calm if we allow them to relax**

**Patience is a necessity**

**If you are prepared and relaxed, then in the horse's  
mind, you have already assessed the threat of the  
current situation and found it to be negligible**

# Step 2: Stay tuned in to the horse's awareness

**Become aware of the horse's behavior on a more subtle level**

**Notice whether it is alert and listening**

**Is it watching the world around it?**

**Watch the ears and muscles – some of the best indicators**



## Step 3: If a horse directs it's attention away from you and both ears are pointing away -- then it is assessing a threat

See what is being observed, heard or even smelled

Wait until it is satisfied that the threat will not materialize

Usually it will tell you by revolving an ear round in your direction...

Sometimes attention will shift and it will seem to shrug

When evaluating a threat it will not listen to you

Give full responsibility to the horse to assess the threat



**Step 4: If it perceives the threat as dangerous then it will spend longer analyzing it, and either escape or attack .....**

**If the threat is perceived as imminent then flight or fight response will be immediate!**

**Between the analysis and the decision, it may turn it's attention to you... and in this hesitation you have a chance to 'steady the ship'**

**If allowed to assess again and it is supported each time ...it may accept that there is no danger**



# Horses are prey animals and therefore spooky by nature

In the wild - the spookiest prey animals survive the longest

Horses slow to react to danger will be the eaten

Instinct says run now and ask questions later

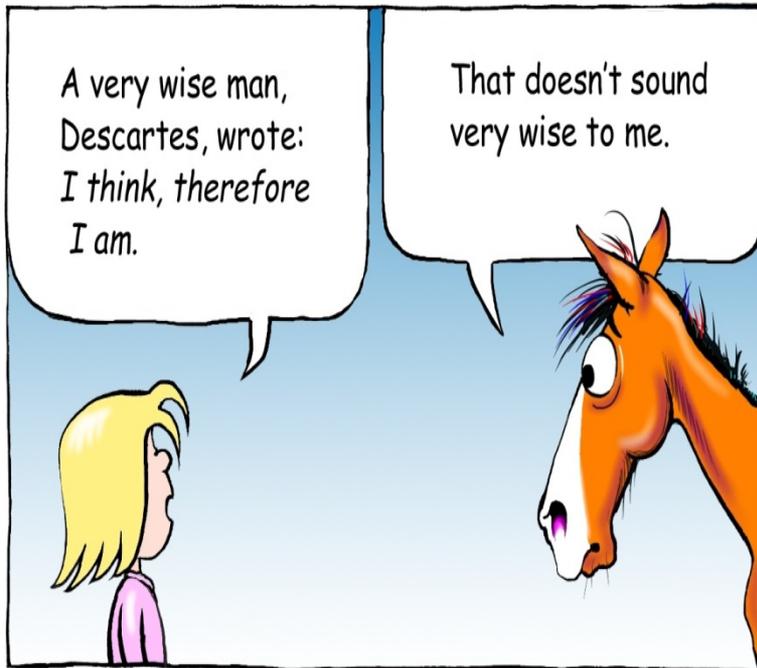
If you even think, hear, or smell danger, run first

Horses would rather be 100 miles away and then ask if it was really a tiger that they heard in the bushes

# Every moment is Halloween....

## Fergus BY JEAN ABERNETHY

[www.FergusTheHorse.com](http://www.FergusTheHorse.com)



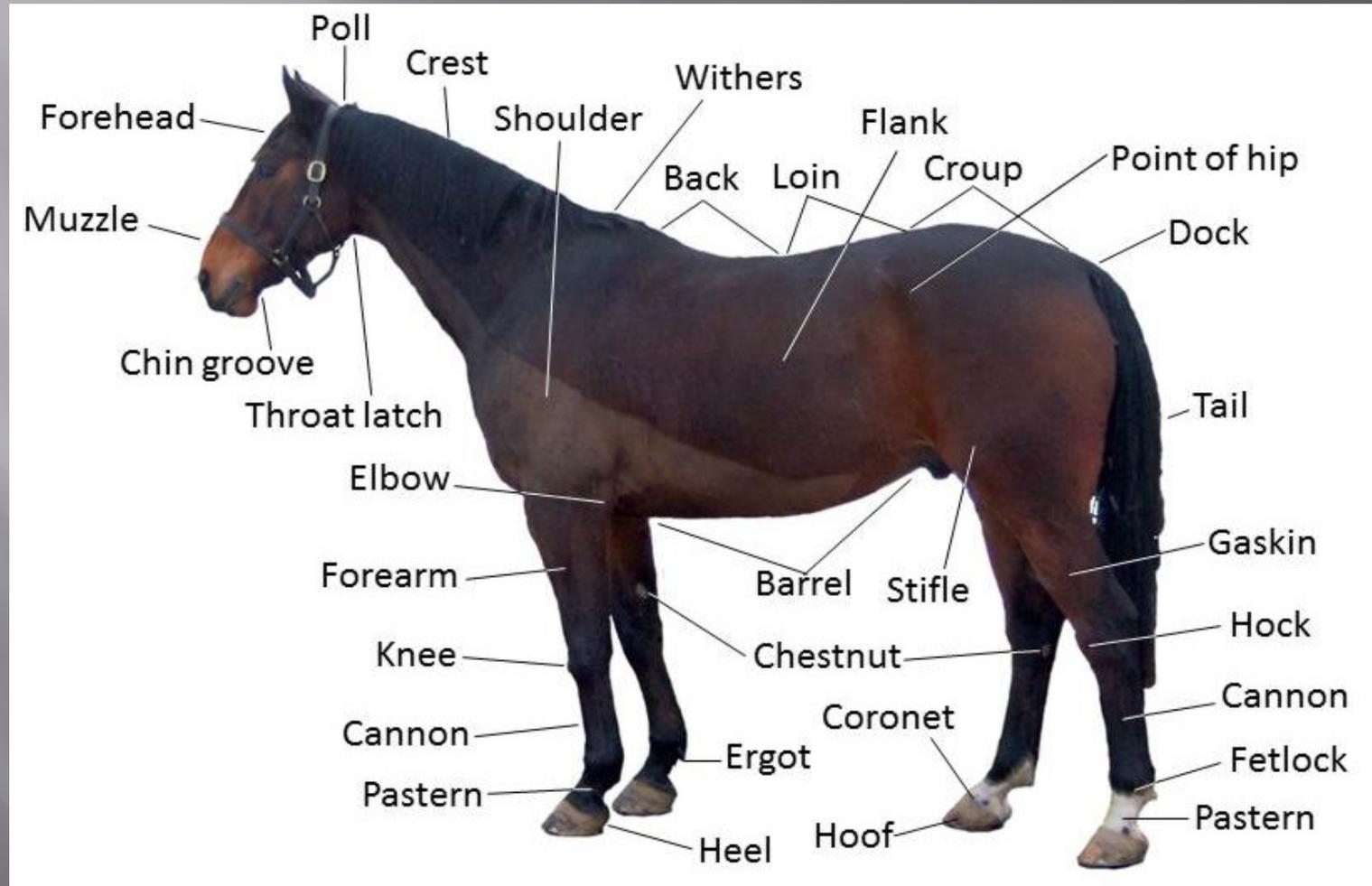
# OMG A “FILL IN THE BLANK” !!!!!!!



If they see an opening during a rescue ---- gone in .60 seconds !!!!

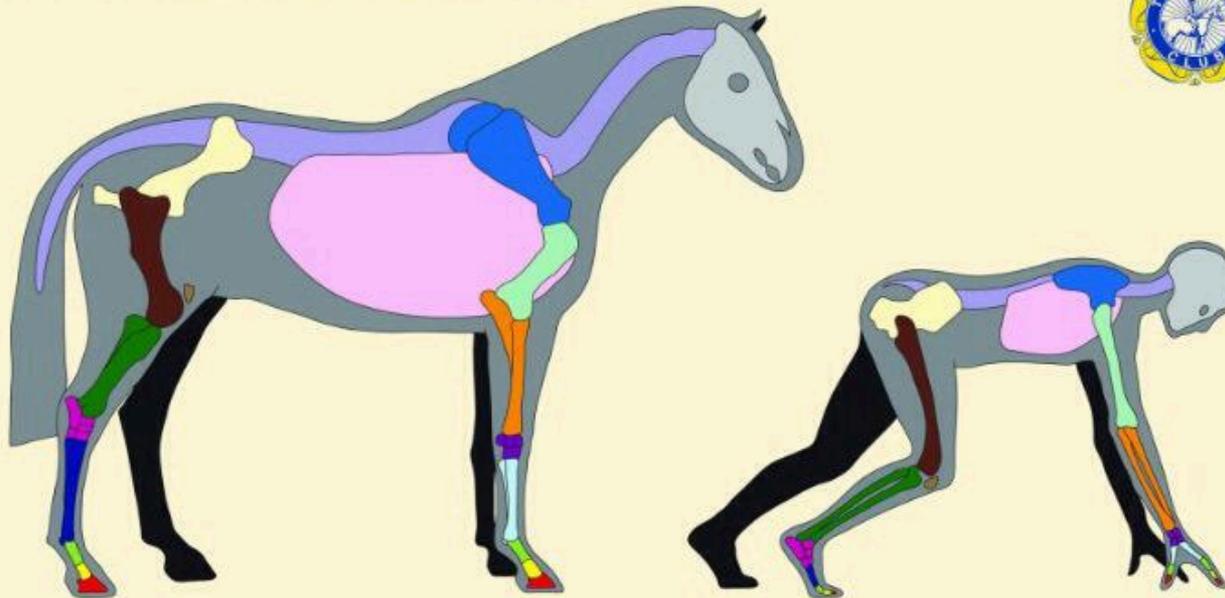


# Horse Terminology



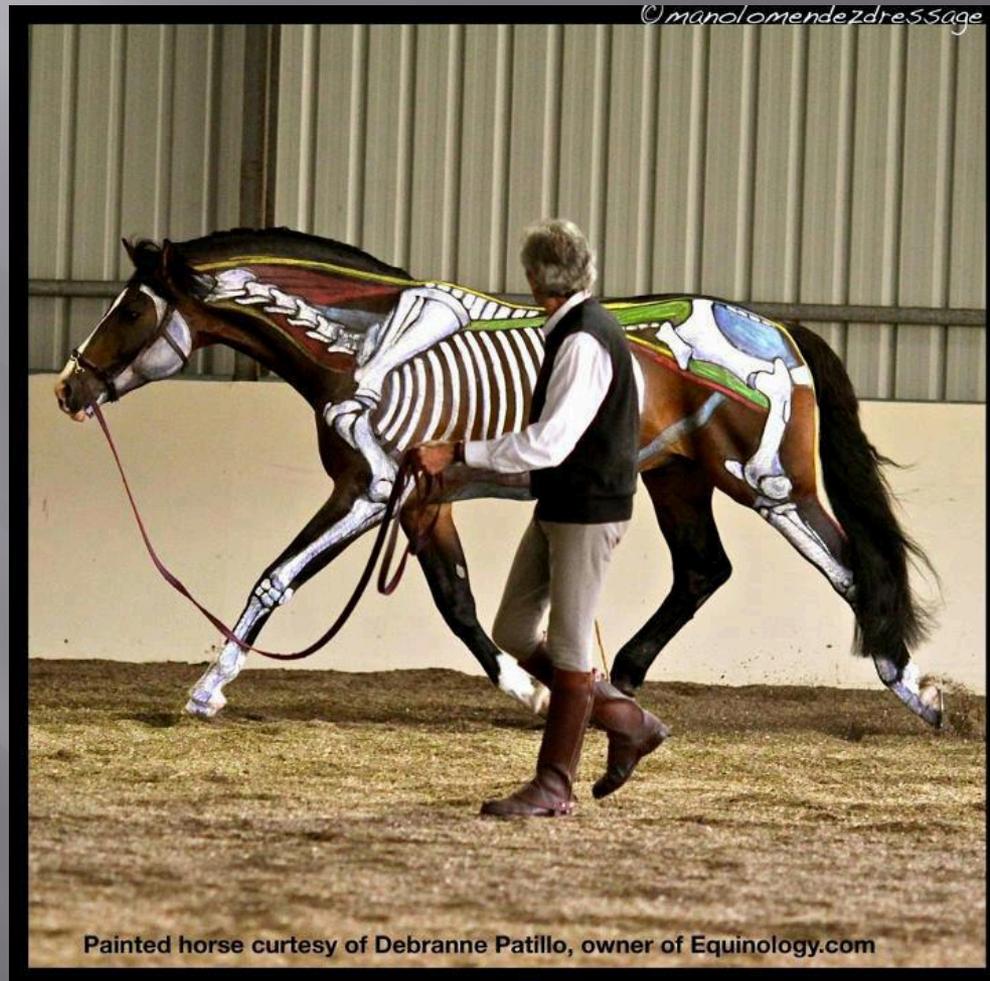
# Horse Anatomy - Bones

## Horse and Human Common Parts A Comparison of Bone Structures



	Ankle	Femur	Tibia and Fibula	Fingers / Toes	Fingers / Toes	Fingers / Toes	Humerus	Metacarpal bones	Metatarsal bones	Patella	Pelvis	Radius and Ulna	Ribcage	Scapula	Skull	Spine	Wrist
<b>HUMAN</b>																	
<b>HORSE</b>	Hock	Femur	Tibia and Fibula	Long pastern bone	Short pastern bone	Pedal bone	Humerus	Cannon bone	Hind cannon bone	Patella	Pelvis	Radius and Ulna	Ribcage	Scapula	Skull	Spine	Knee

# Skeletal Structure in Motion



# Built for Speed

**Prey animals have various forms of defense against predators**

**The horse's best defense against predators is their flight instinct**

**If they are unable to run from danger, they will resort to fighting, bucking, kicking and biting**

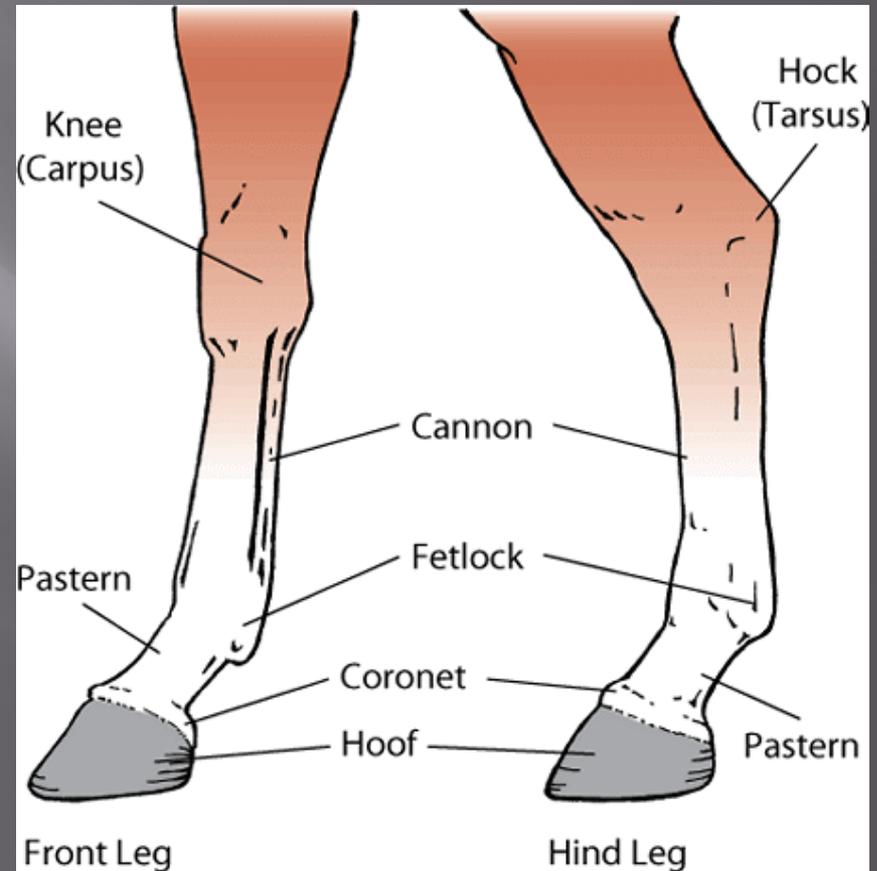
# Equine Legs are complex and easily injured

The upper part of the leg is heavily muscled

The lower part acts as a springboard to enhance stride

Have a feature called the stay apparatus, which allows them to “rest” a rear leg while standing on the other 3 for prolonged periods.

This is why horses can sleep standing up



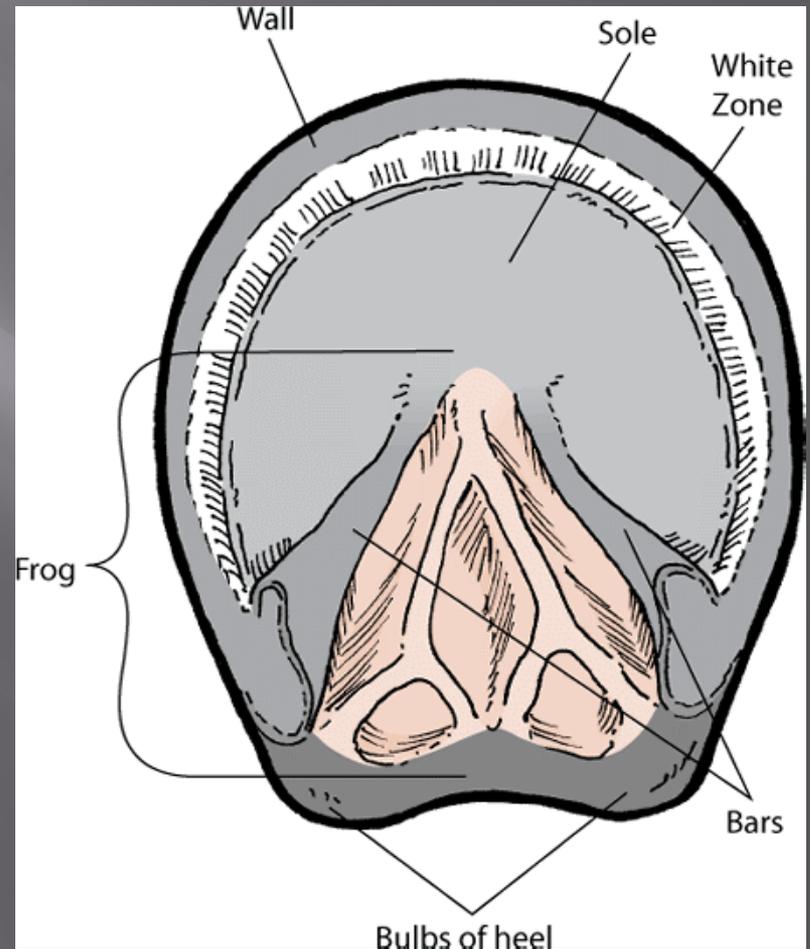
A Pool  
“Rescue”  
in 2011  
Non TLAER  
Trained Fire  
and Rescue  
Group



# Parts of the hoof

Horses walk and run on their hooves

Because the hoof is subjected to tremendous, repetitive impact, it can develop numerous problems that lead to lameness



# Metabolism

**Horses have a slower metabolism than other companion animals**

**-28 to 40 Heart Rate**

**-10 to 14 Respiratory Rate**

**-25 to 30 Years age range**

**Horses generate considerable heat during exercise**

**Horses are large, bulky animals that are good at conserving heat during periods of colder weather**

Normal Equine Physiologic Values	
Body temperature (average)	Mare: 100°F (37.8°C) Stallion: 99.7°F (37.6°C)
Resting heart rate	28 to 40 beats per minute
Respiratory rate (at rest)	10 to 14 breaths per minute
Average life span	25 to 30 years (depends on breed, level of care, and other factors)

# Hearing

**Horses have large ears that are good at magnifying sound and noting its direction**

**Each ear can swivel independently up to 180°**

Horses are good at hearing the high-pitched squeaks or crackles associated with the stealthy approach of a predator

Spooking can be avoided by making sure that a horse can see you or knows you are approaching

# Smell and Taste

The sense of smell is the primary way that horses recognize each other as well as people

The surface area devoted to scent detection is many hundred times greater than in people

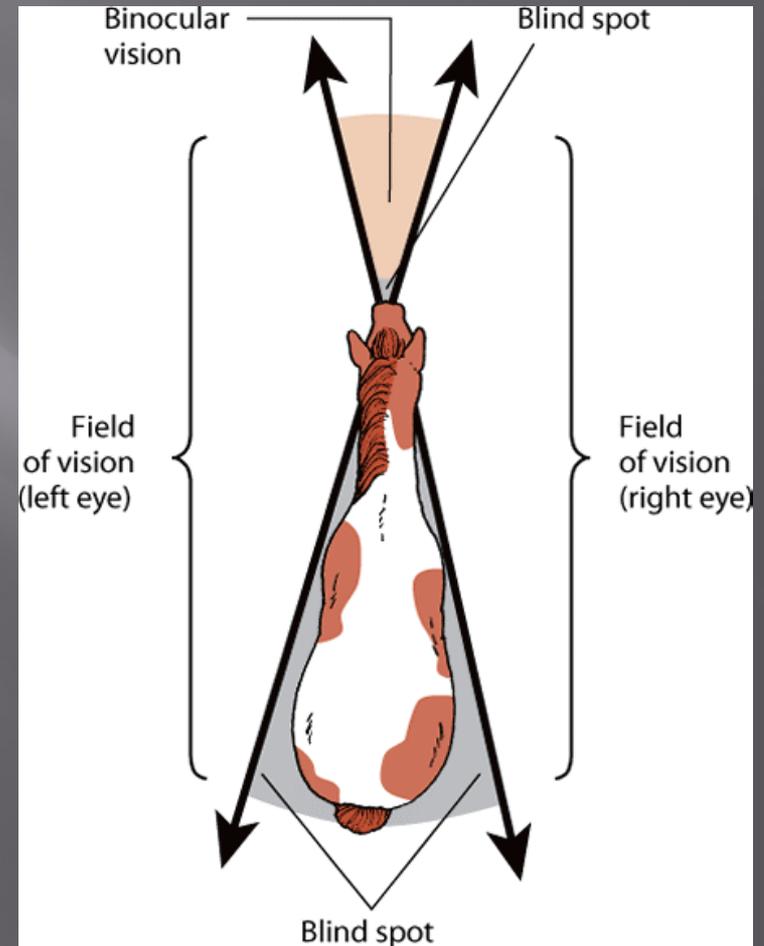


# Sight

Horses can see well to either side, but have only a limited range of binocular vision

Horses have some color vision

They have poor depth perception



# Survival -- It's All In the Eyes!

One of the main differences between predators such as cats, dogs and humans versus prey animals is the position of the eyes

Prey animals have the eyes on the side of the head instead of in front

Gives them a greater field of vision to spot predators

**Binocular Vision vs. Monocular vision**

It allows them to process more information independently in each eye

# Double Vision



When a horse sees movement using monocular vision, he will turn his head to see with both eyes - switching to binocular vision

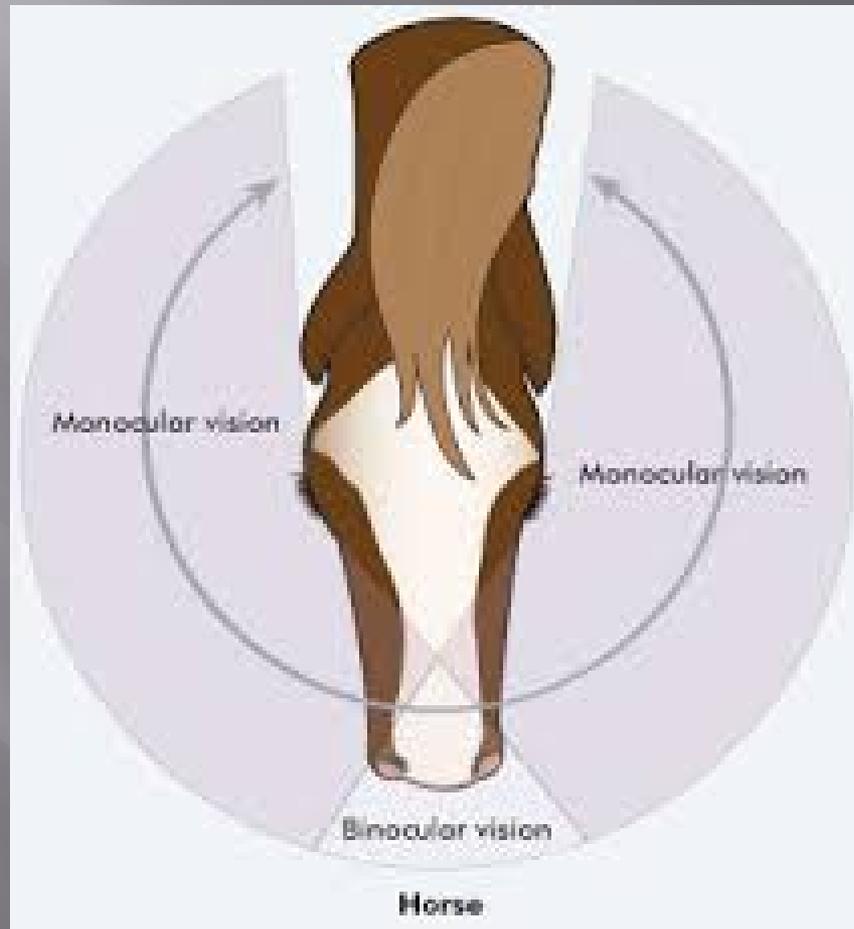
When a horse switches from monocular vision to binocular vision, this causes objects to jump and distort - until focused again

This causes horses to spook

# White wedding.....



# Another view of the vision



# Body Signals

## If a horse's tail is:

- **High:** they are alert or excited
- **Low:** it is a sign of exhaustion, fear, pain or submission
- **Held high over its back:** (as seen in most foals) they are playful or are very alarmed
- **Swishing:** they are irritated.

## If a horse's legs are:

- **Pawing:** they are frustrated
- **One front-leg lifted:** can be a mild threat (or a normal stance sometimes when eating)
- **A back-leg lifted:** is often a more defensive threat
- **Stamping:** indicates a mild threat or protest (or they may be getting rid of insects or flies biting their legs).

# Facial

**Some facial expressions include:**

- **Snapping:** This is seen in foals showing submission. They will open their mouths and draw back the corners, then open and shut their jaws
- **Jaws open with teeth exposed: this shows aggression or possible attack**
- **Flared nostrils:** usually means they are excited or alert
- **Showing white around the eyes:** usually means they are angry or scared.

# WTH?????



# The horses' ears are a unique feature

**Neutral:** is when the ears are held loosely upward, openings facing forward or outward

**Pricked:** ears held stiff with openings pointed directly forward means the horse is alert.

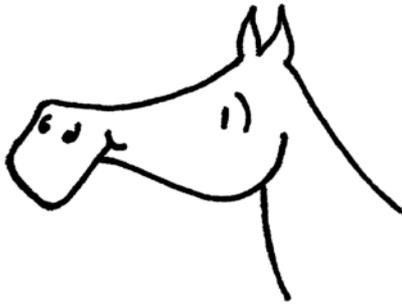
**Airplane ears:** the ears flop out laterally with openings facing down, usually meaning the horse is tired or depressed.

**Drooped ears:** hang down loosely to the side, usually meaning tiredness or pain.

**Ears angled backward (with openings directed back towards a rider):** usually mean attentiveness to the rider or listening to commands.

**Ears pinned flat against the neck --** the means watch out! The horse is angry and aggressive

# Reading the signs



Interested



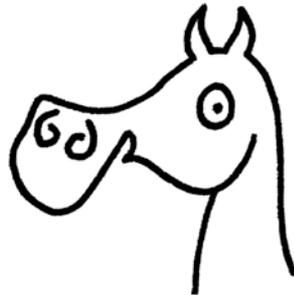
Contented



Submissive



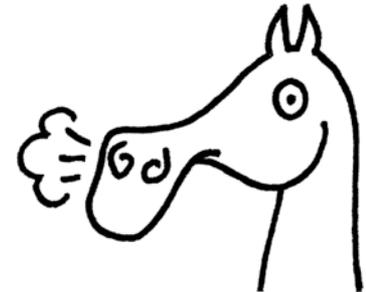
Aggressive, Angry



Excited



Ill or Depressed



Fearful

# When it comes to horse communication --the ears have it--

- ▣ **Horses are social animals.**
  - ▣ **Living in groups has both downsides and benefits**
  - ▣ **Animals watch each other keeping a lookout for predators while others are busy eating or sleeping**
- ▣ **To make this system work, however, animals have to have ways of communicating information to others**
- ▣ **Horses have great vision – better than dogs or cats – and they use facial expressions**

- ▣ **Horses can signal information about food to each other**
- ▣ **Observing movable ears – is an important step in understanding how horses interact**
- ▣ **Horse's large, highly mobile ears tells another horse where to direct attention, and if they should pay attention to something in the environment**
- ▣ **Experienced riders know to pay attention to a horse's ears to help figure out what it's thinking,**

Horses are social....



# Putting it all together



What are the signs telling you?



# What is going on here?



What signs do you see here?



What body language do you observe?



What behavior is exhibited???



Is it safe to approach these two?



# What should you do?



# How to deal with a loose horse

**When they stay nearby: Approach with caution**

**Motivation: Herd instinct and natural fear of predatory behaviors**

**Don't chase a horse: If you chase, they will run faster**

**You cannot outrun, outmaneuver, outdistance or out-manhandle a horse**

**Use your cunning, predatory brain to outsmart them**

**Wait to see if they will come back.**

**Treats or feed may help; a handful of grass might work**

**A horse who is hovering nearby, will want to rejoin others**

**If they will not come to you --- Read the body language!!**

**The behavior of loose horses usually tends to fall into one of three categories.....**

# A red zone horse

Highly reactive - may snort, rear or display menacing behavior. Do not chase or approach. He will hurt you, the slightest provocation will cause him to bolt.

Stand back and talk to him quietly, make some other noise, such as rattling the wrapper on a treat, that will capture his attention, and wait until he calms down

If a red zone horse is near traffic or another hazard, you cannot wait to take action:

- Traffic Control
- Position yourself so that when the horse retreats from you, he'll move away from the danger.
- Shout or slap your leg to divert him
- If you're not near a fenced area, use the materials at hand
- A corral can be made out of horse trailers and trucks parked nose to tail or even fire line tape
- Once in a relatively safe area, stand back until he settles down.

# RED ZONE HORSE



# A yellow zone horse

**Worried, hesitant and fearful.....**

**Can flee, but you stand a better chance of influencing the behavior**

**Do not approach with the goal of capturing**

**Approach with “joining up”**

**Using your body language to encourage the horse to accept you as his herd leader**

**Get the horse to look at you with both eyes, and approach the left shoulder**

**Be patient, move slowly and offer treats if available**

**If the horse moves away, do not follow; do not trigger a panic. Wait for him to lower his head, soften his eyes and focus his attention on you.**

# A YELLOW ZONE HORSE



# A green zone horse

Generally relaxed and may be grazing

Approach as you would any horse in a pasture

Advance and retreat until he responds to your cues

When close enough, extend your arm in a greeting gesture.

After he sniffs your hand, give a reassuring scratch on his neck and a treat, if you have one

Use an emergency rope halter or your belt to slip around his neck

# A GREEN ZONE HORSE



# Corralling A Group

**Watch the herd**

**Figure out who is the dominant horse**

**Use the techniques previously listed to approach the leader**

**Capture/Contain and the rest of the herd will follow**



# When they start to flee: Bide your time

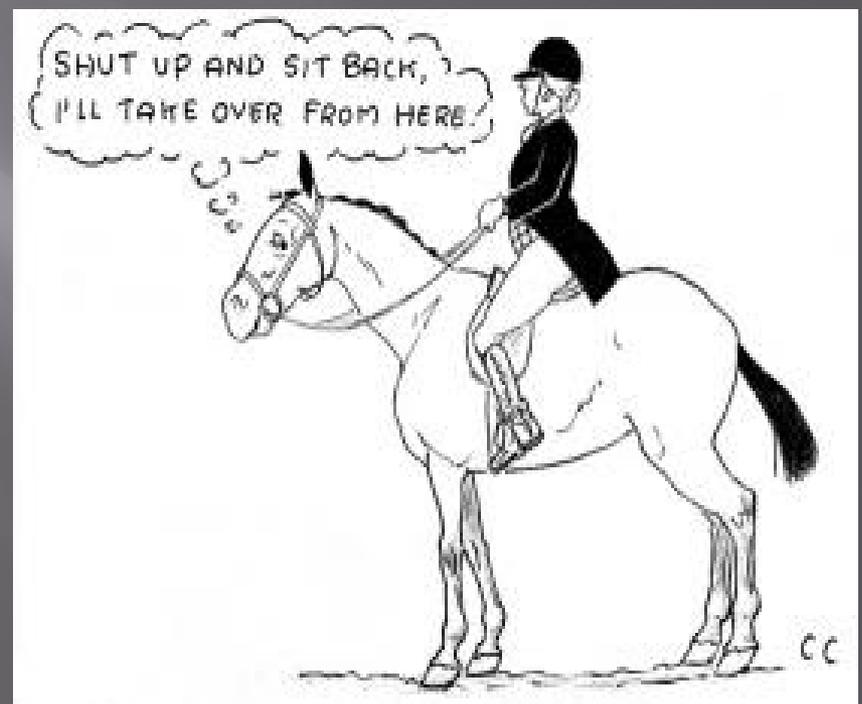
- ❑ **The first instinct is to sprint after them**
- ❑ **Don't. You will frighten them into a faster flight**
- ❑ **Keep in mind that a loose horse who loses sight of the group will not go far and will return**
- ❑ **Horses' instincts tell them to stay with the herd**
- ❑ **They will stop when initial fright subsides**
- ❑ **They will settle down and graze, or even turn and walk back**

# Bide Your Time

- ▣ Will run to the end of their flight distance---the limit of what makes them feel safe
- ▣ When gather as a herd, they will try to return to a safety zone
- ▣ If one runs, don't turn it into a race you can only lose.
- ▣ Check on how the other horses are doing before you take action.
- ▣ The presence of other horses will likely make it easier to catch a horse. Approach slowly and let the runaway come to the other horse
- ▣ Once the horse has stopped, use treats or another horse to catch his attention, approach only when he's no longer inclined to move away



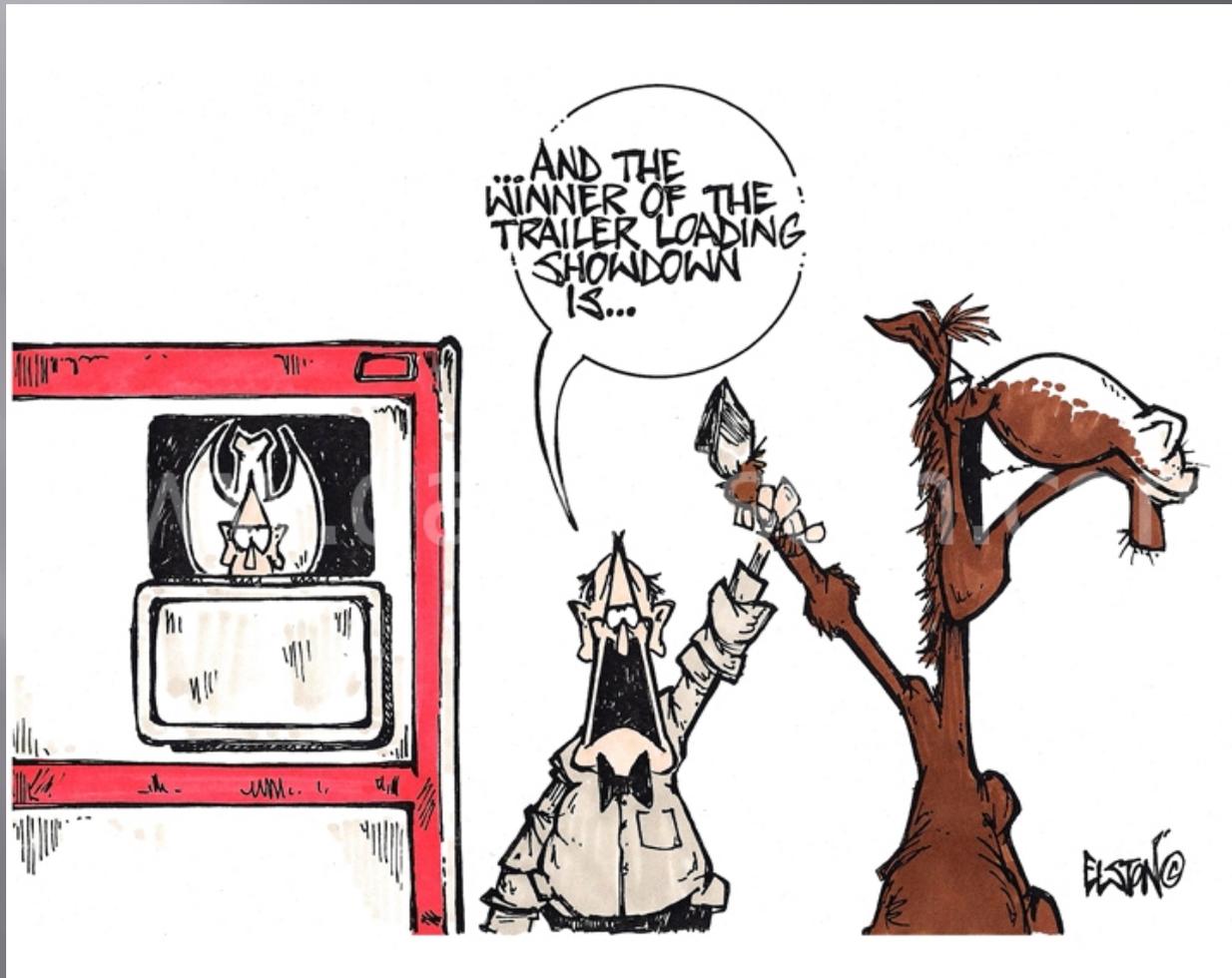
# Who is truly in control?



This is very common



# Trailer loading a horse can be exciting!!



# 2002 Hoof Kick Study Switzerland

All kicked equestrians were unmounted at the time of injury

Almost all sustained either maxilla facial fractures or deep facial lacerations

Half sustained contusions of the extremities, the back, the trunk

The lethal power of a horse – a kick with a force of one ton or more

Riding accidents and injuries caused by horses carry a high risk of severe trauma

A horse's kick can transfer a force of more than 10 000 Newtons to the body, causing fractures of the skull, other bones, devastating damage to intestines.

# 2002 Hoof Kick Study

The head was the most frequent site of injury. Patients that were protected with a helmet did have any significant injury of the brain

The face is vulnerable and was injured in 53% of all kicked patients.

All patients who received kicks to the face needed complex suturing, half of them by a plastic surgeon.

Direct trauma to the face is associated with handling and not riding

Serious injury seems to be a function of cumulative exposure to horses, not level of expertise as is assumed by the majority of riders.

Understanding the behavior patterns of horses can help to improve safety, but working with animals will never be completely safe

# 2002 Hoof kick injuries unmounted equestrians

**Equestrian patients -- 21% of them caused by a direct hoof kick**

**Equestrian community underestimates the risk of severe injuries attributable to hoof kicks, especially while handling the horse**

**The introduction of additional face shields is needed**

**Fractures of the extremities, spine, and pelvis as well as injuries of the head and face, are common**

**31% of Jockeys sustain head and face injuries**

# Flip Flops + Horse Hoof Wear Your PPE



**Judy Parris Claborn**

My foot hurts! Don't fool around horses wearing flip flops!

Wear appropriate foot wear





**WHO IS NOT IN THE  
PROPER POSITION?**

Oregon Live Photo, 2011

**UNSAFE  
CONDITIONS**

**UNSAFE  
PROCEDURE**

**POOR  
JUDGEMENT**



**Contra Costa Times**

**Analysis of the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System data in the US was performed by the Equestrian Medical Safety Association in 2007.**

**Of 78,279 horse-related injuries, fractures (28.5%); contusions/abrasions (28.3%); strains/sprains (14.5%); internal injury (8.1%); lacerations (5.7%); concussions (4.6%); dislocations (1.9%); and hematomas (1.2%).**

**Motorcycle riders average an injury once every 7,000 hours, while horse-related accidents occur once every 350 hours**



2011 Photo Courtesy Henderson Times News

Ellie's Story – “Not a thing out of the ordinary. Well I was so happy that he did so well on this day, I patted him on the neck and turned to open the gate... .and POW! ”

- Slapped in the back of the head with hoof
- Cracked her head open, and while falling she smacked her cheekbone on the fence post
- Then proceeded to cannon her(cannoning is dropping to both knees to crush an opponent)
- At the same time reaching down with his teeth, and taking a huge bite out of the back upper right arm. Destroyed the muscle.
- Then slid off her back with one hoof and crushed her wrist
- She turned over--then he proceeded to take her left shoulder into his teeth, and ripped that muscle out
- “I was looking into the eyes of the devil! No ears at all. Gone...he was ferocious. So I grabbed some sand, whipped it at him and it was over as fast as it began. I never let go of the lead, so he took a bit of skin with that too.”

“But.....there he stood. Out on the end of a nine foot lead ..ears forward...looking at me like "what is wrong?"”

April 14th 2009



# Case Study - What happened on Sunday Aug 17, 2014

Melissa was giving a lesson to a student. The student's knee caught a gate causing it to hit the horse on the bum.

The horse took off running and bucked the student off.

The horse was calm, had quiet soft eyes and ears and was not tense at all. Melissa got on to school the horse.

She trotted the horse back to the gate, turned into the gate - not a single sign of the horse being upset.

So she went to the gate to open it mounted as had been done 1000 times... last thing she remembers is lifting the gate latch to go out.....

# **SIMPLE AND FAST AS THAT...THAT CHANGED HER LIFE FOREVER.....**

**The student said as soon as it opened it looked like she rushed thru and again the gate got her butt. She took off, Melissa stayed on for awhile - went off landed on her hip then head. She got up brushed herself off, took her ponytail out, shook out her hair and found blood. She said "oh great my head is bleeding" and laid down on the bench and went unconscious.**

# This is Melissa Davis - September 17, 2014



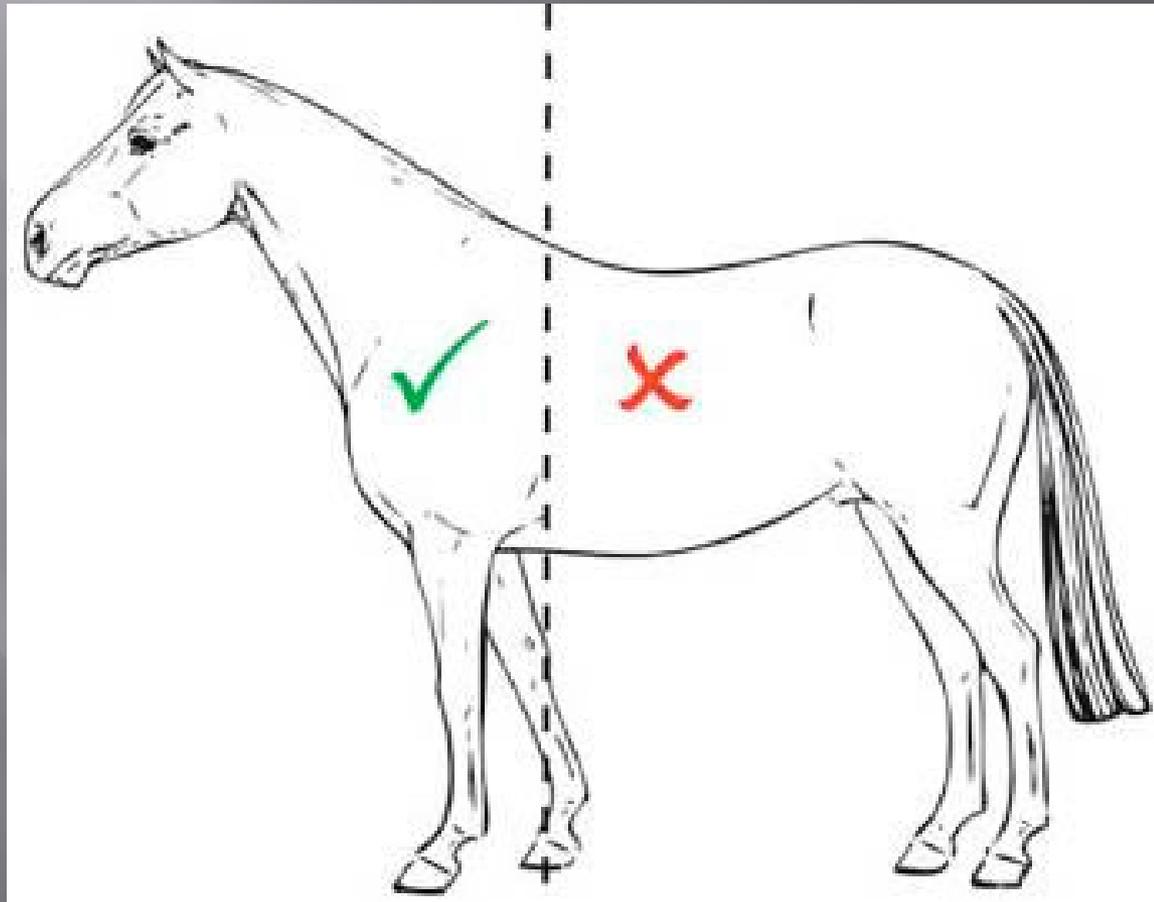
**WEAR YOUR PPE –  
She was not wearing her  
helmet!**



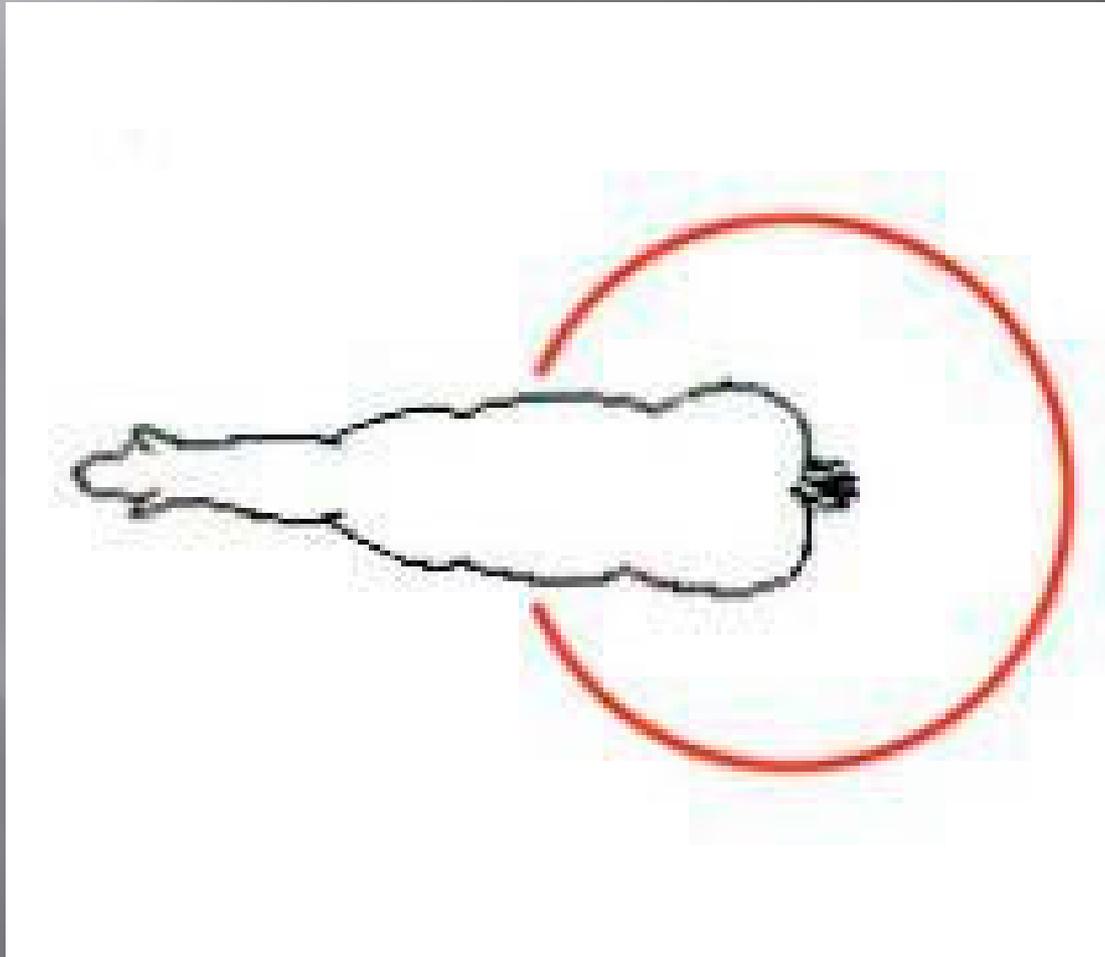
Melissa and family are  
raising funds for her medical  
bills.....



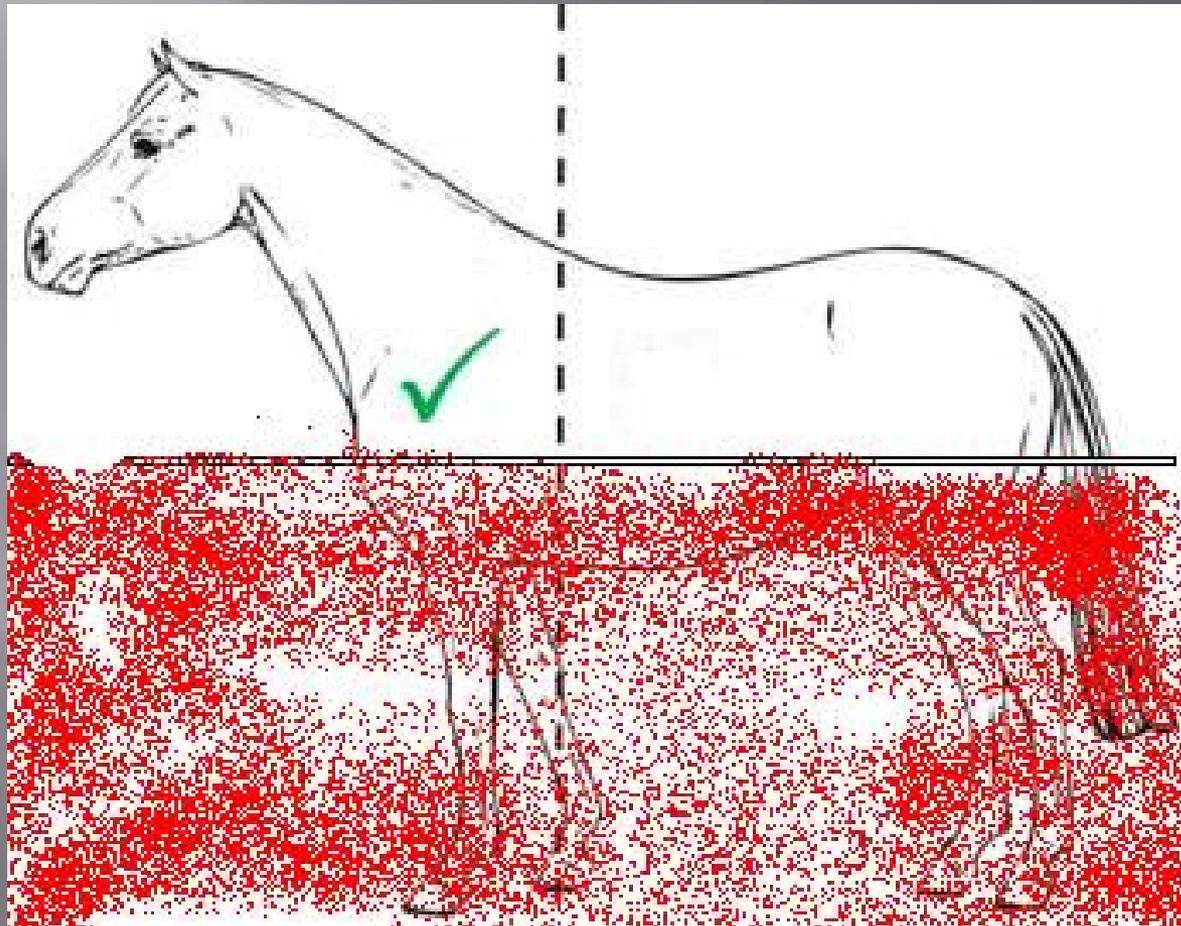
# Point of Balance Kick Zone



# Kick Zone



# Recumbent Horse Zones



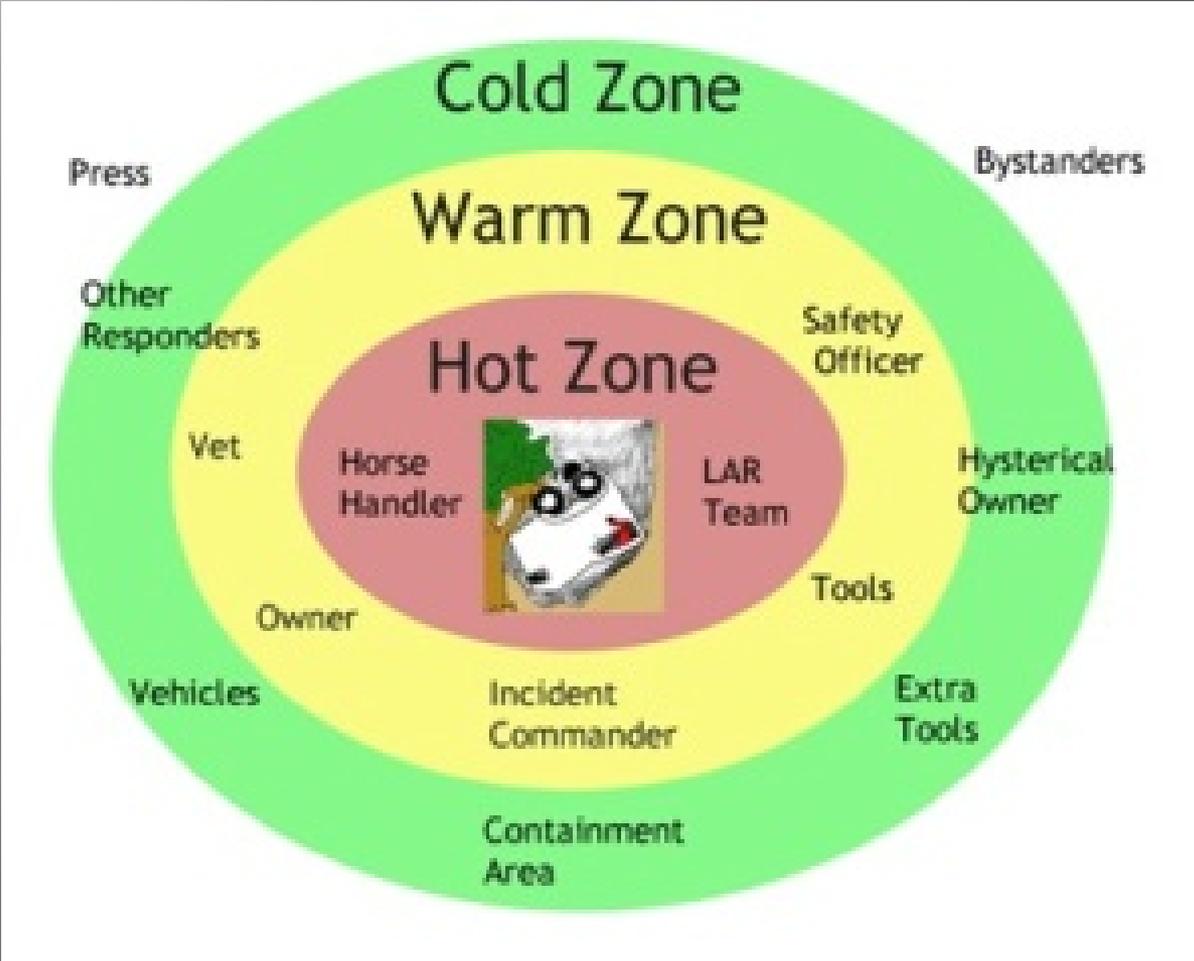
# Recumbent Striking Zone



A helmet will not help him...



# Animal Rescue Safety Zones



# First Responder Actions

**Perform Scene Size Up - 360 degree -**

**Obtain Animal Medical History**

**Have owner notify vet - report to the scene**

**Notify Local Animal Control Officer - report to the scene**

**Do not enter into the hot zone**

**Minimize noise, reduce stress to animal**

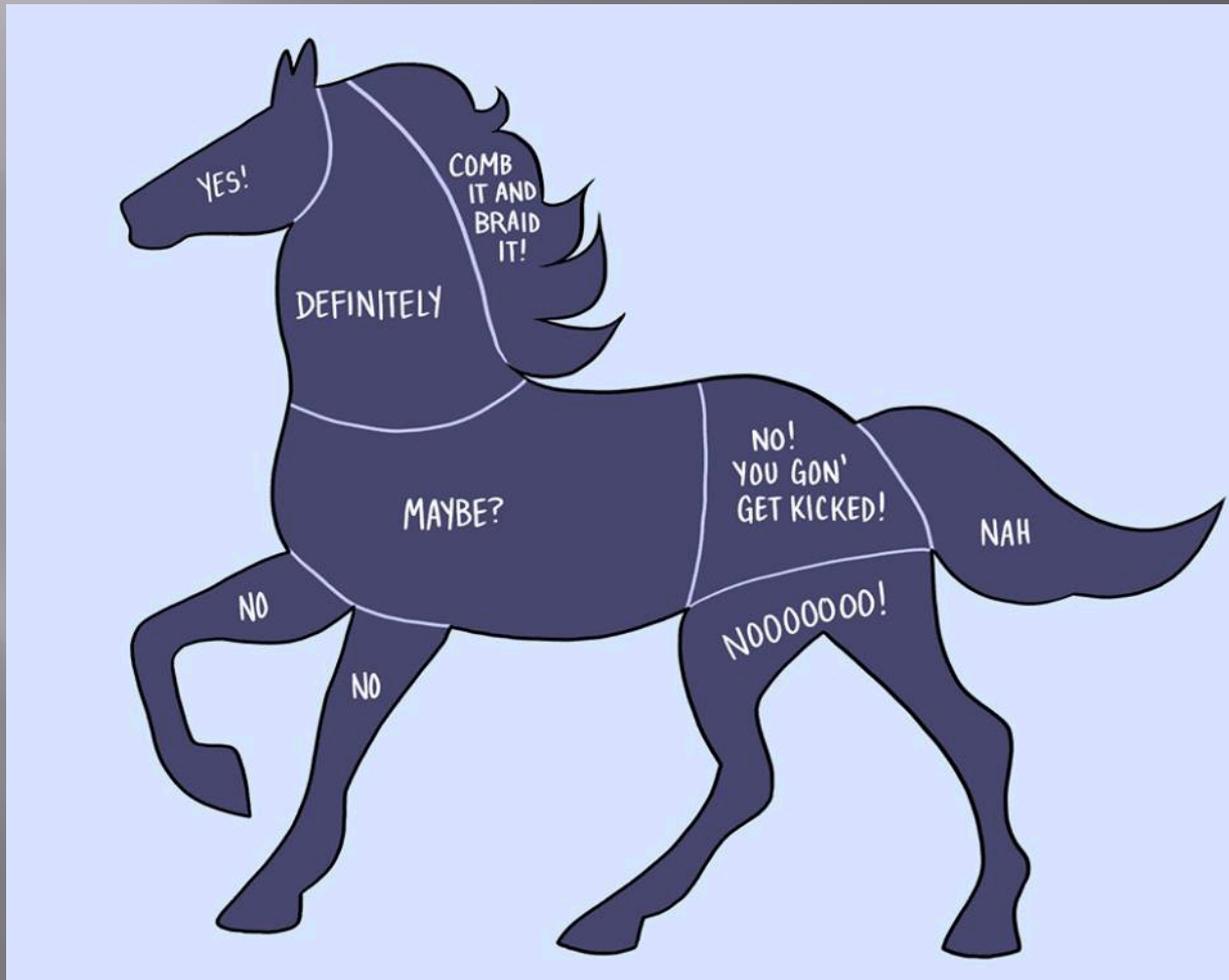
**Control Owner, bystanders - "I know horses"**

**Do not let owner coerce you into an unsafe, unplanned action**

**Contact team via landline or radio and advise on:**

- **Animal Condition**
- **Accessibility**
- **Available on scene staffing - include civilians**
- **Method of entrapment**
- **Paint a verbal picture of the entire scene**
- **If lifting is needed plan for machinery that can lift 1200 + #'s**

# Where to touch



# Professionalism



2012 Courtesy Bill Bourne, MILTON Fire Rescue, GA

# Some of the Rescue Methods



# Concepts that our team uses when working with livestock

- ▣ Watch animals' ears for warnings of impending responses to stimuli. Horses tip their ears toward whatever they're monitoring, an "ear radar" you can monitor.
- ▣ Animals tend to want to travel from dark to light (as from a dark barn toward the light of outdoors), they do not react well in a transition to blinding light
- ▣ Non-slip flooring is essential because animals get agitated when they begin to lose their footing
- ▣ Animals differentiate between screaming and yelling more than equipment noise. (Don't scream and yell around horses and other livestock.)
- ▣ Never surprise an animal. Don't do hard pats.
- ▣ Slow, gradual movements are best.
- ▣ Factors impacting an animal's "flight zone"
  - Previous experience with handlers
  - Amount of contact with people
  - The quality of that contact
- ▣ Avoid making sudden, erratic silent movements.
- ▣ For the horse that becomes very agitated or fearful - Give it time to calm down

“Read” the animal, DO NOT FORGET -- They are not humans !



# **INHERENT DANGER OF LARGE ANIMALS**

**People who work with large animals must realize that it is impossible to make horse or cattle handling completely safe**

**A well trained, normally calm horse or cow can spook unexpectedly**

**The risk can never be totally eliminated**

# Professional Trainer and handler with a horse



Please.....be careful !!



# THANK YOU !!!!

“Dedicated to man and animal alike”



## LARGE ANIMAL RESCUE TEAM