



WHAT'S UP DOC?

AUGUST 2017

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My Horse is Caught in a Fence!! Now What!!?

Everyone has that moment when they call in their horses and everyone comes running but that one. Where could that rascal possibly be? Too busy eating grass to come in? Laying down, enjoying the sun? Or is it something scary like being stuck in the mud, or trapped in fencing?

Step by step guide on helping to release your horse that is stuck in a wire fence:

1. Stay Calm. Running to your horse in a panic will help no one. Once you have located your horse in their predicament, get help from others. Trying to release your horse from fence alone is a recipe for further disaster.
2. Start with making a plan to release the horse with another person or two to help. Many horses will find it relaxing to have another animal buddy standing calmly nearby. You can also offer some hay to munch on while you complete your planning stage.

Remember, no matter how bad your day is going, at least you're not in a fence being laughed at by a cow.

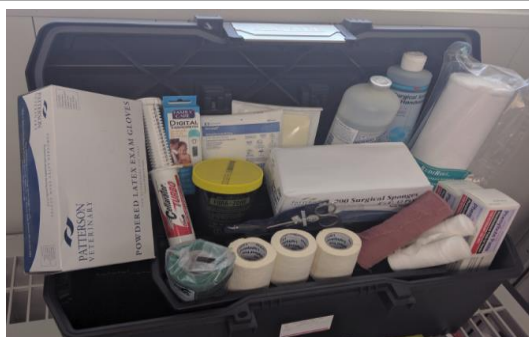


3. Call your local veterinarian!! Get their advice and/or ask them to come out to examine the horse. Many horses will have some shock symptoms or colic after such a traumatic experience. Also, have your Emergency First Aid Kit available for immediate use.
4. Get a sturdy halter and lead on the horse, this will be integral when keeping the horse under control during the wire cutting part. Have your helper with the most horse experience hold the lead rope. Sometimes owners are too emotionally involved and can cause more harm by causing panic.

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5. Have one or two people working the wire cutters or bolt cutters. Everyone should have a few good sets laying around for just such an emergency. First, cut the horse free of the wire in longer strands, then cut the smaller pieces from the horse; all the while trying to be very careful to not let the wire bump into or gouge the horse further.
6. Above all rescuer safety must be taken into account. If the horse is struggling too much to get near, veterinary assistance will be imperative. They will be able to sedate the horse for rescuer and horse safety.
7. After having been trapped, horses need to be observed for several hours. Multiple complications can occur in the hours following. Signs to look out for are swelling in the legs and abdomen, changes in body temperature, changes in heart rate, and symptoms of colic. If there are lacerations near or on the back of limbs, or around joints we recommend being seen by a veterinarian to ensure important structures are not involved.

No fence line can be completely horse safe, but regular fence line checks can hopefully prevent tangled horse emergencies. Having a fully stocked first aid kit with bandage materials which should include Nonstick gauze such as Telfa pads, gloves, bute paste, sterile saline, gauze wrap, vet wrap/Lightplast Pro wrap is always good practice. All of these materials can be purchased in a pack at Countryside Large Animal Veterinary Services in our small or large first aid kits. Countryside Large Animal Veterinary Services is available 24/7 for emergencies at 970-351-7045.



Forgetting Something?

Ready-for-the-show, the-race, the-ride, the-weekend

First Aid Kits

<p style="text-align: center;">Small Kit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cellarator[®] paste, Banamine paste, Bute Paste, Full Bucket[®] probiotic, Light Plast Tape, Sofform Gauze, 4x4 Copal Foam, Furason, Chlorhex Scrub, 4x4 Gauze Pads, Gloves, Thermometer</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Large Kit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Small Kit + 16" Redi Roll, Vetrap, Brown Gauze, Bandage Scissors, 500ml Saline</p>
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 Large Animal Veterinary Services, PLLC