

November 9th & 10th, 2018

Our vet assistant, Sarah, and I had the opportunity to attend an introductory course on technical large animal rescue. Dr. Rebecca Husted (formerly Gimenez) was the course instructor and has a PhD in Animal Physiology, many years of military service, and she established the Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue group. Over the past 20+ years she has been at the forefront of teaching large animal rescue techniques and emergency preparedness/response; we considered ourselves very fortunate to learn from her! It was a full house, with just over 100 attendees.



A lucky volunteer demonstrating "opposition reflex"

This was an "Awareness Level" course and focused on how to assess a large animal rescue situation and the basic tools and skills needed to resolve it. The next level of course, called "Operations Level" focuses more on hands-on experiences and I really look forward to hopefully being able to attend one of those in the future.

Probably one of the best things to come out of this course was networking with all of the people attending. Almost everyone there was either from a veterinary office, a coordinated equine group (such as trail riders), search and rescue teams, fire departments, and other emergency response personnel. There were also two individual horse owners who graciously shared their tragic stories of horses who had become entrapped after falling off of trails. Many may have heard of "The Sling Project" started by Mariann Deering after her horse, Chica, was spooked by a runner and fell off the trail and they were unable to locate a proper sling and helicopter to try and extricate her. They have raised nearly \$15,000 to purchase two Anderson slings which could help save other horse's lives. (her gofund me is at: <https://www.gofundme.com/the-sling-project>). Being able to coordinate resources and professionals throughout Oregon will be tremendously helpful for future rescue/disaster situations.



Learning about the helpful things on a fire engine



Very patient equine volunteer



Group photo

Both Sarah and I came away learning a lot! The Oregon Horse Council is planning to have Dr. Husted come back to Oregon (different locations) in the next few months for more Awareness courses, and it is definitely worth attending if you have the time!

~Dr. Lindsey Moneta



Modeling the Anderson Sling (minus the part the goes around the hindquarters)