



LEAST RESISTANCE TRAINING CONCEPTS

PROCEDURE GUIDE No. 20-15

AIR FOR PAWS PROCEDURES

Issue Date: 3-3-2020, Revised 2-21-23



This Procedure Guide supersedes all previous guides in order to comply with the latest Best Practices standards.

Discussion:

On occasion horses, and other pets and livestock (most commonly neonatal foals) are discovered in a distressed and hypoxic state. In such circumstances, the appropriate provision of supplemental oxygen can improve the animal's viability in support of other actions recommended by or being undertaken by a veterinarian. The Air For Paws kits provide for the safe and proper administration of supplemental oxygen and/or respiratory support. Kits are located on Rescues 1 and 3, Special Operations Support-1, Rescue-Transport 11, ISU-1, and also with strategically located first responders.

Responder Qualifications:

IS-100.c, IS-700.b, TLAR Emergency Horse Handling and TLAR Operations Level Modules, Air for Paws orientation.

1. Safety Policy:

- 1.1 Safety is the overarching priority in all responses. No procedure or protocol provided in this Procedure Guide shall supersede the use of sound judgment as may be appropriate to maximize incident safety.
- 1.2 All responders shall wear appropriate helmets at all times, and wear ANSI Class-II or Class-III vests or jackets whenever operating on or near any active traffic lanes.
- 1.3 In circumstances where responders cannot reliably communicate by direct voice, portable radios shall be utilized.

2 Initial Assessment / Deployment:

- 2.1 The Air For Paws kit should be deployed in the event an animal is displaying signs of hypoxia (gray-blue gums, lack of orientation, etc.,) hypothermia, or is having difficulty breathing.
- 2.2 A mask and Ambu bag should be selected as appropriate for the size of the animal's muzzle and the supply hose attached to the oxygen cylinder.

- 2.3 The oxygen cylinder valve shall be opened at least three (3) full turns.
- 2.4 The regulator should be set to at least 15 LPM flow for foals and other larger animals. The flow rate can be adjusted down for dogs and other small animals to extend the service times of the oxygen cylinders. When delivering lower flow rates, constant assessments should be made to determine that sufficient oxygen is being delivered.
- 2.5 For “blow by” supplemental oxygen, the mask should be held as close to the animal’s muzzle as it can tolerate, but allow for the inhalation of both supplemental oxygen and outside air.
- 2.6 For ventilation assistance, the rescuer should:
 - 2.6.1 Extend the Ambu bag from its collapsed position.
 - 2.6.2 Place a hand over the mask with the oxygen fully flowing to inflate the reservoir bag.
 - 2.6.3 Place the mask fully onto the muzzle to provide a seal.
 - 2.6.4 Compress the Ambu bag at the rate of 20 breaths per minute (once every 3 seconds.)
- 2.7 When ventilating, the rescuer should watch for chest rise but also be careful not to overinflate smaller animals.
- 2.8 Horses and larger animals can consume significant amounts of oxygen. When an Air For Paws kit is put into use, requests for additional oxygen cylinders from other responders should be made at once.

3 Veterinary Support:

- 3.1 The application of the Air For Paws kit is intended to improve viability at the scene and during transport, and to provide support for appropriate veterinary services. It is not intended to be applied in lieu of a veterinarian when definitive care is warranted and a qualified veterinarian is available.

4 Conclusion of Operations:

- 4.1 Any masks used on any animal shall be thoroughly washed with mild soap and water and dried prior to being returned to service.
- 4.2 Any oxygen cylinders that have less than 1500 psi in reserve shall be removed from service for refilling. Cylinders that require refilling shall be tagged or have red tape applied at or near the valve and be placed in the shop office.

5. Repairs / Spare Air For Paws Kit:

- 5.1 A spare Air For Paws kit will be available in ISU-1 in the event a kit is removed from service for cleaning or repairs.
- 5.2 Any kit requiring maintenance or repairs should be tagged describing the issue(s) that require attention, and be left in the Shop Office.

6. Oxygen Cylinders:

- 6.1 Fresh oxygen cylinders should register about 2,000 psi pressure. They can be identified by “FULL” tags or green tape on or near the valves.
- 6.2 In-use cylinders not connected to regulators that contain at least 1500 psi pressure may also display “IN USE” tags or green tape, but the tape should be marked “IN USE.”
- 6.3 Cylinders that are empty or hold less than 1500 psi should be tagged as “EMPTY” or have Red tape applied near the valve and left for refilling.

7. Air For Paws Inventory:

- 7.1 Inventory should be checked after each use and also at least quarterly.
- 7.2 Inventory:
 - 1) Air For Paws equipment bag
 - 1) 0-15 LPM regulator
 - 1) M6 (small) oxygen cylinder
 - 1) Small Ambu bag and small facemask
 - 1) Large Ambu bag and large facemask
 - 2) Oxygen cylinder valve keys, one in the main pocket and one in the side pocket
 - 1) Zip-lock bag with at least six spare regulator washers – side pocket
 - 2) ½-inch x 8-inch clear hoses (for snake bites)
 - 1) 3/8-inch x 18-inch black hose (for large horse resuscitation)
 - 1) Clean cloth
 - 1) Lanyard
 - 1) Hypothermia field guide and normal vital signs card – side pocket
 - 1) CPR for Pets instruction card (also applicable to foals)
 - 1) Small tube of petroleum jelly

Responders should also review:

Resource Guide: Air For Paws Animal Resuscitation Kits

<http://www.whmentors.org/evac/afp01.html>

Air For Paws Training Video – Lyon County, 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DliDRhKH6l4>