



LEAST RESISTANCE TRAINING CONCEPTS
PROCEDURE GUIDE No. 20-21
EUTHANASIA



Issue Date: 1-13-2020; Revised 11-1-2022

This Procedure Guide supersedes all previous guides in order to comply with the latest Lyon County and state training and operations standards.

Discussion:

On occasion we receive reports of sick or injured horses found in public areas. In most instances, the injuries are not significant. This Procedure Guide applies to those instances where upon examination the horse is diseased or injured beyond any reasonable expectation of recovery and should be humanely euthanized.

Legal Issues:

NRS 574.110 Abandonment of disabled animal unlawful; penalty.

1. A person being the owner or possessor, or having charge or custody, of a maimed, diseased, disabled or infirm animal, who abandons such animal or leaves it to die in a public street, road or public place, or who allows it to lie in a public street, road or public place more than 3 hours after the person receives notice that it is left disabled, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
2. Any agent or officer of any society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or of any society duly incorporated for that purpose, or any police officer, may lawfully destroy or cause to be destroyed any animal found abandoned and not properly cared for, appearing, in the judgment of two reputable citizens called by the agent or officer to view the same in his or her presence, to be glandered, injured or diseased past recovery for any useful purpose, or after such agent or officer has obtained in writing from the owner of such animal the owner's consent to such destruction.

Responder Qualifications:

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

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 Incident Organization / Chain of Command:

- 2.1 Each response shall have an Incident Commander (IC) who will direct the activities being undertaken. Operations that cannot be resolved in the field will be coordinated through the Range Manager or her designate, who will authorize relocation, veterinary care and related actions.

3 Incident Assessment:

- 3.1 Responders shall assess to the greatest degree practicable the illness or injuries affecting the horse to which they have been called.
- 3.2 Because reporting parties often insert subjective drama in their reports, animals will be assessed "in the first person" before any treatment or destination options are considered. Animals shall not be "diagnosed" long-distance or be based on the opinions of unqualified bystanders. This policy is not intended to preclude bringing potentially useful supplies and equipment to the scene in the event such items may be needed once a competent assessment is made and a treatment plan determined.

4 Euthanasia:

- 4.1 If a veterinarian is in attendance and a consensus is reached that the horse is not likely to recover, and that transportation to a facility for care would prolong pain and suffering, the horse may be euthanized by the veterinarian.
- 4.2 When a veterinarian is not in attendance, and upon findings of disease or injury "past recovery for any useful purpose" as prescribed in NRS-574.110(2), a Brand Inspector, an officer from the Department of Public Safety or county or local law enforcement for the jurisdiction where the horse is found may be summoned to euthanize the horse.

5 Disposal of Euthanized Horses:

- 5.1 If a euthanized horse is in a public place and no state, tribal, county or local agency or private party is able to remove it, responders should make reasonable attempts to remove the horse as may be safe and practicable per Procedure Guide 20-21, Disposal of Animals.
- 5.2 If the horse is not euthanized by means of barbiturates, it may be relocated to an approved location away from customary public view in order to be naturally consumed.
- 5.3 If the horse has been euthanized by means of barbiturates, it shall be removed to an appropriate large animal burial site (i.e., Carson or Lockwood Landfill) as soon as is practicable to prevent wildlife or domestic animals from feeding on the carcass.

6 Documentation:

- 6.1 Attempts shall be made to identify the euthanized horse using WHIMS and details shall be provided to the Range Manager.
- 6.2 Responders authorized to make entries into WHIMS should update the data base once the deceased horse is positively identified.

7. Interference by Bystanders:

- 7.1 Interference by bystanders can create distractions that can impact the safety and performance of field operations. Furthermore, allowing bystanders to interfere can create liability issues. Bystanders shall be removed, by law enforcement if necessary, when euthanasia operations are being undertaken.

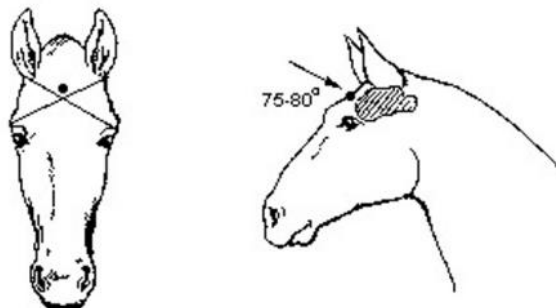
8. Field Euthanasia Practices:

(Next page)

Euthanasia

Field Euthanasia

- Gunshot to the head
- Captive bolt



Euthanasia

Field Euthanasia

- Gunshot to the head
- Captive bolt

