

# Loops Equine Rescue System



**Loops Equine Rescue System (LERS)** is a simplified lifting or drag system for horse owners, veterinarians, first responder rescuers or others to help a horse that is down or trapped.



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# Loops Equine Rescue System (LERS)

There are occasions where a simplified lifting or drag system is needed by a horse owner, veterinarian, first responder rescuer or others to help a horse that is down (recumbent) or trapped. The Loops Equine Rescue System can help in many situations. This simplified system came from needs identified by the UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT) and was developed by UC Davis Faculty Drs. John Madigan and Monica Aleman. We have used the system in live horses and found it to be a rapid, practical and easy to use system. It is designed for short term field use situations and does not replace prior full body lifting systems including the Anderson Sling and the UC Davis Large Animal Lift. The advantages to this system is that it lifts by the skeletal system, there are no knots, no J hooks, no metal bars and it fits in a backpack size bag which can be carried in a horse trailer or be in the tack room.

**CAUTION:** working with any horse that is recumbent or trapped is DANGEROUS and can result in **further injury to the horse or injury or death** to the person attempting to help the horse. You are advised to seek specific training in the safe approach to horses in incidents prior to attempting use of the LERS. Always seek and obtain veterinary involvement and supervision for safety for yourself and horses and to determine if sedation or anesthesia is needed for a particular rescue situation.

The following pages have brief illustrations and QR code links to videos for review prior to attempting use of the LERS in any equine incident. QR code is a free app which can be downloaded to your phone and is bar code which directs you to a video clip of the procedure illustrated.

## What's in the LERS system

- Four 6 foot loops made by TUFLEX-LiftAll polyester roundsling Type EN60 – 6 ft VERTICAL 5300lbs – several sources [www](#).
- 2 non lock carabineers – [www](#).
- The full kit with illustration booklet can be found on the web from manufacturers of other lifting equipment including the Anderson Sling and the Large Animal Lift.



# Rear Drag – using body and tail pull method

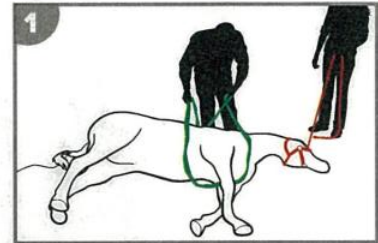


Placing a tail-tie rope, use the loop around the sternum to pull the horse backwards. Use a skid, if you have one.

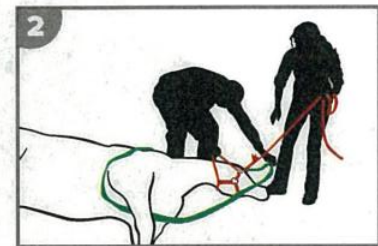
## REAR DRAG using body and tail pull method

**USES:** Pulling a down horse from a trailer or pulling a down horse on a skid to load into a trailer for transport to a clinic.

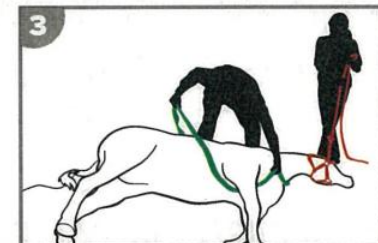
**Precautions:** Obtain veterinary input for sedation or anesthesia prior to using. Use tail tie below bone of tail using tail hairs to secure rope or loop. Human pull on tail only- two people pressure is safe for tail pull in this fashion accompanied by chest pull. Control and protect head and eyes.



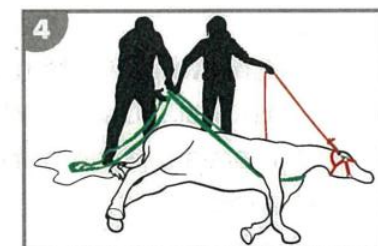
1 Place loop under upper leg



2 Place loop over head and slide under the head and neck



3 Adjust the placement of the loop, tightening the loop under the forearm and across the sternum



4 Pull the loop toward the horse's rump, take another loop and place on the end of the first loop



# Horizontal Drag

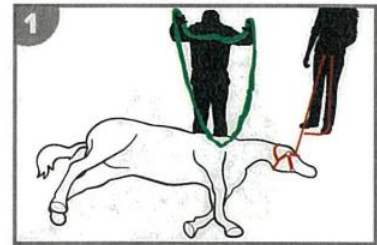


Horizontal drag – pull!

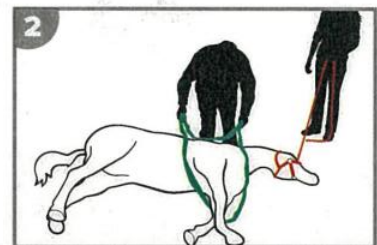
## HORIZONTAL DRAG

**USES:** Pulling a down horse from entrapment, or pulling to safe location, or pulling anesthetized down horse into trailer for hauling to a veterinary clinic.

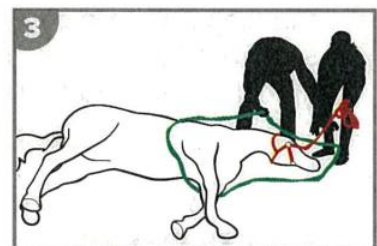
**Precautions:** Obtain veterinary input for sedation or anesthesia. Use a skid or glide under horse. Stay in safe area behind horse. Control and protect head and eyes.



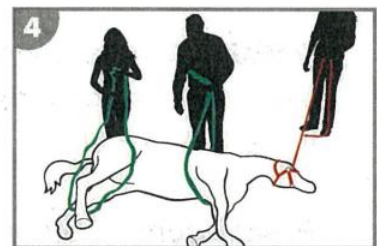
1 Toss front loop over both front legs.



2 Pull loop under both front legs.



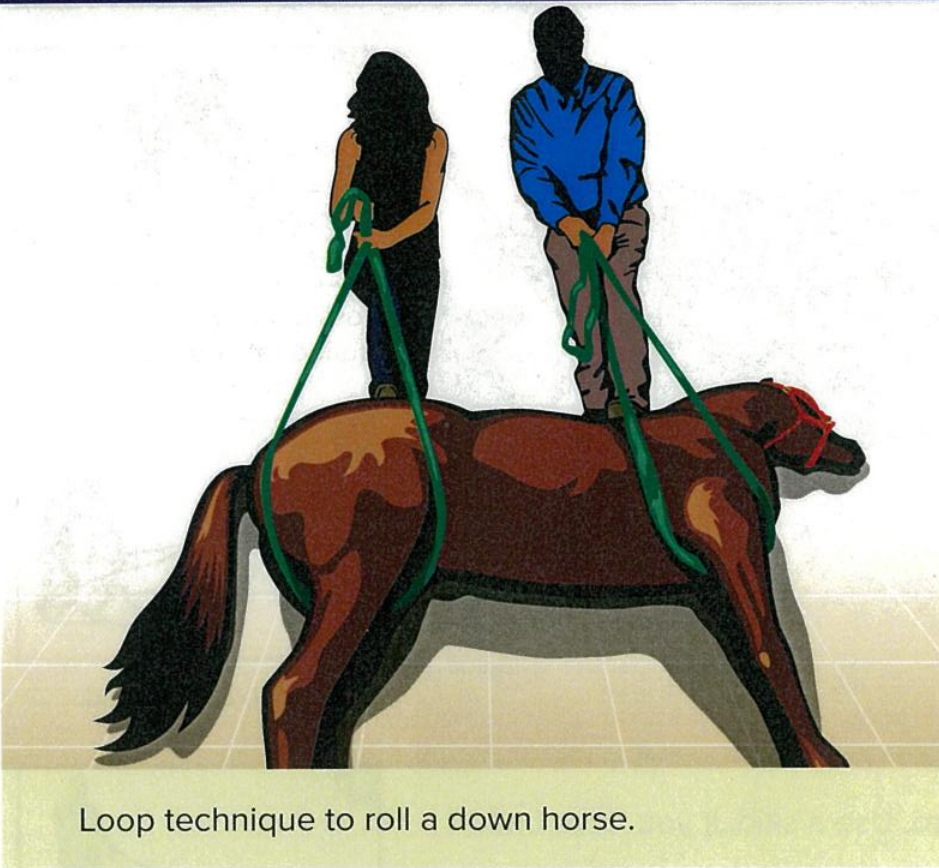
3 Place loop under head.



4 Pull rear loop under top leg.



# Rolling a Down Horse

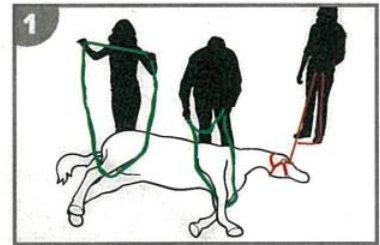


Loop technique to roll a down horse.

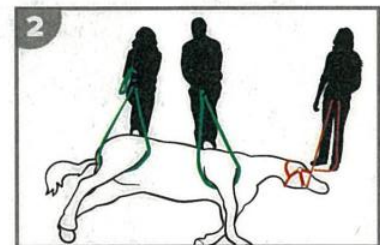
## ROLLING A DOWN HORSE

**USES:** Rolling a down horse which cannot stand may allow the horse to have better strength and stand from the new position. Removing a horse cast up against a wall.

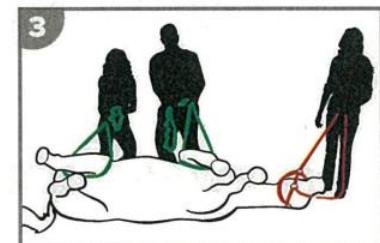
**Precautions:** Stay a safe distance from legs and feet when horse is rolled. Immediately step back from the horse upon completion of rolling and exit the area to allow the horse to stand. Horse may struggle and fall. Stay clear of horse and legs. Always have a buddy system and exit.



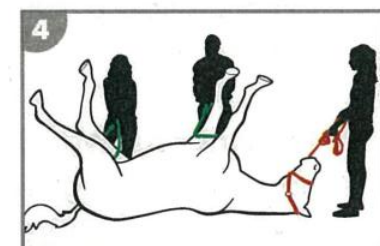
Toss loops over both upper legs.



Place foot on back of horse to establish leverage for pull.



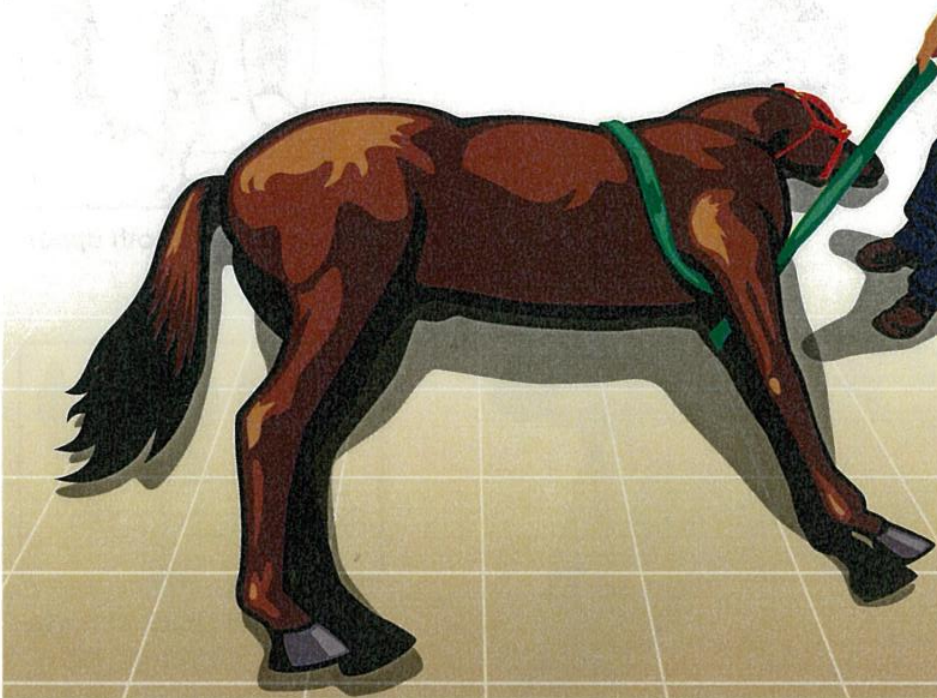
Pull horse and begin roll.



Immediately step backwards away from the horse as it rolls towards you.



# Forward Assist

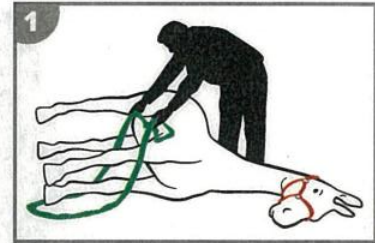


Assist the horse forward. Use a skid, if you have one.

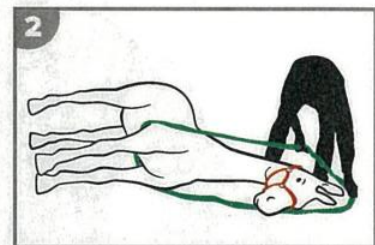
## FORWARD ASSIST

**USES:** Pulling a horse in the direction of the head using the whole body. Horses trapped in mud, confined space, standing horse trapped in steep ravines.

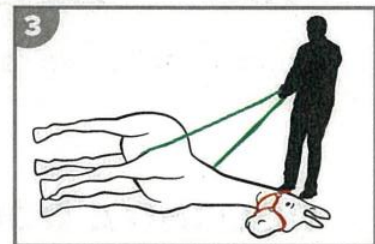
**Precautions:** Work from the withers side of the horse, allow long enough extension to stand clear of the front of the horse if leaps forward, have control of the head at all times.



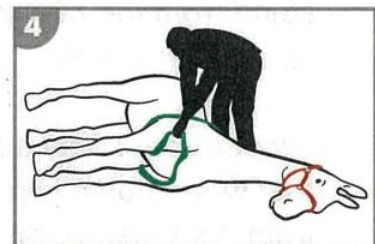
1  
Toss loop over both legs from a safe position.



2  
Place loop under head.



3  
Slide loop down neck to center of body.



4  
Place loop between front legs.



# Rear Assist

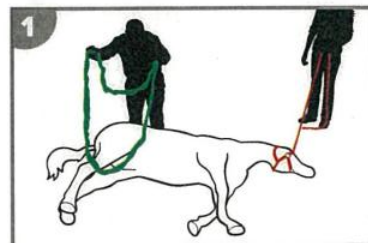


Assist the horse rearward. Use a skid, if you have one.

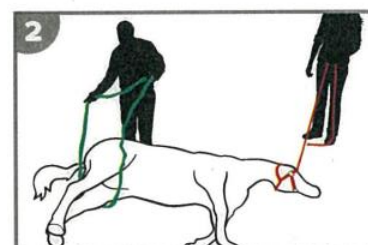
## REAR ASSIST

**USES:** Pulling a horse in the opposite direction of the head using the whole body. Horses trapped in mud, confined space.

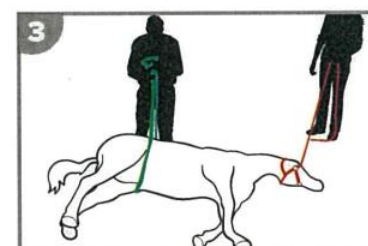
**Precautions:** Work from the withers side of the horse, allow long enough extension to stand clear of the horse if leaps forward, have control of the head at all times.



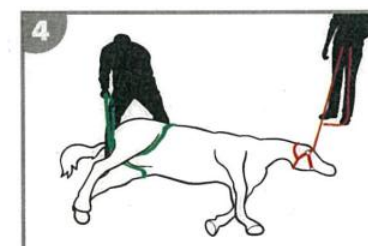
1  
Toss loop over both rear legs.



2  
Pull loop under both legs and under rump.



3  
Pull loop under rump and body.



4  
Place loop between rear legs.



**UC Davis Veterinary Emergency  
Response Team (VERT)**

email: [jemadigan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jemadigan@ucdavis.edu)