



# “The Roundup”

## Orange County Horse Council

Volume 3, Issue 7

### Helping A Cast Horse by Annamaria Tadlock

A "cast" horse refers to one that is stuck on the ground for some reason-- either its legs are under a fence, or the horse has rolled up near a wall or object that prevents it from being able to get up. Sometimes a horse can become cast in a ditch or depression in the ground, and mares heavy in foal can be unable to rise if they roll and their legs are uphill from their body.

Horses are not designed to spend long periods of time on the ground. Horses are able to sleep standing up, which is what they do most of the time. When they do lay down to sleep, it's often for only a short time. When a horse is cast, it is at risk for injuries. Cast horses may panic and thrash, injuring themselves on a fence or wall. They can injure their eyes or neck when they struggle to get up. Horses down for long periods of time, especially those lying on their back, may actually suffocate from the pressure of their digestive system pressing against their lungs. Horses may become cast when they colic and try to roll, or may twist an intestine struggling to stand when cast. Many horses that become cast can get themselves up with just a little help. They only need to be moved far enough away from a wall so that they can get their legs under them and struggle to their feet.

If your horse is cast, don't panic. Look at the situation and see what needs to be done-- if the horse is against a wall, it may only need to be dragged a few inches away. Or, the horse may be flipped over so that it can stand. Be careful and stay away from the horse's legs-- a cast horse may panic or struggle to stand, especially when you begin to help him and he feels that he can stand on his own. If your horse is stuck with their legs beneath a fence, see if you can first move the fence away (for example, if it is a portable panel that can be moved). If that can't be done easily, you'll need to get someone to help you drag the horse back.

Try to get a rope beneath them, or at least loop it under one leg and the neck so you aren't pulling on the horse's leg alone. You may be able to gently pull the horse's neck (and front end) away from the fence so that he can stand. Be careful that you don't injure the horse's eye when you drag him-- you may be able to place a towel, or lift his head as you pull him back. Horses can panic when cast, so you have to be careful that you aren't struck with a flying hoof in the process. You should be able, using a rope, to drag the horse away. Horses are heavy so you will probably need another person or two to assist you.

Horses that have been properly sacked out (desensitized) will usually be much calmer in emergency situations than horses that haven't. If a horse is thrashing, stay away from the hooves. You can still approach from the horse's back and throw a rope around the leg. Don't ever tie a rope around the leg-- when the horse stands or struggles he can become caught up. Instead just loop it around and hold both ends of the rope, so it can be dropped quickly when the horse begins to stand.

The best way to free a horse, however, is to gently roll it over so that it can stand on its own. If its legs are under a fence, this won't be possible, but if the horse has been cast by rolling up against a wall or other object, you can probably flip them over. Put a rope around each leg that is against the ground, and gently flip the horse over. It does not take much strength to do this, however you have to be careful not to get kicked. That is why you should use ropes, instead of just grabbing and flipping the horse over. When the horse gets flipped over it may struggle suddenly to stand, so make sure you aren't in harm's way.

My sister and I were feeding horses in the barn (Oregon winters don't permit them to be outside all the time) and was lucky to be there when my Appaloosa, Zippo, cast himself. He decided to roll in his stall, which normally wouldn't cause a problem. However, he laid down right next to the wall and his hind legs got stuck up against a wall when he rolled. He struggled a bit but was unable to get up, so I went in the stall and made sure he was calm (a thrashing horse is difficult to rescue). He was very calm and just lay there while I placed a rope around a leg and under his chest (I didn't want it just over the leg, which if we pulled on might cause injury). We scraped back the shavings that had built up behind him from his struggling and were able to gently drag him far enough from the wall (less than a foot) so he could get himself up.

The next time a horse was cast was years later. I was outside doing something and I heard this scraping sound coming from the roundpen. Like a thud, then a scrape. I went down to check on the horses and found that the Tennessee Walker Maverick had managed to roll right up against the roundpen wall. He was stuck with his hind legs against the wall, unable to get up. He would kick the wall then let his hoof fall back down, making the sounds. Apparently he had been rolling and rolled all the way over, with his hooves landing against the wall. In this case, it was easy to just flip him over so he was free of the wall and able to stand.

*Remember to put your safety first when assisting a cast horse!*



Orange County  
Horse Council

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## Learn What Works for You! Part 6 *By: Anthony Congelosi, Paul Congelosi Trailer Sales*

There are some events that we read about on the internet or in the morning newspaper that we want to believe will never happen to us. However, accidents and emergencies do happen; no one is perfect, and we have to be prepared for any situation that may be presented. Because of this, I would like to discuss what we can do to be prepared for emergency situations, especially situations that involve hauling our horse trailers.

In the previous issue, we discussed different ways to be prepared for a trip, such as what supplies to bring for your horses, for yourself, and what you can do to make sure your trailer is ready to go. The Department of Transportation has set forth guidelines that require any person with a vehicle combination (truck and trailer) over 10,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight to carry: a fire extinguisher, a set of warning triangles, and spare fuses for your vehicle. The fire extinguisher should be mounted inside your vehicle so that it is accessible by the driver of the vehicle. This is done for the simple fact that if you are traveling alone, you need to be able to immediately access the fire extinguisher, not have to run around the outside of the vehicle to grab it. The set of warning triangles is meant to warn oncoming traffic if you are pulled over to the side of the road. The triangles have reflectors on them for night time situations. As for the fuses, many newer vehicles use separate fuses just for running the functions of the trailer, including lights and brakes. Check your owner's manual to determine which fuses you may need to carry as replacements and where fuse panels are located.

One of the most common "emergency" situations is a flat tire on your trailer. We have spare tires available for all of the different trailers we sell, although many trailers do not include a spare tire with purchase. In addition to the spare tire, another valuable item to carry is called a Jiffy Jack. To change a flat tire, all you have to do is drive the tire that still has air in it onto the Jiffy Jack, and the other tire will be elevated enough to be changed. You can also use Slime in your tires. Slime will prevent air from coming out of a hole in the tread of your tires that is up to a quarter of an inch.

When you come to see us, ask us about the different products we carry to help aid you in the case of an emergency. It is better to be safe than sorry, and we would like to help keep you prepared. If you have any questions about this topic or others, feel free to email me at [Anthony@congelositrailersales.com](mailto:Anthony@congelositrailersales.com). Additionally, we would love to know what other topics you would like us to cover, so contact us with that information as well. Happy Trailering!

If you want to be respected, you must respect yourself.  
**Spanish Proverb**

## Deworming

Worms can be very destructive to your horse. Here is a list of different worms and the damage they can do:

- Roundworms, or Ascarids, can cause colic, heart damage, liver and lung damage, and in older horses and foals can injure the gut.
- Large Strongyles, (bloodworms) can destroy arterial walls and blood vessels, impare circulation and lead to colic, anemia, diarrhea, fever, unthriftiness, brain damage and other disorders.
- Small strongyles can lead to inflammaton of the intestines, resulting in anorexia, weight loss and chronic low grade colic.
- Bots induce dental disease, stomach irritations, ulcerations and perforations of the stomach wall.
- Pinworms irritate the horse's tail region, causing tail rubbing.
- Tapeworms may result in severe ulcerations of the large intestine.

Horses need to be dewormed every 6-8 weeks in order to stay healthy. It is a good idea to switch dewormers every once in a while, to prevent the worms from becoming ammune to one wormer. Also, different wormers kill different kinds of worms, so if you rotate different dewormers, you will be sure to kill all different kinds of worms.

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courtesy of the following businesses:

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ya know what..USRTC, WCTRA, WTRA, NFR,  
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when ya don't remember Birthdays but ya  
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**Attention Current Equine Businesses!**

OCHC is embracing local equine businesses.  
During the year OCHC will promote our events,  
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fair to all our local industry. The ads listed above are \$15  
an issue, and help to defray our costs.  
I will be seeking out future stories, jokes, and light  
articles of interest. So, please drop me a line. **Contact  
Debbie at: [DebbieSchiraldi@hvc.rr.com](mailto:DebbieSchiraldi@hvc.rr.com)**

**ORANGE COUNTY HORSE COUNCIL'S**

**2ND ANNUAL  
HORSE SHOW & EXPO**



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is wearing the same number of horse in ring.

**THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE YOUR SALES HORSES !**



Orange County  
Horse Council, Inc.  
P.O. Box 522  
Goshen, NY 10924



**Please remember to  
remove manure from area  
parking lots!**

### **Orange County Horse Council Presents: 2009 Horse Show and Expo in the Hudson Valley**

Mark your calendars for October 25, 2009 and join us for a fun day at Thomas Bull Park in Montgomery, New York. We are so excited to host a horse show for everyone, no matter what your discipline: English, Western, Speed Events and Driving. There will also be a “Cowboy Versatility” class to challenge you and your horse, with a \$50 cash prize going to the top team of the day. Great class prizes and division prizes include cash, gift certificates and plenty of tack to add to your collection. And if you’re a trainer, plan on bringing all of your students to the show -- there’s a \$100 high point trainer award too! If you need a break from riding during the day, walk around and visit the many vendors who will be spending the day at the park with us, sharing information and selling their horse-related items all day long.

Our judges for the day are Mary Jane Mitchell and Ken Fairfax.

Prize lists, order of go, entry forms and all of the information pertaining to the show can be found on our web site ([www.orangecountyhc.com](http://www.orangecountyhc.com)) by clicking on the “2009 Horse Show” link.

**SO SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, October 25, 2009 for  
the OCHC Horse Show & Expo!**

