

Lift Harness Application

Use: For temporary short term (10 minutes max) lifts

Materials:

- 50' or more of 1 ½" wildland fire hose, 1" rope, or 2 " webbing
- 9-12' of 1" webbing for cut away wrap 3 pull 2

Personnel:

- Two persons to rig
- One animal handler to control animal's head

Procedure:

1. Place center of hose over withers of animal.
2. Tie an overhand knot low on chest, avoiding the trachea (during lift everything will slide up, can chock animal).
3. Feed both ends between legs and bring up to cross over back. Remove twists in hose, taking up slack as you go.
4. Feed both ends between hind legs and bring up making an overhand knot at top of tail, taking up slack.
5. Run both ends forward towards the animals head working them under the crossed hose and the loop of hose at the withers, pulling all slack out of system.
6. Circle the hose by looping both ends up over and back under the X and wither loop.
7. Cross ends around the wither knot twice, finish with a square knot.
8. Tuck ends of hose under or tie off on back to keep out of way.
9. Use the 9' webbing to make a wrap 3 pull 2 cutaway strap around the wither knot.
10. Attach a carabiner to the 1" webbing to attach your lifting rope.

- Discuss need to sedate animal prior to lift with veterinarian
- Mark center of rope/webbing/hose before starting to rig
- Keep the hose as tight as possible throughout the rigging process as it will stretch and ride up during the lift
- The lift point is generally at the withers and will need to be adjusted a little forward or backward depending upon the species of animal to keep the animal level during the lift
- Blindfolding animal may keep it calmer during rigging and lift, duct tape over eye area of a fly mask or cover face with a towel and secure under halter
- Animal handler maintains control of animals head, advises riggers of animal's attitude/stress level and need for breaks
- Animal may thrash or struggle at beginning of lift but will typically go limp when off ground
- Animal will usually try to move as feet touch ground
- Be prepared to quickly cut away from lifting apparatus
- Keep hose coiled and tidy to keep out of dirt and make it easier to transfer around animal while rigging
- Use pike pole, boat hook or J hook to feed hose under/around recumbent (down) animal

