

Häst Water Rescue Harness



This harness is designed to be placed on a large animal with the intention of providing attachment points for the purposes of maintaining buoyancy. It is not intended, nor strong enough, to perform a vertical lift above the water. The closed cell foam in the saddle of the harness is sufficient to keep the harness from sinking while the chest portion under the neck provides about 32 pounds of buoyancy.

Rescuing a large animal in ice or water is an inherently dangerous activity, and the rescuers must be properly training in water rescue and assume the risks that may be association with an excited animal.

The intended configuration for this harness is to be placed on, typically a horse, similar to the way one would put on a driving harness. As the pads in the saddle are filled with a closed cell floatation foam, they will naturally rise. Note the configuration in the picture above. The quick ejector snaps with the orange polypropylene loops are placed on the same side of the animal on the same side of the Häst label. The quick ejector snaps can only be placed in the silver ring. The larger bronze D rings on the top of the saddle and on the girth are present for the attachment of auxiliary floats or lines that may be required as part of the rescue. The chest float in front provides about 32 pounds of floatation. This should assist the animal in keeping its neck and head above water.

When applying the harness, the long snaps (without the quick ejector feature), should be on the far side of the animal. Keeping these snaps attached will prevent sinking or loss of equipment. The girth can be fed under the chest by either a swimmer, or the use of a float to carry the end to the near side. Then the quick ejector snap is attached to the silver ring. The chest float is attached in a similar manner. When the harness is removed, a quick pull on the orange polypropylene loops will disconnect the harness immediately. Be careful, as the harness will float to the far side, and this action might cause the animal to move towards the rescuer.

Häst recognizes that technical large animal rescue is an evolving art and science. We are always working to improve our products. We appreciate hearing from our customers on real life rescues so that we might continue to bring only the highest of quality of equipment.

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