

## CAPTURING AN ESCAPED HORSE PROTOCOL

*A loose, panicked horse can be a danger to himself, other animals or property*

Even though we do our best to prevent horses escaping from stalls, paddocks, pens, pastures, and from the (ranch) premises, there are some (horses) that manage to circumvent our efforts to keep them safe.

This document outlines the protocol to be followed for capturing an escaped horse, either within the property, or off the property.

If a horse has escaped from a pasture, paddock or barn and you can still see him, **Do Not Chase After Him**. Horses dislike being alone and will (usually) seek other horses for protection and company.

Make sure you have a lead rope and halter in hand, and try luring him back with food;

- Place a handful of grain or treats in the bottom of a bucket. Stand quietly where he can see you and shake the bucket, calling softly to the horse to get his attention,
- If he's wearing a halter, you can grab the halter when he comes close to eat. If not, let him take a few mouthfuls of food while you slip the halter and lead rope on him to lead him back to safety.

If a horse has escaped the premises (ranch), make sure you have a lead rope and halter in hand - follow him - **Do Not Chase After Him** - a frightened horse will run for a little while, then stop to graze or join up with other horses.

Once he stops, stand quietly:

- With a handful of grain or treats in the bottom of a bucket, shake the bucket calling softly to the horse to get his attention,
- If he's wearing a halter, you can grab the halter when he comes close to eat. If not, let him take a few mouthfuls of food while you slip the halter and lead rope on him to lead him back to safety.

### **Remember**

- If the horse is out of control, or heading for a major highway or gallops out of site, **call 911 IMMEDIATELY**
- Body Language is key – STAY CALM – BE PATIENT – MOVE SLOWLY
- Most of our horses have had some level of natural horsemanship training, making it easier for the person(s) capturing the horse to gain control of the body parts of the horse with certain movements.
- Try to get the horse to look at you with both eyes, and approach at his shoulder.

**For Safety reasons - visitors and non-qualified volunteers are not allowed to help**