



WATER SAFETY AND RESCUE TRAINING COURSES



ANIMAL RESCUE

About Rescue 3 Europe

Rescue 3 Europe develops state of the art technical rescue courses, providing internationally recognised accreditation for organisations and individuals operating in high risk environments.

As an international accrediting body, Rescue 3 provide up to date best practice guidance that is constantly evolving in line with new research and testing. All changes and developments of Rescue 3 courses go through a process of peer review and oversight by a steering committee made up of industry experts from all over the world.

Rescue 3 training providers deliver courses worldwide, in multiple disciplines, including: rope, water, boat, ice and confined space rescue. Our large suite of courses have been adopted by mountain rescue teams, wind turbine operators, fire and rescue services, ambulance teams, utilities providers, and military personnel.

Within each discipline, Rescue 3 accredited courses cover every level of operations, whether this is at an awareness level, avoiding risks and applying simple safe systems of work; or at more advanced levels where practitioners must acquire high levels of personal skills and understanding to access and navigate difficult environments.

For over four decades Rescue 3 has provided the standard for technical rescue training, offering guidance and support for maintaining best practice.





The course learning outcomes are provided as pre- and post-course reference for people involved in the delivery of Rescue 3 courses (eg Rescue 3 training providers, instructors and students). They are not to be used for any other purpose without the express written permission of Rescue 3 Europe.

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Animal Awareness (AA)

Course overview and target audience

Animal Awareness is a course that looks at hazards and risks associated with animal rescues. It provides first attendance crews with the knowledge to assess the scene, recognise when to wait for specialist crews and or/make the scene safe and set up appropriate command and control. People only trained to Awareness level shouldn't perform animal rescues.

Contact hours 3.5 hours (0.5 days)	Prerequisites None
Qualification valid for 3 years	Accredited by Rescue 3 Europe

Taught by

- Animal Awareness Instructor (AAI)
- Animal Rescue Instructor (ARI)

Assessment

The assessed elements of this course are:

- Foundation knowledge



Animal Awareness (AA) skill sheet contents

Theory
1. Rescue 3 philosophy
2. Animal rescue best practice guidelines
3. Animal rescue environments
4. Introduction to personal equipment
5. Introduction to animal rescue equipment
6. Pre-planning
7. Animal incident management and site control
8. Decontamination considerations
9. Communications
10. Vets and other responders
11. Animal behaviour - pets and livestock
12. Animal behaviour - wild animals
13. Animal behaviour during rescues
14. Animal behaviour in and around water
15. Basic medical considerations for animals
16. Chemical sedation considerations
17. Euthanasia considerations
18. Zoonosis
19. Pet owners
20. Livestock professionals
21. Introduction to body language with animals

AA



Animal Awareness (AA) learning outcomes and key teaching points

	Skill sheet element		Learning outcome	Key teaching points
1	Rescue 3 philosophy	1.1	Recall the steps required in order to develop judgement.	Training. Practice. Experience. Judgement.
		1.2	Explain the order of priorities at a rescue scene.	Self > team > victim.
		1.3	Recall the remit and role of an individual trained to this level.	Animal Awareness remit and role. Operating within the environment for which they are previously trained (eg SFR, SRT, WRT-PRO).
2	Animal rescue best practice guidelines	2.1	Apply the Best Practice Guidelines for Animal Rescue combine to produce safer working practice.	Best Practice Guidelines for Animal Rescue (formerly known as 15 Absolutes).
3	Animal rescue environments	3.1	Recall environments in which animal rescues may take place.	Water (still, moving eg rivers, floodwater), mud, ice, roads, buildings, farms.
		3.2	Identify hazards and control measures for performing animal rescues in a variety of environments.	Environmental factors for specific locations. Appropriate levels of training for the environments. Appropriate PPE for the environment as well as the animal.
4	Introduction to personal equipment	4.1	Identify personal protective equipment (PPE) for performing animal rescues.	Appropriate to environment, such as full water-related PPE, overalls etc, high-vis vests, goggles, gloves.
		4.2	Recall post-use care and inspection procedures for issued personal equipment.	PPE inspection, drying, storage and care. Additional zoonosis considerations.
5	Introduction to animal rescue equipment	5.1	Identify equipment used in animal rescues.	Head collars, lead ropes, strop guides, crooks, strops, head protection, hobbles, ropes, catch poles, leads, muzzles, bite gloves, scratch mitts, visors, carry bags, rescue skids, pig boards, food etc.
6	Pre-planning	6.1	Describe key information that should be included within a pre-plan for an animal rescue.	Release areas, safety zones, zoning, other attendants, ID tags, vets attending, animal welfare organisations attending (eg RSPCA), local knowledge.
		6.2	Identify common sites for animal rescue incidents.	Floods, entrapments, escaped, released, vehicles, structures.



	Skill sheet element		Learning outcome	Key teaching points
7	Animal incident management and site control	7.1	Based on hazard recognition, apply appropriate control measures, including site zoning.	Site zoning, chain of command, team roles.
		7.2	Identify issues and hazards of bystanders beyond the cold zone.	Crowd control, moral pressure, bystander safety.
		7.3	Identify how and when to contact the emergency services in the event of an incident.	Emergency service contact details, 112 Europe-wide emergency number, rescue capability of relevant bodies, phone access, mobile signal, radios.
8	Decontamination considerations	8.1	Recall the importance of minimising exposure to the water and decontamination procedures post-exposure.	Decontamination including hand wipes, face wipes, decontamination spray. Additional zoonosis considerations.
9	Communications	9.1	Identify appropriate communication methods and signals within animal rescue.	Methods and signals as used in water rescue. Preference for quiet/silent methods.
		9.2	Identify communication issues in animal rescue.	Avoidance of communication methods that will disturb animals - eg avoidance of shouting, whistle signals, unpredictable movements etc.
10	Vets and other responders	10.1	Identify responders who may be in attendance at an animal rescue.	In addition to rescue teams and animal owners, other responders may include vets, drivers, animal welfare organisations etc.
		10.2	Identify issues and control measures with vets and other responders at an animal rescue.	Possible lack of training, PPE and/or familiarity with command structure. Control measures: PPE, site zoning, chain of command, prior training.
		10.3	Recall moral, legal and financial implications of euthanasia in the field.	Different motivations of owner and responders. Considerations for pre- or post-rescue euthanasia. Who pays for vet bill?



	Skill sheet element		Learning outcome	Key teaching points
11	Animal behaviour - pets and livestock	11.1	Identify how the 'flight or fight' response will manifest in pets or livestock.	Considerations for how pets or livestock may react to human contact. Animals are likely to 'react' rather than 'think' about their response.
		11.2	Identify the difference between behaviour in companion animals and solitary animals.	Differences in reaction if animals are separated from each other or forced to be together. Herding instinct. Differences between species.
12	Animal behaviour - wild animals	12.1	Identify how the 'flight or fight' response will manifest in wild animals.	Considerations for how wild animals may react to human contact. Animals are likely to 'react' rather than 'think' about their response.
13	Animal behaviour during rescues	13.1	Identify how the 'flight or fight' response will manifest with an animal in a stressful situation (eg rescue).	Considerations for how animals may react in a stressful situation due to factors outside of the rescuer's control - eg territory, breed etc.
		13.2	Understand an animal's response to unfamiliar sights, sounds and smells.	How an animal may react to things they have not encountered before.
		13.3	Recall that an animal may cause harm to themselves during a rescue.	An animal's instinct may worsen its situation.
		13.4	Recall that an animal may cause harm to rescuers, other responders and members of the public during a rescue.	An animal's instinct could cause injury to people during a rescue, and control measures should be utilised to mitigate this.
14	Animal behaviour in and around water	14.1	Recall how an animal may react to a water environment.	Considerations for which species may or may not swim, both domestic and wild.
15	Basic medical considerations for animals	15.1	Recall the role of a vet at a rescue.	Medical decisions are made by vet, not rescuers. Vet may not have rescue training or be familiar with incident command structure.
		15.2	Recall the effect of cold on different animal species.	Hardy animals can tolerate cold much better than pets.
16	Chemical sedation considerations	16.1	Recall when and why chemical sedation may be used.	By a vet. To sedate/restrain animal when a preferable option over distraction, food and/or mechanical restraint.



	Skill sheet element		Learning outcome	Key teaching points
17	Euthanasia considerations	17.1	Recall when and why euthanasia may be used.	By a vet. Pre-rescue? Post-rescue? Safety implications. Moral implications. Legal implications. Financial implications. Considerations for type of animal and owner (pet vs livestock).
18	Zoonosis	18.1	Identify signs/symptoms and treatment for commonly occurring zoonosis infections.	Eg Leptospirosis, Lyme's disease, ringworm. Prevention is better than cure.
		18.2	Identify individuals at risk from zoonosis diseases.	Rescuers, other responders, owners, members of the public, and wider public health concerns. Higher risk groups, eg those who are pregnant.
		18.3	Identify control measures to minimise the risks of zoonosis diseases.	PPE. Infection protection. Decontamination, including appropriate disinfectants. Considerations for avoidance by higher risk groups.
19	Pet owners	19.1	Identify how pet owners may react during rescues, and control measures to mitigate this.	Emotional response may cloud their judgement. Site zoning.
		19.2	Identify issues within the relationship between pet owners, rescuers and vets.	Moral obligations. Legal implications. Financial implications.
20	Livestock professionals	20.1	Identify how livestock professionals may react during rescues, and control measures to mitigate this.	Farmers, drivers and other livestock professionals may be more influenced by financial considerations than pet owners. Site zoning.
		20.2	Identify issues within the relationship between livestock professionals, rescuers and vets.	Moral obligations. Legal implications. Financial implications.

AA



	Skill sheet element		Learning outcome	Key teaching points
21	Introduction to body language with animals	21.1	Identify common body language demonstrated by animals during a rescue.	Demonstrating eg anger or fear. Species-specific body language. Animals use body language more than humans do.
		21.2	Identify why Awareness trained personnel in the cold zone should consider their body language.	People's body language can communicate emotions to the animal. Inappropriate body language can worsen a situation or create a more dangerous environment.
		21.3	Identify appropriate body language for a Awareness trained personnel in the cold zone with an animal.	Calm approach, noise reduction, eye contact issues, being visible, volume and tone of speech. Species-specific considerations. Considerations for wild vs domesticated.
22	Introduction to body language with animals	22.1	Identify common body language demonstrated by animals during a rescue.	Demonstrating eg anger or fear. Species-specific body language. Animals use body language more than humans do.
		22.2	Identify why Awareness-trained personnel in the cold zone should consider their body language.	People's body language can communicate emotions to the animal. Inappropriate body language can worsen a situation or create a more dangerous environment.
		22.3	Identify appropriate body language for a Awareness-trained personnel in the cold zone with an animal.	Calm approach, noise reduction, eye contact issues, being visible, volume and tone of speech. Species-specific considerations. Considerations for wild vs domesticated.



Animal Rescue (AR)

Course overview and target audience

Rescue 3's Animal Rescue course is for existing SFR, SRT or WRT-PROs, enabling them to rescue animals in the environments for which they are previously trained.

Contact hours 12 hours (2 days)	Prerequisites Swiftwater and Flood First Responder (SFR) or Swiftwater and Flood Rescue Technician (SRT) or Whitewater Rescue Technician - Professional (WRT-PRO)
Qualification valid for 3 years	Accredited by Rescue 3 Europe

Taught by

- Animal Rescue Instructor (ARI)

Assessment

The assessed elements of this course are:

- Foundation knowledge
- Animal rescue techniques



Animal Rescue (AR) skill sheet contents

Theory
1. Rescue 3 philosophy
2. Animal rescue best practice guidelines
3. Animal rescue environments
4. Personal equipment considerations
5. Animal rescue equipment
6. Pre-planning
7. Animal incident management and site control
8. Decontamination considerations
9. Communications
10. Vets and other responders
11. Animal behaviour - pets and livestock
12. Animal behaviour - wild animals
13. Animal behaviour during rescues
14. Considerations for swimming an animal
15. Basic medical considerations for animals
16. Chemical sedation considerations
17. Euthanasia considerations
18. Zoonosis
19. Pet owners
20. Livestock professionals
Practical
21. Body language with animals
22. Leading horses and large animals
Animal rescue techniques
23. Forwards assist
24. Forwards drag
25. Sideways drag
26. Backwards drag
27. Barrel roll
28. Use of mechanical restraints
29. Large animal lift
30. Managing small animals
31. Scenarios



Animal Rescue (AR) learning outcomes and key teaching points

	Skill sheet element		Learning outcome	Key teaching points
1	Rescue 3 philosophy	1.1	Recall the steps required in order to develop judgement.	Training. Practice. Experience. Judgement.
		1.2	Explain the order of priorities at a rescue scene.	Self > team > victim.
		1.3	Recall the remit and role of an individual trained to this level.	Animal Rescue remit and role. Operating within the environment for which they are previously trained (eg SFR, SRT, WRT-PRO).
2	Animal rescue best practice guidelines	2.1	Apply the Best Practice Guidelines for Animal Rescue combine to produce safer working practice.	Best Practice Guidelines for Animal Rescue (formerly known as 15 Absolutes).
3	Animal rescue environments	3.1	Recall environments in which animal rescues may take place.	Water (still, moving eg rivers, floodwater), mud, ice, roads, buildings, farms.
		3.2	Identify hazards and control measures for performing animal rescues in a variety of environments.	Environmental factors for specific locations. Appropriate levels of training for the environments. Appropriate PPE for the environment as well as the animal.
4	Personal equipment considerations	4.1	Identify personal protective equipment (PPE) for performing animal rescues.	Appropriate to environment, such as full water-related PPE, overalls etc, high-vis vests, goggles, gloves.
		4.2	Recall post-use care and inspection procedures for issued personal equipment.	PPE inspection, drying, storage and care. Additional zoonosis considerations.
5	Animal rescue equipment	5.1	Identify equipment used in animal rescues.	Head collars, lead ropes, strop guides, crooks, strops, head protection, hobbles, ropes, catch poles, leads, muzzles, bite gloves, scratch mitts, visors, carry bags, rescue skids, pig boards, food etc.
6	Pre-planning	6.1	Describe key information that should be included within a pre-plan for an animal rescue.	Release areas, safety zones, zoning, other attendants, ID tags, vets attending, animal welfare organisations attending (eg RSPCA), local knowledge.
		6.2	Identify common sites for animal rescue incidents.	Floods, entrapments, escaped, released, vehicles, structures.

AR



	Skill sheet element		Learning outcome	Key teaching points
7	Animal incident management and site control	7.1	Perform a dynamic risk assessment of an animal rescue.	Identify the hazards, decide who might be harmed and how, evaluate the risks and decide on precaution, implement your findings.
		7.2	Based on hazard recognition, apply appropriate control measures, including site zoning.	Site zoning, chain of command, team roles.
		7.3	Identify issues and hazards of bystanders beyond the cold zone.	Crowd control, moral pressure, bystander safety.
		7.4	Identify how and when to contact the emergency services in the event of an incident.	Emergency service contact details, 112 Europe-wide emergency number, rescue capability of relevant bodies, phone access, mobile signal, radios.
8	Decontamination considerations	8.1	Recall the importance of minimising exposure to the water and decontamination procedures post-exposure.	Decontamination including hand wipes, face wipes, decontamination spray. Additional zoonosis considerations.
9	Communications	9.1	Identify appropriate communication methods and signals within animal rescue.	Methods and signals as used in water rescue. Preference for quiet/silent methods.
		9.2	Identify communication issues in animal rescue.	Avoidance of communication methods that will disturb animals - eg avoidance of shouting, whistle signals, unpredictable movements etc.
10	Vets and other responders	10.1	Identify responders who may be in attendance at an animal rescue.	In addition to rescue teams and animal owners, other responders may include vets, drivers, animal welfare organisations etc.
		10.2	Identify issues and control measures with vets and other responders at an animal rescue.	Possible lack of training, PPE and/or familiarity with command structure. Control measures: PPE, site zoning, chain of command, prior training.
		10.3	Recall moral, legal and financial implications of euthanasia in the field.	Different motivations of owner and responders. Considerations for pre- or post-rescue euthanasia. Who pays for vet bill?



	Skill sheet element		Learning outcome	Key teaching points
11	Animal behaviour - pets and livestock	11.1	Identify how the 'flight or fight' response will manifest in pets or livestock.	Considerations for how pets or livestock may react to human contact. Animals are likely to 'react' rather than 'think' about their response.
		11.2	Identify the difference between behaviour in companion animals and solitary animals.	Differences in reaction if animals are separated from each other or forced to be together. Herding instinct. Differences between species.
12	Animal behaviour - wild animals	12.1	Identify how the 'flight or fight' response will manifest in wild animals.	Considerations for how wild animals may react to human contact. Animals are likely to 'react' rather than 'think' about their response.
13	Animal behaviour during rescues	13.1	Identify how the 'flight or fight' response will manifest with an animal in a stressful situation (eg rescue).	Considerations for how animals may react in a stressful situation due to factors outside of the rescuer's control - eg territory, breed etc.
		13.2	Understand an animal's response to unfamiliar sights, sounds and smells.	How an animal may react to things they have not encountered before.
		13.3	Recall that an animal may cause harm to themselves during a rescue.	An animal's instinct may worsen its situation.
		13.4	Recall that an animal may cause harm to rescuers, other responders and members of the public during a rescue.	An animal's instinct could cause injury to people during a rescue, and control measures should be utilised to mitigate this.
14	Considerations for swimming an animal	14.1	Recall how an animal may react to a water environment.	Considerations for which species may or may not swim, both domestic and wild.
		14.2	Identify methods and equipment that may be used to encourage/assist an animal to swim.	Positioning of rescuers. Equipment. Restraint and distraction techniques.
		14.3	Recall that a body of water may be used as a barrier to assist in a rescue.	Herding and fencing techniques.



	Skill sheet element		Learning outcome	Key teaching points
15	Basic medical considerations for animals	15.1	Recall the role of a vet at a rescue.	Medical decisions are made by vet, not rescuers. Vet may not have rescue training or be familiar with incident command structure.
		15.2	Recall the effect of cold on different animal species.	Hardy animals can tolerate cold much better than pets.
16	Chemical sedation considerations	16.1	Recall when and why chemical sedation may be used.	By a vet. To sedate/restrain animal when a preferable option over distraction, food and/or mechanical restraint.
17	Euthanasia considerations	17.1	Recall when and why euthanasia may be used.	By a vet. Pre-rescue? Post-rescue? Safety implications. Moral implications. Legal implications. Financial implications. Considerations for type of animal and owner (pet vs livestock).
18	Zoonosis	18.1	Identify signs/symptoms and treatment for commonly occurring zoonosis infections.	Eg Leptospirosis, Lyme's disease, ringworm. Prevention is better than cure.
		18.2	Identify individuals at risk from zoonosis diseases.	Rescuers, other responders, owners, members of the public, and wider public health concerns. Higher risk groups, eg those who are pregnant.
		18.3	Identify control measures to minimise the risks of zoonosis diseases.	PPE. Infection protection. Decontamination, including appropriate disinfectants. Considerations for avoidance by higher risk groups.
19	Pet owners	19.1	Identify how pet owners may react during rescues, and control measures to mitigate this.	Emotional response may cloud their judgement. Site zoning.
		19.2	Identify issues within the relationship between pet owners, rescuers and vets.	Moral obligations. Legal implications. Financial implications.
20	Livestock professionals	20.1	Identify how livestock professionals may react during rescues, and control measures to mitigate this.	Farmers, drivers and other livestock professionals may be more influenced by financial considerations than pet owners. Site zoning.
		20.2	Identify issues within the relationship between livestock professionals, rescuers and vets.	Moral obligations. Legal implications. Financial implications.



	Skill sheet element		Learning outcome	Key teaching points
21	Body language with animals	21.1	Identify common body language demonstrated by animals during a rescue.	Demonstrating eg anger or fear. Species-specific body language. Animals use body language more than humans do.
		21.2	Identify why a rescuer should consider their body language during an animal rescue.	The rescuer's body language can communicate emotions to the animal. Inappropriate body language can worsen a situation or create a more dangerous environment.
		21.3	Identify appropriate body language for a rescuer with an animal.	Calm approach, noise reduction, eye contact issues, being visible, volume and tone of speech. Species-specific considerations. Considerations for wild vs domesticated.
22	Leading horses and large animals	22.1	Demonstrate the use of head harness, halter and lead ropes with a horse and/or other large animal.	Importance of positioning and self-confidence.
		22.2	Lead a horse and/or other large animal in a walk, a trot, and then release them.	Importance of positioning, timing and pre-planning.
23	Forward assist	23.1	Identify when and how a forward assist animal rescue would be performed.	Leading/assisting animal forwards. Considerations for environment, and animal's capability.
		23.2	Demonstrate a forward assist.	With mannequin or other method of simulating an animal.
24	Forwards drag	24.1	Identify when and how a forwards drag animal rescue would be performed.	Dragging animal forward. Considerations for environment and animal's capability.
		24.2	Demonstrate a forwards drag.	With mannequin or other method of simulating an animal.
25	Sideways drag	25.1	Identify when and how a sideways drag animal rescue would be performed.	Dragging animal sideways. Considerations for environment and animal's state.
		25.2	Demonstrate a sideways drag.	With mannequin or other method of simulating an animal.

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	Skill sheet element		Learning outcome	Key teaching points
26	Backwards drag	26.1	Identify when and how a backwards drag animal rescue would be performed.	Dragging animal backwards. Considerations for environment and animal's state.
		26.2	Demonstrate a backwards drag.	With mannequin or other method of simulating an animal.
27	Barrel roll	27.1	Identify when and how a barrel roll animal rescue would be performed.	Rolling animal. Considerations for environment and animal's state.
		27.2	Demonstrate a barrel roll.	With mannequin or other method of simulating an animal.
28	Use of mechanical restraints	28.1	Recall why a restrained/entrapped animal is safer than a loose animal.	Less likely to cause injury to themselves, rescuers, other responders or members of the public. Rescue of a restrained/entrapped animal can be easier than a loose animal.
		28.2	Identify methods of controlling an animal's movement.	Mechanical restraints, chemical sedation, distractions (eg companion animals), food, animal may already be entrapped.
		28.3	Identify distraction methods that may be used instead of mechanical or chemical restraint, their benefits and limitations.	Food. Companion animals. Usually quick and can be effective, but may have limited applications.
		28.4	Identify why and when mechanical restraints would be used.	To limit movement of animal, to prevent injury to itself and others. When a more effective option than chemical restraint, distraction, food etc.
		28.5	Identify mechanical restraint methods, their benefits and limitations.	Mechanical restraints include nets, poles, ropes, graspers, cages etc. Species-specific considerations (eg size, weight, strength).
29	Large animal lift	29.1	Identify why and when a large animal lift would be performed.	Size of animal.
		29.2	Demonstrate a large animal lift.	With mannequin or other method of simulating an animal.



	Skill sheet element		Learning outcome	Key teaching points
30	Managing small animals	30.1	Identify the hazards and control measures of rescues of small animals.	Bites, scratches etc. Potential for animals of any size or species to injure rescuers. Control measures: PPE, rescue equipment, training, appropriate body language.
		30.2	Demonstrate the correct method for lifting a small animal.	With mannequin or other method of simulating an animal.
31	Scenarios	31.1	Complete an animal rescue scenario.	Examples include large animal in pond, large animal in river etc.







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