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ANDERSON SLING

The Anderson Sling offers HOPE for horses in trouble.

The Anderson Sling aids air or ground rescue of animals from inaccessible environments and can also be used during the long-term rehabilitation or recovery of animals unable to stand on their own. The Anderson Sling is an intricate system of straps, pads and pulleys that provides a support system and evenly distributes the weight of a horse, which is important because a horse cannot endure long periods of lying flat without standing.

Tennessee has the third largest horse population in the country. The College of Veterinary Medicine treats many injured or sick horses or other large animals a year that could benefit from the use of the Anderson Sling. That coupled with the rugged terrain and natural disasters that occur in East Tennessee make the Anderson Sling a necessity. The Anderson Sling can be used to rescue horses that have fallen into ravines, ponds or in isolated locations such as backcountry trails.

In 2000, a gentle horse named Shadow was euthanized after rescue resources were not found in time. Shadow's death led to the establishment of The Shadow Fund. The Shadow Fund is a joint project between East Tennessee Horse Owners Prepared for Emergencies (HOPE) Group and the UTCVM. The fund's goal was to raise the money necessary for the purchase of an Anderson Sling and accessory equipment. In his death, Shadow will save other horses.

The Anderson Sling at the UT College of Veterinary Medicine was made possible by