

## Häst Rescue Frame – Monopod

The monopod is the least stable of the frame configurations, however, it still can be a very useful tool if a lack of space exists that precludes the use of a bipod or tripod. What the monopod can provide is a lift point up in the air. In addition, if rigging is carefully managed, a certain amount of variable tilt can be accomplished to provide some horizontal movement of the animal being rescued.

Construction of the frame in a monopod configuration is quite easy as compared to the tripod and bipod. However, special care must be taken in the rigging lines, as the stability of the system is derived from these lines. To assemble the monopod, the head is placed on the end of the upper column and secured with a pin. The monopod foot is attached to the lower column. The column set is extended so that the desired height of the system is achieved. Remember, although one might want the monopod to be at its fullest height, having full height places more dependency on the rigging system. If a shorter system will work, it would be safer and easier rig. The pin that locks the upper and lower columns together is secured, and then the monopod can be carried into position.

Anchoring of the monopod foot is extremely important. If on soil, the rubber pad should be removed and the cleats on the bottom of the foot plate should be allowed to engage the soil. A minimum of four ground stakes (typically 18 inches or more in length and 1 inch in diameter double headed) should be used to anchor the foot. If the surface on which the monopod is going to be used is either concrete or asphalt, the rubber pad should be installed. The requirements for stabilizing the foot to resist horizontal forces is considerable, and only persons who have a complete understanding of the needs to apply remote anchors for the foot should design such a system. However, even with that being stated, it can be used on hard surfaces to provide an elevated point from which to lift a load.

Once the foot is anchored, and rigging and haul lines attached to the top plates, the monopod can be raised. Care must be taken so that there are no “rotational” forces on the foot. While the foot can sustain considerable abuse, the anchor system may loosen if there are excess forces that want to twist the foot out of position. The monopod is then placed in the vertical position. Like the bipod, a monopod should NEVER be tilted more than 45 degrees off of vertical or system failure could ensue.

If the rescue involves the need to change the tilt in the monopod, a special top rigging configuration should be considered. There would be two elements to this rigging. The first element are the side stabilizing lines. The ground attachment points for these side lines NEED to be inline with each other and the monopod foot so that their length need not be changed during the tilt procedure. The back rigging line is then used to adjust the amount of tilt of the monopod. In any case, the monopod can be tilted in one direction only. Attempting to tilt the monopod in one direction, and then the other like the bipod, is NOT recommended!

Disassembly of the monopod is easy and has no particular order. The frame elements should be cleaned and inspected prior to storage.