



Photo Left: Estrallita in her predicament. Her window was originally up like the ones on either side of her. She somehow kicked through it and came out. Photo Middle: Dr. Joe Fisch trying to encourage her back inside. Photo Right: Estrallita almost back inside the trailer.

November 2008

Success Story

GETTING OUT OF A TIGHT SPOT!

AVS Equine Hospital came to the rescue of **Estrallita** on Nov 21st after she had placed herself in a tight spot. Before we go on with the story it is important for you to know that **Estrallita** is no stranger to trailer rides. She has travelled a great deal and is not a worried traveler. Many horse owners do not realize how dangerous it can be to leave your horse in a trailer unattended. **Estrallita's** owner was done with her for the day and had put her on the trailer while she worked with her other horse. It was a chilly morning so her owner left all the windows up. This meant that the glass window and the bars were in their correct place and **Estrallita's** halter was hooked to a trailer tie. No one knows why **Estrallita** decided she needed to get out of the trailer, but luckily her trailer tie kept her from getting too far out of the trailer to do herself irreparable damage.

Another horse owner happened to drive up and see **Estrallita** hanging out of her window and alerted help. When **Drs. Steve and Joe Fisch** arrived on the scene **Estrallita** was out of the window just past her elbows and withers. It was quickly decided that she would need to come back through the window rather than continue out because the hip and stifle area would not fit through the window. If your horse ever comes through the window or side door DO NOT try to get them through the opening. Normally the hips will not fit through either opening.

Dr. Joe Fisch tried to get close enough to sedate **Estrallita** intravenously, but she was so excited that she was thrashing her hooves wildly, which made it impossible to safely sedate her in this manner. **Dr. Joe Fisch** entered the trailer from

the rear and sedated her in the hip. **Dr. Steve Fisch**, who directed the rescue, attached a lunge line to the left side of **Estrallita's** halter and then ran it back through the window and out the rear trailer exit. Additionally, a lunge line was tied to her tail and run out the rear trailer exit. The lunge lines were vital to the plan of getting her back inside the trailer without endangering any of the humans helping.

Once the sedation started to take effect **Estrallita** calmed down and started relaxing. **Dr. Steve Fisch** and his helper at the rear of the trailer started pulling on the two lunge lines. As she relaxed she started falling slowly back in the trailer because of the pressure from the lunge lines. As she fell back the right front leg went inside unassisted. The left leg however, required **Dr. Joe Fisch** to carefully move the leg up and backwards in order to get it back inside the trailer.

Now for the big question, "After all of this, how badly will she be injured?" Well, luckily for **Estrallita** and her owner, she received only minor scratches and required no sutures. The trailer will need some repairs though!

This is not as uncommon as you might think. In other trailer rescues our doctors have been involved with, the Jaws of Life had to be used on the opening in order to get the horse back inside. Horses by nature don't care for enclosed spaces, if they can find a way out they just might decide they need to take it.