

Woolie the sheep wanders no more

Animal rescue league workers corral elusive animal on Saturday near his interstate highway hangout

BY STU SKERKER
FOR THE SUN CHRONICLE

FOXBORO — "Wandering Woolie," the sheep living in the median strip between interstates 495 and 95, was safely captured Saturday, and will be examined by a veterinarian for the next 10 days.

North Attleboro resident Linda Faber, who spearheaded the efforts to rescue the sheep that officials believe has been living in the median strip for up to a year and a half, said Woolie was captured around 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Officials from the Animal Rescue League of Boston had a custom enclosure made that aided his cap-

'They were able to calm him right down.'

Linda Faber

ture. The 6-foot-large enclosure has a metal frame and mesh, net sides, and was baited with food at 10 a.m.

At that point, all of the people left the woods, and the wait was on for Woolie to enter the enclosure and eat. Once he entered the enclosure and it closed on him, Faber said he became unsettled, but quickly calmed down when two employees of the Animal Rescue League entered the enclosure with him.

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Sheep captured

Wandering Woolie, after being corralled in a wooded area in the median strip between Interstates 95 and 495 in Foxboro on Saturday. He is going to be checked out by veterinarians for 10 days. Then, if Woolie gets a clean bill of health, he will be adopted by the Winslow Farm Animal Sanctuary in Norton.



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Leading Woolie

Workers from the Animal Rescue League of Boston lead Wandering Woolie the sheep to safety. He was corralled in a wooded area in the median strip between Interstates 95 and 495 in Foxboro on Saturday.

WOOLIE: Rescuers corral elusive sheep

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"They were able to calm him right down," Faber said. She said Woolie acted as if he were happy to be back with people.

Faber reached through the netting to pet Woolie, and said parts of his wool were 6 inches thick, and other parts were hard, as they were densely matted.

Once caught, the next problem was getting him out of the woods, which was accomplished by having four people using a military-style stretcher carry Woolie out of the woods to a trailer.

When people approached him and helped him out of

the enclosure, Faber said he was very calm. "It was like he was relieved that someone helped him," she said.

Woolie was taken to an Animal Rescue League of Boston facility in Dedham, where he will be examined by veterinarians for the next 10 days. If Woolie gets a clean bill of health, he then will be adopted by the Winslow Farm Animal Sanctuary in Norton.

Faber, who spent more than five months working on Woolie's rescue, was herself relieved. "I am so glad this is over," she said.

Faber teamed up with the Animal Rescue League of Boston, which devised a cou-

ple of different methods to catch Woolie.

The sheep frustrated rescue efforts in November, when he refused to be enticed by food into an area where a net had been set up.

During that November attempt, Lt. Alan Borgal of the Animal Rescue League of Boston said he was concerned that if the sheep were to wander into traffic, it could cause an accident that could severely injure someone. At the time, he said the capture of Woolie is a public safety issue, to prevent the public from getting hurt and also to prevent the sheep from getting hurt.