

Solano County Emergency Operations Plan

Animal Care Annex



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Section 1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This annex is intended to provide guidance on addressing the needs of owners and their animals during a disaster, including guidance for the rescue, transport, sheltering, care, disease control, euthanasia and disposal of pets, livestock and service animals during emergency situations. Although the protection of human life is the highest priority in emergency response, recent disasters and follow-up research have shown that proper preparation and effective coordination of animal issues enhances the ability of emergency personnel to protect both human and animal health and safety. It is much more efficient, effective, and inexpensive to develop plans to address animal issues prior to an incident than during one.

1.2 Quick Reaction Guide

See the quick reaction checklist under separate cover.

1.3 Scope

This annex has been developed to address the needs of the County regarding the evacuation, sheltering and general care of animals during disasters. This annex is not intended to address the needs of a foreign animal disease response or the needs of exotic or wildlife animals. The *Animal Care Annex* focuses on the needs of small animal care and provides guidance for the needs of livestock.

This annex provides the following information:

- Authorities and references for the implementation of animal care during disasters
- Concept of operations to carry out animal care during a response
- Agencies and organizations involved in supporting the animal care
- Roles and responsibilities of jurisdictions and agencies regarding animal care during a disaster
- Guidance to provide a coordinated animal response that is compliant with both Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and all relevant County, State and Federal laws

For the purposes of this annex, animal care includes:

- **Rapid Needs Assessment.** This includes the identification of animal needs such as evacuation, transportation, feeding, sheltering, medical care and humane euthanasia.
- **Evacuation/Transportation.** This includes the removal of animals in preparation for a disaster, or in response to a disaster affected area. Evacuation/transportation operations will coordinate with shelter operations.
- **Search and Rescue.** This includes the identification of rescue needs and coordination with local and State agencies. Search and rescue operations will be done in coordination with evacuation/transportation operations.

- **Care and Sheltering.** This includes the immediate care, as well as the long term sheltering needs for displaced animals. This will be coordinated with the Care and Shelter Branch and pre-designated shelter locations.
- **Animal Identification System.** This includes the physical identification of animals and the documentation of owner information for reunification.
- **Livestock Management.** This includes coordination with the state agriculture resources for the care of livestock.
- **Veterinary Care and Services.** This includes the immediate assessment of animal medical needs, as well as long term medical needs within the animal shelter. Coordination will occur with local shelter and clinic veterinarians.
- **Disease Control/Decontamination.** This includes a response to a foreign animal disease and the need for the decontamination of animals. Disease control/decontamination will be coordinated with the County Agriculture Commissioner and California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) as needed.
- **Euthanasia/Mass Mortality Management.** This includes the coordination of proper euthanasia and/or disposal of mass numbers of animal carcasses. In most cases, this will occur during a disease outbreak and will be coordinated through the Agriculture Commissioner, the Department of Agriculture, the CDFA and, if needed, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Environmental Health Division will provide local permitting support to landfill animals and will work with State Air Board, State Water Board and California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA) on disposal issues.
- **Reunification.** This includes the tracking of animals to ensure they are reunited with their owners following a disaster or shelter operation.

1.4 Policy

It is the policy of Solano County to develop plans and procedures to address the treatment, evacuation and sheltering of citizens, visitors and their animals in the County from areas of hazard to areas of safety. Under the Pets Emergency Transportation Standards (PETS) Act, Solano County is responsible for planning and responding to the needs of animals in disasters and will use local evacuation and sheltering resources to every extent possible before requesting outside assistance from Mutual Aid or the State. In addition, all volunteers that respond to the needs of animals during disasters under the direction and control of the County will be registered Disaster Service Workers (DSWs). Information regarding the swearing-in of DSWs can be found in the base plan of the *Solano County Emergency Operations Plan* (EOP).

The Solano County Health and Social Services Department (H&SS) will organize feeding stations where freed animals will be provided with food and water until there are sufficient capacities for their collection and sheltering. H&SS will also facilitate volunteer foster care for animals that are left behind after owners are deceased or hospitalized. In addition, H&SS will supply delivery volunteers that will distribute food and other animal rations to owners that still can take care of their pets yet are unable to provide them necessary supplies.

Section 2. Authorities and References

2.1 Authorities

2.1.1 Federal

- Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act (H.R. 3858, Oct 6, 2006), an amendment to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.
- FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.19
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990

2.1.2 California

- California Emergency Services Act, California Government Code, Sections 8550-8668.
- AB450. Standardized Emergency Management System to Include Preparedness for Animals.
- State of California Emergency Plan
- Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)
- National Incident Management System (NIMS)

2.1.3 Solano County

- Solano County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

2.2 References

- National Response Framework
- California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Planning Guide for Counties
- Local Emergency Annex Template, Animal Emergency Response, Colorado Mixed Urban/Suburban/Rural Community
- Illinois Guidelines for Developing an Animal Emergency Annex and Animal Evacuation Plan for County Emergency Operations Plans
- ASPCA Animal Emergency Preparedness Plan
- The Humane Society of the United States Make a Disaster Plan for Your Pets

Section 3. Assumptions and Considerations

3.1 Planning Assumptions

This *Animal Care Annex* for the *Solano County EOP* includes information on how to take animals into consideration during an emergency response, resulting in more cooperation and coordination with the affected human population. The priorities for emergency management include the protection of life, property and the environment. In many cases, animals are considered part of the family and can drastically affect the ability to respond to and evacuate the human population.

The sheltering and protection of animals is the primary responsibility of the animal owners.

The inability to evacuate animals is a leading cause of evacuation failure in disasters. Failure to evacuate may endanger both the responders and the citizens. In addition, people will frequently try and re-enter an area to retrieve animals left behind, putting them and emergency personnel at risk.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that all service animals must be treated as an extension of a disabled person and must receive all needed services.

While some animal owners will be able to evacuate and shelter their own animals during a disaster, many people will not have the resources to do so, including those with access and functional needs, mental and/or medical health conditions, limited mobility and language or cultural barriers.

Other local, county and State agencies may have jurisdictional responsibilities for the care and treatment of animals. This annex will be implemented with the coordination and cooperation of all necessary jurisdictions and organizations.

3.2 Animal Care Planning Considerations

3.2.1 Definition of “Animal”

For the purposes of responding to animal issues during disasters, the County defines “animals” as, “affected commercial livestock, companion animals (cats, dogs, household pets, etc.), exhibition animals, captive wildlife, and exotic pets.” This definition excludes non-captive wildlife. This is the definition that will be used for State level response activities.

3.2.2 Definition of “Service Animal”

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) currently defines “service animals” as dogs or miniature horses that perform a task an individual with a disability cannot perform for him or herself. Within the framework of this annex, service animals are not considered household pets, and are to be treated as an extension of the owner. Some examples of service animal functions include:

- Assist individuals who are blind
- Alert individuals with hearing impairments to sounds
- Pull wheelchairs or carry and pick up things for individuals with mobility impairments
- Assist individuals with mobility impairments with balance

3.2.3 Animal Populations in Solano County

According to the 2009 US Census, there are 150,853 housing units in Solano County. Table 3-1 shows the estimated number of pet owning households in Solano County¹

Table 3-1: Estimated number of pet owning households in Solano County

| Species | Percent of U.S. Households Owning Pets | Number of Households in Solano County Owning Pets |
|----------|---|--|
| All Pets | 58.9 | 88,853 |
| Dogs | 31.6 | 47,670 |
| Cats | 27.3 | 41,183 |
| Birds | 4.6 | 6,939 |
| Horses | 1.5 | 2,263 |
| Other | 10.7 | 16,141 |

Table 3-2: Average number of pets in Solano County

| Species | Average Number of Pets per Pet-Owning Household | Average Number of Pets in Solano County |
|---------|--|--|
| Dogs | 1.69 | 80,562 |
| Cats | 2.19 | 90,191 |
| Birds | 2.74 | 19,013 |
| Horses | 2.67 | 6,042 |

¹ Note: These numbers are rough estimates for the County. More accurate numbers can be found by taking surveys of the number of county animal licenses, veterinary records, industry groups, etc.

Section 4. Roles and Responsibilities

During an emergency response there are several jurisdictions, agencies and organizations that will be involved. The number of entities is flexible and will change with the magnitude of the disaster. This annex will assist Animal Care and Welfare Unit in the EOC in coordinating with other organizations and entities and the County will endeavor to work together with these entities to coordinate animal efforts. The Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader will serve as the point-of-contact and animal representative within the EOC, and will work with the outside agencies, organizations and stakeholders as needed.

4.1 Solano County - Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader

Animal issues are part of the Operational Area (OA) Emergency Response Plan. This annex will provide guidance for the County to effectively prevent, plan for and respond to animal issues during a disaster, organize local resources, facilitate mutual aid activities relating to animal issues, and utilize broader regional and State resources. County Animal Services serves as the lead organization for animal care responsibilities and will be represented by the Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader in the EOC.

The Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader is the leader for animal operations during a disaster and reports to the Law Enforcement Branch within the Operations Section of the EOC. The Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader may be the Manager of Animal Care, a local animal control official, the County Agricultural Commissioner, or other county designee. This person will staff the EOC for the County during a disaster, should be trained in SEMS, and be knowledgeable in local animal issues and in the local animal response plan.

The Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader will coordinate evacuation, care and shelter and overall assessment of animal needs with local animal organizations, volunteer groups and the County Animal Services.

The following is a list of responsibilities for the Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader:

- Assess the status of animal care needs within all local governments in the operational area
- Determine status of available shelters and establish locations for additional sheltering
- Determine the need for county animal care and veterinary services
- Develop a plan for meeting jurisdictional animal welfare needs for the duration of the emergency
- Coordinate as necessary with other EOC positions on Animal Care and Welfare issues and requirements
- Supervise the Animal Care and Welfare Unit

The Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader Checklist will be used as a guide for activation, operations and demobilization tasks and can be found in Section 3.2.3.6 of Volume 2.

4.2 Non-Government/Non-Profit/Voluntary Organizations

Non-government, non-profit and voluntary organizations are the backbones of supporting animal care operations within the County. The Solano County Sheriff's Office has limited capabilities (one truck and one trailer) to movement of vulnerable animals. Animals are relocated to owner's preference; Solano County is not responsible for care and feeding. Solano County Animal Care works with a variety of volunteer organizations on a daily basis. These volunteer organizations may support County Animal Services during disaster response.

4.2.1 Humane Society of the North Bay

The Humane Society of the North Bay is located in Vallejo, California and serves as an animal care and shelter facility. During a disaster event, the Humane Society can provide shelter. A formal Memorandum of Agreement has been signed between the Humane Society of the North Bay and County Animal Services to provide assistance during a disaster response. More information regarding the Human Society of the North Bay can be found on their website: <http://www.bvhumane.org/>.

4.2.2 Humane Animal Services, Animal Control²

Humane Animal Services (H.A.S) is a non-profit organization contracted by five cities within Solano County. The cities served include Vacaville, Fairfield, Suisun City, Dixon, and Rio Vista. The Humane Animal Services is comprised of Animal Control Officers. Their duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Enforcement of State, county, and city laws pertaining to animals within city limits
- Responsible for promoting responsible pet ownership for care compliance, and liability
- Work with the community to resolve issues involving animals, pet owners, and neighbors to pet owners
- Protect animals from abuse, neglect, and other forms of mistreatment
- Impound stray, abandoned, dangerous, and unruly animals pursuant to city laws
- Seek emergency medical treatment for sick or injured stray animals
- Pick up deceased animals from public or private property (Do not pick up owned animals)

Humane Animal Services does not provide shelter services, but coordinates efforts with Solano Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Solano County Animal Care. During a disaster, H.A.S Animal Control Officers will be utilized for search and rescue, evacuation, transportation, care, and sheltering of displaced animals. More information regarding Humane Animal Services can be found on their website: <http://www.humaneanimalservices.org/>.

² <http://www.humaneanimalservices.org/>

4.2.3 Red Cross of Northern California

The American Red Cross (ARC) is responsible for human sheltering during a disaster operation. Several Red Cross Chapters do not allow the co-location of animal shelters with human shelters. During a disaster operation, coordination will take place in the County EOC between ARC representatives and the Animal Care and Welfare Unit leader to ensure the best shelter situation possible.

4.3 Federal and State Entities

When the disaster extends outside of the capabilities of the County, additional support will be requested from the State and Federal levels. Any additional resources that are needed outside of the County will be requested and coordinated with the Operations and Logistics Section of the Solano County EOC. Listed below are various State and Federal agencies that may have a role in animal response during a disaster.

4.3.1 California Animal Response in Emergency System

California Animal Response in Emergency System (CARES) organizes State resources in support of local government responding to animal issues during a State level emergency in accordance with SEMS. During a disaster, if local resources are insufficient to meet existing needs, local government may request State assistance. When this assistance is requested; the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) will activate CARES, with CDFA as the lead agency. The ability to respond effectively at the State level largely depends upon planning accomplished within each OA prior to a disaster.

4.3.2 California Department of Food and Agriculture³

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) serves as the lead department for coordinating emergency activities related to food and agriculture during State disaster response operations. The department may assign primary and support roles to those units within the department that have the authorities, capabilities and resources necessary to meet emergency needs. If the disaster exceeds the capacity of the local resources and infrastructure, CDFA may be called in for additional assistance. CDFA supports the following emergency functions:

³ State of California Emergency Plan

- Care and Shelter
- Evacuation
- Food and Agriculture
- Long Term Recovery
- Public Health and Medical
- Resources

4.3.3 Veterinary Medical Assistance Team

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) supports the Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs). The AVMA has a signed MOU with the Department of Health and Human Services, formalizing a public-private partnership to assist in providing veterinary emergency preparedness and response. VMATs provide veterinary medical treatment and address animal and public health issues resulting from natural, man-made, or any other type of disasters. VMATs must receive an invitation from the affected State in order to be deployed. The local governor may make a disaster declaration and submit a request for Federal assistance. If the President then declares a disaster, Federal resources are made available. It is at this point that a request for VMAT assistance can be made. If a State alone requests a VMAT, they will need to fund the response. If a Federal Disaster is declared, the Federal Government covers a large part of the cost.

4.3.4 National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT)⁴

The National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT) utilizes the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) and is part of the Department of Health and Human Services. The National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT) is a cadre of individuals within the NDMS system who have professional expertise in areas of veterinary medicine, public health and research. The NVRT provides assistance in identifying the need for veterinary services following major disasters, emergencies, public health or other events requiring Federal support and in assessing the extent of disruption to animal and public health infrastructures. NVRT members are private citizens who have been approved as intermittent Federal employees and are activated in the event of a disaster. NVRTs are a Federal resource and must be requested from the local government, through the State and up to the Federal level.

4.4 Private Entities

In many cases, private entities may provide resources and services that are otherwise not accessible to the local or county authorities. When planning for animals during a disaster, it is important to include the private companies, agencies and organizations in the event that a specialized resource is needed.

⁴ <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ndms/teams/Pages/nvrt.aspx>

4.4.1 University of California, Davis Veterinary Hospital

The University of California, Davis (UC Davis), located in Yolo County, is one of the highest ranking Veterinary Schools in the Country and is very active in disaster preparedness and response. The UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT) is comprised of veterinary students that respond to disasters and provide medical services to animals in disasters. This team could be called on by Solano County to assist in disaster response, search and rescue, and veterinary services, if needed. County Animal Care currently has an MOU for triage and fracture

4.4.2 Private Supply Companies

During a disaster response, there is always a need for supplies, especially when it is something as specific as animal needs. Local companies, may be utilized for the procurement of resources. All requests for resources will be made through the Logistics Section of the Solano County EOC to ensure that proper documentation and tracking papers are completed for disaster expense reimbursement purposes..

4.5 Roles and Responsibilities Reference Matrix

Table 4-3 shows the various emergency animal care functions and the departments or organizations with a primary role or supporting role.

Table 4-3: Roles and Responsibilities Table in Support of Animal Care Response Operations

| Roles and Responsibilities Table In support of Animal Care Response Operations | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| <i>P= Primary</i> <i>S= Secondary</i> Cooperating Agency | Rapid Needs Assessment | Evacuation/Transportation | Search and Rescue | Care and Sheltering | Animal Identification System | Livestock Management | Wildlife and Exotic Animal Mgmt. | Veterinary Care an Services | Disease Control/ Decontamination | Euthanasia/Mass Mortality Management | Reunification |
| County Animal Care | | S | | P | P | | | S | S | P | P |
| County Animal Control | P | P | P | S | S | S | | | S | S | |
| Office of Emergency Services | | S | | S | | | | | S | S | |
| American Red Cross | | | | S | | | | | | | |
| SPCA/Humane Society(s) | | | | S | | | | | | | |
| Rescue group(s) | | S | S | S | | S | | | | | S |
| County/State Fairgrounds | | | | S | | S | S | | | | |
| Fire Department(s) | S | S | S | | | S | | | | | |
| Sheriff's Office | S | S | S | | | | | | | | |
| Livestock Association(s)/ Producers | | | | | | S | | | S | | |
| Joint Information Center/PIO | | | | S | | | | | | | |
| Department of Public Health | | | | | | | | | S | S | |
| Veterinary Community | | | | S | | | | P | | | |

Roles and Responsibilities Table

In support of Animal Care Response Operations

| <i>P= Primary</i> <i>S= Secondary</i> Cooperating Agency | Rapid Needs Assessment | Evacuation/Transportation | Search and Rescue | Care and Sheltering | Animal Identification System | Livestock Management | Wildlife and Exotic Animal Mgmt. | Veterinary Care and Services | Disease Control/ Decontamination | Euthanasia/Mass Mortality Management | Reunification |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Volunteer/Animal Organizations | | S | S | S | | S | S | | | | S |
| Wildlife Organizations (local) | | | | | | | P | | | | |
| Zoos | | | | | | | P | | | | |
| CDFA | | | | | | | | | P | P | |
| Agriculture Commissioner | | | | | | P | | | S | S | |

Section 5. Concept of Operations

5.1 Pre-Response - Preparedness

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) produces preparedness brochures/reports, and offers training on animals in disasters for livestock and pets (<http://www.humanesociety.org/animals>). These resources are available to educate animal owners and care providers, as well as emergency management personnel, in animal care preparedness.

The AVMA has produced the *AVMA Emergency Preparedness and Response Guide* which provides information for preparing and responding to disasters and for implementation of the *AVMA Emergency Preparedness Plan*. The *AVMA Emergency Preparedness Plan* identifies strategies that will enable veterinarians and animal health technicians to respond to a broad range of emergencies, to integrate those strategies into the National Disaster Medical System as part of the Federal Response Plan, and to assist State and local veterinary medical associations in formulating their emergency preparedness plans. The *AVMA Emergency Preparedness Plan* provides the foundation for disaster response by the veterinary profession through the AVMA's organizational structure.

5.2 Animal Care Coordination

Coordination will take place between a variety of departments and organizations regarding animal care during a disaster. The Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader in the County EOC will serve as the main point of contact regarding animal care issues and will report to the Law Enforcement Branch in the Operations Section of the EOC. The Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader directly coordinates animal care operations with the local animal organizations via communication from the EOC. Animal care operations include the following:

5.2.1 Rapid Needs Assessment

Following a disaster event, animal care and production resources, such as veterinary hospitals, animal shelters, livestock production and market facilities, wildlife facilities, feed suppliers, agricultural supply, kennels, retail and other supporting facilities, need to be assessed for damage. Not only may some of these resources and facilities be damaged and need assistance, but the loss of these services can have an impact on the County's ability to respond to the owners and their animals' needs following an incident.

The Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader will work with the City and/or County Animal Control Officers, non-profit and private entities to determine the amount of damage. The completed assessment information will be communicated to the County EOC, using the Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader as the liaison for animal issues to EOC Operations Section.

5.2.2 Evacuation

The evacuation and sheltering of animals is the primary responsibility of the animal owners. Many owners will be able to care for their animals without the assistance of the County. The County EOC will work to coordinate animal evacuation assistance if needed by planning the mobilization of personnel, equipment/supplies, and facilities. *Note: Although the County will make the effort to plan for animal considerations during emergency evacuations, ultimately the owners are responsible for the evacuation and care of their animals.*

Evacuation of an affected area is a large task that will require a significant amount of coordination with all entities involved. The planning for animals and their owners during an evacuation will increase the cooperation of the public, ensuring that more people are out of harm's way. For specific actions and operations regarding evacuation, refer to the *Solano County EOP Evacuation Annex*.

5.2.3 Search and Rescue

Only qualified personnel, such as the State Animal Rescue Team (SART), the UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT) and other technical animal rescue teams, should attempt search and rescue operations. The search and rescue of domestic and stray animals will decrease the number of evacuees re-entering a disaster affected area, reducing the level of danger for both citizens and emergency personnel.

5.2.4 Care and Sheltering

The Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader will work with the Care and Shelter Branch of the EOC to coordinate the sheltering of animals. The County Health and Social Services Department and the American Red Cross (ARC) are responsible for human shelter operations during a disaster event and, in many cases, animals are not allowed in these established shelters.

With animal sheltering comes the responsibility of animal care. During sheltering, animals may need medical attention. Veterinarians will be brought in from the County Animal Shelter, other local shelters and various animal clinics to address the medical needs of animals.

Local non-profit and volunteer organizations obtain the staff and resources needed to care for the animals for an extended period of time. In some cases where humans and animals are in a co-located shelter, animal owners may be allowed to care for their own animals, reducing the need for on-site staff and volunteers. While caring for the animals, extensive documentation is completed, noting the condition and care the animal is receiving, as well as keeping owner contact information with the animal at all times to assist in the reunification process. Sample intake and shelter identification forms are included in Attachment 2: Animal Care Forms.

The County currently has two fairgrounds that can be used for sheltering locations if needed during a disaster.

- **Solano County Fairgrounds (Vallejo, CA)**

The Solano County Fairgrounds are owned by the County and can be used during a disaster if the space is available.

- **Dixon Fairgrounds (State-Owned – Dixon, CA)**

The Dixon Fairgrounds are owned by the State and require permission from the State before it could be used during a disaster. Request for use of the fairgrounds will be coordinated through the County Animal Care and the Department of Agriculture.

During sheltering operations, measures will be taken to ensure the proper disposal of animal waste. County and animal care staff will work with the Environmental Health Division on the appropriate methods of disposal, taking precautions to not contaminate any local water sources.

5.2.5 Animal Identification System

County Animal Care is responsible for identifying animals brought to shelters so that they can be returned to their proper owners. Records must also be kept for dead and unclaimed animals. Those operating the animal identification system may work with the EOC's Animal Care and Welfare Unit to assist in reuniting animals with their owners. Possible identification options include the tagging of animals with colored bands or microchips in conjunction with the already existing shelter electronic information database.

5.2.6 Disease Control/Decontamination

Some disasters will be animal disease related, requiring the control and decontamination of animals during response operations. A disease outbreak will likely be beyond the local capacity and will require assistance from the State and Federal levels. Disasters involving disease outbreaks will require wide-spread coordination efforts and the flexibility to adapt to the disaster as it reduces or expands. The local Department of Agriculture, State Department of Agriculture, the California State Veterinarian and the United States Department of Agriculture all work within the Incident Command Structure to coordinate all disease control/decontamination operations.

California State Veterinarian. The State Veterinarian serves as a state resource for disasters requiring the decontamination of animals. During an animal related disaster that requires a state quarantine, the California State Veterinarian will serve as the lead in decontamination and will coordinate efforts with the local and state departments of agriculture.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. During Federally declared disasters, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will serve as the lead agency for federal quarantine procedures. The USDA will work in coordination with the State level agriculture departments during all response efforts.

Disease control activities may include:

- Disposal of animal carcasses
- Separation of sick and healthy animals

- Rabies control
- Capture or euthanasia of animals “at large”

5.2.7 Euthanasia/Mass Mortality Management

In the case of disease outbreak or high mortality rates due to a natural or man-made disaster, there may be a need for mass euthanasia and burial of animal carcasses. Animal carcasses, especially those affected by a bio threat or zoonotic disease need to be disposed of properly as to not spread the diseases to other animals or humans. The County will work with the Department of Public Health, the Agriculture Commissioner, the State Department of Agriculture and the USDA to ensure that proper procedures and protocols are taken for the euthanasia and burial of animals. The County will work with State Air Board, State Water Board and Cal EPA on disposal issues, as needed. Emergency Waivers will be needed for the disposal of animals and will be coordinated through either the State or Federal levels, as appropriate. In addition, the County will work with the Environmental Health Division to coordinate the burial of animal carcasses in landfills.

5.2.8 Livestock Management

It is the primary responsibility of horse and livestock owners to plan for appropriate evacuation and sheltering of their animals. In many cases, the County will work with local farmers and neighbors in the transportation and sheltering of livestock animals. In the event of a biohazard or zoonotic disease that affect the livestock or agriculture population, local County authorities will coordinate efforts with the local Agriculture Commissioner and the CDFA for response and disaster management.

5.2.9 Wildlife and Exotic Animal Management

Wildlife and exotic animal management is not the main focus of this plan and it will be the primary responsibility of these animal owners, as well as specialized agencies such as the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), to care for these animals. Additional resources such as local zoos should include evacuation, transportation and sheltering of animals within their facilities in their respective EOPs. Coordination will take place between Solano County and the various specialized animal agencies.

5.3 Post-Response/Recovery

Animal Reunification. Following the response phase of a disaster, animals will need to be reunited with their owners during the recovery process. The Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader can obtain the documentation that is provided by the shelter facility staff to coordinate the reunification process between animals and their owners. The Unit Leader will work with the shelter staff to determine the necessary information that will be distributed to animal owners and work with the County PIO to get the message out to evacuees.

Appendix A. Acronyms

Table A-1: Acronyms

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| ADA | Americans with Disabilities Act |
| ARC | American Red Cross |
| AVMA | American Veterinary Medical Association |
| Cal EPA | California Environmental Protection Agency |
| CARES | California Animal Response in Emergency System |
| CDFA | California Department of Food and Agriculture |
| CDFG | California Department of Fish and Game |
| CVMA | California Veterinary Medical Association |
| DSW | Disaster Service Worker |
| EARS | Emergency Animal Rescue Service |
| EOC | Emergency Operations Center |
| EOP | Emergency Operations Plan |
| FEMA | Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| HSUS | Humane Society of the United States |
| JIC | Joint Information Center |
| NDMS | National Disaster Medical System |
| NIMS | National Incident Management System |
| NVRT | National Veterinary Response Team |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MRC | Medical Reserve Corps |
| OA | Operational Area |
| PETS Act | Pets Transportation Standards Act |
| PIO | Public Information Officer |
| SART | State Animal Response Team |
| SEMS | Standardized Emergency Management System |
| SPCA | Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals |
| UC Davis | University of California Davis |
| USDA | United States Department of Agriculture |
| VERT | Veterinary Emergency Response Team |
| VMAT | Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams |

Appendix B. Animal Specific Resources

The preparation stage of disaster response allows local groups to plan response activities before a disaster occurs. The most important part of this is identifying local resources available. Table B-1 includes a list of resources for both small and large animals that may be utilized during a disaster.

Table B-1: Animal Specific Resource List

| Animal Specific Resource List | | |
|--|--|---|
| Confinement and Shelter Facilities | | |
| Small Animal | Large Animal | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kennels/boarding facilities• Animal Control facilities• Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers• SPCA/Humane Organizations• Local fairgrounds• Veterinary clinics | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local fairgrounds• Stables or racetracks• Local FFA or 4-H groups• Sale yards or auctions• Railroad holding areas• Rodeo arenas• Local educational institutions• Producers/ranchers/private individuals | |
| Animal Food/WaterSources | | |
| Small Animal | Large Animal | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pet Stores• Food banks• Grocery stores• Kennels• Breeders | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feed stores• Hay brokers• Local boarding and breeding facilities• Ranchers/private individuals | |
| Non-Medical and Medical/VeterinarySupplies | | |
| Small Animal | Large Animal | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pet carriers• Cat litter• Collars• Leashes• Cages• Shovels• Food and water dishes• Chlorine bleach• Disinfectant | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Halters• Lead ropes• Blankets• Bedding• Wheelbarrows• Rakes• Pitchforks | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buckets• Hoses• Fly spray• Chlorine bleach• Disinfectant• Lime |

Appendix C. Local Animal Resource Contact List

provides a non-inclusive list of animal care organizations in the County that may be asked to assist with animal care operations during an emergency response.

Table C- 1: County Animal Care Organizations

| Organization | Service |
|--|---|
| Humane Society of North Bay | Care and Shelter, Feeding, Medical |
| Red Rover of Sacramento | Care and Shelter, Financial Assistance |
| Humane Animal Services, Animal Control | Search and Rescue, Care and Shelter, Euthanasia |
| Red Cross of Northern California | Care and Shelter |
| Ranch Hotel of Vacaville | Care and Shelter, Transportation (large animal) |
| Benicia Medical Reserve Corps | Care |
| University of California, Davis | Search and Rescue, Medical |
| SPEC Veterinary Clinic | Clinic Services |
| Sunset Veterinary Clinic | Clinic Services |

Attachment A Animal Care Forms

Animal Care and Holding/Boarding Survey⁵

Facility Name _____

Address _____

Facility Phone () _____ - _____ Fax () _____ - _____

Owner's Name _____

Owners' Home Phone () _____ - _____ Cell Phone () _____ - _____

Other () _____ - _____

What animal species will you accept?

☐ Dog ☐ Cat ☐ Equine ☐ Livestock ☐ Avian ☐ Other _____

Do you have a microchip scanner available? ☐ No ☐ Yes Type: _____

How many cages, runs or stalls do you have available? Are any seasonal?

_____ Cages _____ Runs _____ Large Animal Stalls _____ Corrals

Would you be willing to provide services during a disaster?

☐ Pro bono ☐ Reduced Rate _____ ☐ Standard rate _____

What are the minimum normal entry requirements for animals to your facility?

☐ None ☐ Rabies ☐ Other vaccinations _____

☐ Parasite control ☐ Other _____

Would you waive your entry requirements during a disaster? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does your facility have isolation facilities? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is your staff available outside normal hours of operation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have a consulting veterinarian or vet clinic you work with? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name _____ Phone () _____ - _____

Give brief directions to your facility from the closest major road or highway.

⁵ Adapted from the Indiana State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies Committee.

Small Animal Intake Form - Owned Animals with Owner⁶

Date arrived _____ Animal ID # _____

Date discharged _____ Assigned Location _____

Owner Information

Name _____ Phone # () _____ - _____

Address _____

Emergency Contact _____

Animal Identification

Species _____ Other ID _____

Breed _____ Size: ☐Toy ☐Small ☐Medium ☐Large ☐Giant

Coat Color _____ Coat Length: ☐Short ☐Medium ☐Long

Age _____ Sex: ☐M ☐M(neutered) ☐F ☐F(spayed)

Medical

Rabies Vaccine? ☐Yes ☐No Tag # _____ County issued _____

Other Vaccines:

Canine: ☐Distemper ☐Hepatitis ☐Leptospirosis ☐Parinfluenza ☐Parvovirus ☐Coronavirus

Feline: ☐Rhinitracheitis ☐Calicivirus ☐Panleukopenia ☐Chlamydia ☐Felv ☐FIP

Any medical problems? ☐No ☐Yes _____

Taking medications? ☐No ☐Yes _____ Owner provided? ☐No ☐Yes

Instructions _____

Special diet? ☐No ☐Yes _____ Owner provided? ☐No ☐Yes

Instructions _____

Habits and Traits (circle all that apply)

fence jumper digger scratcher submissive housebroken highly excitable biter
shy leash broken barker/vocal declawed obedience trained other _____

Aggressive toward ☐men ☐women ☐children ☐other animals _____

Accepted by (staff) _____

Date _____

Owner Signature _____

Date _____

Released by _____

Date _____

Owner Signature _____

Date _____

⁶ Adapted from *Help Us Get Them to Safety!* By the Nevada County Unit of the CVMA and Indiana's State Annex for Veterinary Emergency Committee.

Small Animal Intake Form – Rescued/ Found /Stray⁷

Date rescued/found _____ Location found _____

Date arrived _____ Assigned Location _____

Date discharged _____ Animal ID # _____

Accepted by (staff) _____

Rescuer Information

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # () _____ - _____

Animal Identification

Species _____ Rabies Tag? ☐ No ☐ Yes # _____

Breed _____ Size: ☐ Toy ☐ Small ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ Giant

Coat Color _____ Coat Length: ☐ Short ☐ Medium ☐ Long

Other ID _____ Sex: ☐ Male ☐ M (neutered) ☐ Female ☐ F (spayed)

☐ Reclaimed

Owner _____

Phone () _____ - _____

Address _____

Proof of Ownership _____

Released by _____ Date _____

Owner Signature _____ Date _____

☐ Adopted

Adoptive owner _____

Address _____

Phone () _____ - _____

Released by _____ Date _____

New owner signature _____ Date _____

☐ Transferred to _____

⁷ Adapted from *Help Us Get Them to Safety!* By the Nevada County Unit of the CVMA and Indiana's State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies Committee.

Large Animal Intake Form⁸

Date Arrived _____ ☐ Rescued ☐ Owner Brought
Intake number _____ Assigned Shelter Location _____
If rescued, Date rescued _____ Location _____
Date Discharged _____
Species: ☐ Cattle ☐ Sheep ☐ Swine ☐ Horse ☐ Goats ☐ Other _____
Owner's/Rescuer's name _____

Address _____
Number and street City Zip

Phone () _____ Cellular () _____

Other () _____

Individual Animal Identification

| Identification (E.g., Brand/tattoo) | Description, registration name or number | Age | Sex | Breed |
|--|---|-----|-----|-------|
| 1. | | | | |
| 2. | | | | |
| 3. | | | | |
| 4. | | | | |
| 5. | | | | |
| 6. | | | | |
| 7. | | | | |

Accepted by (staff) _____ Date _____

Owner's signature _____ Date _____

Released by _____ Date _____

Owner's signature _____ Date _____

⁸Adapted from Indiana's State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies Committee.

Animal Release Form

The undersigned owner(s) (agent) of the animal(s) described as follows:

Name of Animal _____ Breed _____

Description _____

I, _____, hereby request the emergency quartering of these animals being evacuated because of a pending or occurring disaster. The animal owners (agents) hereby release the receiving property owners and any caregivers from any and all liability regarding the care and quartering of these animals during and following this emergency. The animal owners (agents) acknowledge that if emergency conditions pose a threat to the safety of these animals, additional relocation may be necessary and that this release is intended to extend to such relocation.

The animal owners (agents) acknowledge that the risk of injury or death to these animals during an emergency cannot be eliminated and agree to be responsible for any veterinary expenses which may be incurred in the treatment of their animals. It is also requested that the animal owners (agents) contribute to the feeding and daily care of their animals, if possible.

The cost (if any) of returning these animals after the emergency will be at the owners = (agents =) expense. If an animal is not claimed within thirty (30) days, unless prior arrangements have been made, the animal owner will be notified of possible adoption or relocation.

Printed Name of Animal Owner (Agent) _____

Signed Name of Animal Owner (Agent) _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Place of Employment _____

Evacuation Address _____

It is the responsibility of the animal owners (agents) to keep the receiving property owners aware of where the animal owner's (agent's) can be contacted following the emergency.

Address of Receiving Property _____

