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Animal Disaster Planning for Emergency Operations Officials A Presentation for Parish Emergency Operations Planners

LEGISLATION & FUNDING

- Federal
- State
- Local
- Personal

Federal Legislation and Organization

- National Response Framework
- Stafford Act
- PETS Act amendment
 - Definition of household pets
- Fed's role in planning and response
 - Assistance and supplementation of resources
 - Parish retains jurisdictional authority
- FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy for Household Pets
 - Use of volunteer hours for matching funds
 - Even if no direct costs to parish assoc. with pet shelter
 - Classification of Horses and Livestock in NRF

Louisiana Legislation and Organization

- Animals in Emergency Planning – ESF-11
 - LA Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry is lead agency
- LA Pets Act – Act 615
 - Requires ANNUAL submission of animal emergency plan for all parishes and animal businesses
 - Provides for inclusion of household pets in emergency planning and response
 - Definition of household pets

- State's role in planning and response
- Role of NGOs in response

Local Ordinances

- Leash Laws
- Abandonment laws
- Rabies vaccination and licensing

Responsibilities of Animal Businesses and Organizations

- Must be responsible for the animals in their care
 - Annually update an animal emergency plan and file it with their parish OHSEP and LA Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry
- Role of State in Response
 - Transportation of household pets of population needing assistance
 - Identification of safe sites for sheltering of household pets of population needing assistance (PNA)
 - Does NOT include providing evacuation or sheltering for animal businesses or organizations
- Role of NGOs in response
 - Can provide assistance directly to animal business , organization, parish or statewide
 - Should have contractual agreement (MOU) and be included in written plan
 - *National Humane Organizations may now require that a parish or organization show proof of having an emergency plan on file with state before they will agree to assist with grants

Personal Responsibility of Animal Owners

- Animal ownership is a responsibility
- Animals are considered property (chattel) in law
- Animals should be included in a family's personal evacuation plan

- If household pet owners require evacuation assistance, their pets must be provided assistance if this does not compromise human safety
- Owning horses and livestock is considered a business
 - Owners must make their own plans for evacuation and sheltering

Goals of Parish Pet Emergency Planning

- Save human lives
 - *Evacuate and shelter people and pets together
 - Assuring safety of their pets saves lives of pet owners
 - Many people refuse to evacuate without their pets
- Ensure community safety
 - Owners will re-enter unsafe areas to rescue pets
 - Animals left abandoned will form packs
 - Risk of human bites, rabies and other diseases
 - Un-confined livestock in roadways
- Relieve animal suffering
 - Pets left behind during evacuation
 - Risk of injury, starvation, and death

DEVELOPING A PARISH ANIMAL EMERGENCY PLAN

- Assessing your Parish
- Identifying your AEC
- Designing a Plan

Types of Disasters

- Natural
 - Flood, hurricane, tornado, ice storm, wild fire, snow storm
 - Facility fire (most common local emergency)

- Manmade
 - Highway or transport incident (overturned tractor trailer)
 - Hazardous material spill (Highway or railway)
 - Terrorist attack
 - Nuclear incident
 - Power shortage or outage
 - Chemical or biological warfare

All-Disaster Planning

- Pre-event timeline
 - Long pre-event timeline (hurricane, flood)
 - Short/no advance warning (tornado, chemical spill)
- Post-event timeline
 - Extended evacuation time (fire)
 - Structural damage prevents return
 - Short evacuation time (train wreck)
- Scope of Event
 - Global event (evacuation out of parish)
 - Local event (in-parish evacuation)

Types of Communities

- Mix of Rural /suburban/urban areas
- Cultures
- Demographics
 - Age of population
 - Average income of population
 - Percent with substandard or no transportation

Estimating Pet and Livestock Numbers

- Household pet ownership numbers
 - Based on human population, human households

- Calculate total number of pets in parish using AVMA formula
- $\text{Human Population} \div 3 = \text{No. of households}$
- $\text{Households} \times 70\% = \text{No. of households owning pets}$
- $\text{No. of households owning pets} \times 1.5 = \text{est. no. of pets with human population}$
- Livestock numbers
 - LSU Agricultural Center maintains annual statistics

Estimating Household Pets Needing Assistance

- Estimating Household Pets Needing Assistance
 - Need to know how many people will need assistance
 - Most parishes use 10% of population, but % can vary
 - Need to know scale of emergency
 - $\text{Estimated pets needing assistance} \times 10\% = \text{actual number of pets assisted in 2008 responses}$

Actual Household Pets Needing Evacuation Assistance

- Calculate human population needing assistance (Human PNA)
- $\text{Human PNA} \div 3 = \text{Household PNA}$
- $\text{Household PNA} \times 70\% = \text{Household PNA owning pets}$
- $\text{No. of households owning pets} \times 1.5 = \text{est. no. of pets with human population (Pet PNA)}$
- Only 10% of est. PNA pets assisted in 2008!
- To create a planning no., double the 2008 % PNA no.

$\text{Human PNA} \div 3 \times .70 \times 1.5 \times .20 = \text{Suggested Planning Formula}$

LSART Questionnaire

- Information Tool for Parish
 - Valuable contact information for LDAF and LSART
- Basis of your Parish Plan
 - Changeable

- Evaluate annually and update
- Your plan may stay the same, but people and places can change

Identify Animal Emergency Coordinators (AEC)

- Household Pet AEC (SAEC)
 - Animal Control Officer
 - Sheriff's deputy
 - Veterinarian
- Equine/Livestock AEC (EAEC, LAEC)
 - Should name both an EAEC and LAEC in some parishes
 - Cattlemen's Association
 - County Agent
 - Veterinarian

Responsibilities of an Animal Emergency Coordinator

- Designated as essential personnel with jurisdictional authority
- Available during emergencies to coordinate animal response
- Role in Parish Planning and Response
 - Reports to OEP Director
 - Must be member of parish emergency planning team
 - Communicates with state partners
 - Identifies and coordinates local animal response team
 - Assists OEP Director with annual updating of Parish Animal Plan to LDAF

COMPONENTS OF A PARISH ANIMAL PLAN

- Sheltering
- Shelter Location
- Evacuation
- Transportation

- Search & Rescue
- Re-Entry & Reunification
- Public Messaging

Sheltering

*Any incident that requires sheltering people requires sheltering animals

- Identify potential shelter locations
 - In-parish household pet shelter facilities (Noah's Wish List)
 - In-parish equine and livestock shelter facilities
 - Partnering with another parish
 - State-operated pet shelters
 - Mobile pet shelters
- Co-locate with human shelters
 - Staffing needs are lower
 - Safety of shelter personnel and pet owners
 - Security
 - Does not need to be in same building or room, just close enough for owners to care for their pets

Shelter Management and Manpower

- LSART Training course
- Partnership with humane organization
 - Local, regional or national groups
- Co-located shelters require 1/3 labor force of separated pet shelters
 - 10 workers/500 pets with owners present
 - 30+ workers/500 pets if not co-located

Shelter Supplies

- Pre-positioning of supplies
 - Storage facilities
 - Con-ex container
 - Warehouse

- Supply resources
 - LDAF
 - LSART Manual has a list

Potential Shelter Locations (This list courtesy of Noah's Wish)

- Agriculture Center
- Aquarium
- Dog Park
- Dog Training Center
- Existing Animal Shelter
- Fairgrounds
- Field
- Golf Course
- Livestock Auction
- Park
- Pet Day Care Center
- Race Track
- School
- Tennis Courts
- Warehouse

Evacuation

- Partial vs. parish wide
- Size of event, duration of event
- Parish-organized vs. state assisted
 - Will you use state assets?
 - Partner with another parish
 - MOU with NGO – local or national
- Estimate of number of pets needing assisted evacuation
 - Determine how many residents will need assistance (10%?)
 - Calculate number of pets owned by this population
 - Lafayette train derailment numbers (10% of estimate)
 - Gustav and Ivan stats (10% of highest estimate)
 - Determine planning estimates (20% of estimate)

Transportation

- State-assisted or parish-organized pet transport
- Registration procedures
 - Standardized registration/tracking system
 - Link pets as member of household
- LSART Training
- Pre-positioning of transport supplies

Search and Rescue

- Any time there is human SAR, there will be animal SAR
 - Coordinated response is necessary
 - Human safety is first priority
- Joint pet/human SAR
 - Pre-event for special needs (elderly, homebound)
 - Post-event for non-evacuees and their pets
- Animal only
 - Household pets left behind
 - Horses and livestock in danger post-event
- Feed in place – When?
 - Owner's return is imminent
 - Animal is safe
 - SAR is unsafe

Re-entry and Reunification

GOAL: Continuity of community-based services as soon as safely possible

- Re-entry of separated CTN pets in state shelters must be coordinated with return of human CTN owners
 - If owners have not returned, parish must shelter and care for pets
- Assessment of Animal Control / Parish Shelter
 - Facilities and manpower

- Ability to provide normal services plus reunification services
- Assessment of animal care services in community
 - Veterinary care
 - Food and water supply

Public Information and Messaging

- Animal Ownership is a responsibility
- Animals should be included in a family's personal evacuation plan
- Only pets of residents needing evacuation assistance will be allowed access to state-operated transport and shelter
- Small pets in carriers are allowed to ride on owner's lap on state-operated evacuation buses
- Pets are not allowed on trains or airplanes during state-assisted evacuation

LSART Web Site: www.lsart.org

LSART Training Seminars

- Household Pet Evacuation (Parish Pickup Point Registration, Loading, Tracking)
- Household Pet Emergency Sheltering
- Preparing an Animal Emergency Plan for your Community
- Emergency Preparedness for Pet Owners
- Emergency Preparedness for Horse Owners
- Designing a Pet Shelter for First Responders
- Speaking to the Public about Animal Emergency Preparedness

2008 Household Pet Emergency Response: What went right and what didn't

Just how many pets are there in S. LA?

- Calculate no. of pets using AVMA formula and latest census estimates:
 - Human Population \div 3 = No. of households
 - Households x 70% = No. of households owning pets
 - No. of households owning pets x 1.5 = est. no. of pets with human population
- Estimate no. of humans who could require state-assisted evacuation (average ~ 10% of total population) and use formula to estimate how many pets would require state-assisted evacuation and sheltering
 - Designated as CTN (Critical Transportation Needs) residents
 - Unable to safely evacuate on their own
 - Includes indigent, elderly, medical special needs
- Actual estimate: 12,000 - 23,500 pets in 12 coastal parishes might need transportation and shelter!

What supplies will we need?

- State of LA (LDAF)
 - 7500 plastic transport kennels, pre-positioned at DCI
 - 7500 wire shelter kennels, pre-positioned at warehouses near Shreveport and Alexandria
 - bowls, leashes, other supplies
- LSART
 - Purchased and pre-positioned shelter kits in Shreveport, Alexandria & Monroe
 - Requisitioned transport and shelter forms and supplies
 - Purchased and distributed evacuation kits to parishes

How many people are needed to help? A LOT!

- Shelter workers/management
 - 10 workers/500 pets if owners are present
 - 30 workers/500 pets if owners not
 - Arrived 48 hours pre-storm for set-up
 - National Humane Organizations (AHA, ASPCA, HSUS, IFAW, Noah's Wish, UAN)
- Filling the gaps
 - LA Dept. of Corrections inmates
 - Sheltering: kennel set-up, unloading, cleanup, maintenance
 - On-site shelter at DCI for special needs pets and pets in transit
 - Transportation: configuring and loading kennels on trucks
- LSART PPP liaisons/Van drivers
 - 24-48 hour shift, 2 days pre-storm
 - 2 per parish minimum
 - LSART volunteers and LSU SVM students

Who is ready and who isn't?

- Shelter management training in Shreveport & Alexandria
- Coastal parish evacuation protocol trainings for ACOs
- Regional evacuation, search & rescue exercises
- Transportation safety exercises
- Daily conference calls with animal control officers
- LSART Manual

Last minute modifications to state pet plans

*Made a huge impact on response success

- DOTD amended human transport contract to allow lap pets in soft carriers to travel on owner's lap - 42% of pets qualified as lap pets
 - Fewer pets separated from owners during transport
 - Lessened the load on pet transportation assets

- DSS agreed to prioritize transport of pet owners to Shreveport co-located shelters
 - Allowed 80% of pet owners to care for their pets
 - Volunteers had to provide full care for 200 pets, not 1000
- USDA and FEMA came through with vans to transport special needs and exotic pets
 - High risk animals did not have to travel in refrigerated trucks

Evacuation = Registration + Transportation

- Most coastal parishes used version of LSART PPP protocol to register and load pets
 - Standardized system – Easy to implement
 - Assured reliable tracking of pets from parish to shelter to parish
- USDA Animal Care Teams joined LSART liaisons at PPP to monitor heat stress and loading safety
 - Greatly helped communication between LSART and parish officials
- Transport protocol required periodic stops at vet check stations in route to shelters

Did the Mega-Shelters really work?

*We knew where everyone was!

- All pets on state transport trucks went to Hirsch Coliseum in Shreveport (1054)
- Lap pets went to LSU-A Ag Coliseum in Alexandria (120) Management provided by regional LSART sheltering teams (mostly veterinarians)
- Six National Humane Organizations provided trained shelter workers – Teamwork!
- 100% of pets transported and sheltered by LSART/LDAF were returned to their home parishes

The Perfect Response? Not Exactly...

- Communication woes (of course)
 - Power/computer failure at LDAF Command Post
 - Unable to coordinate effectively with other state agencies (transport, shelter, re-entry)
 - Some parishes not able to implement pet emergency plan
- Way off on our numbers for CTN pets
 - Actual CTN pet nos. were about 10% of lowest estimates for total coastal evacuation
 - Why? Demographics, reluctant to use system, not informed about availability of pet transport

Other Cool Stuff

- Having resources pre-staged hastened readiness during the event
- Established relationships with trusted, trained volunteer partners
- Animal control officials were able to maintain control of their parishes during recovery.
- Transportation safety protocols we developed are being adopted as national standard.
- Standardized evacuation protocol enabled us to track pets from parish to shelter and back to home parish

Needs Improvement

- Public Messaging
 - People don't know their rights as pet owners
 - People still think pets are safer at home
- Documentation and Record-Keeping
- FEMA Reimbursement Policy for Pet Evacuation
 - New policy - nobody is sure how it works (even FEMA)
- Shelter statistics to enable better population est.

An Act:

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that State and local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the **“Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006”**.

SEC. 2. STANDARDS FOR STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OPERATIONAL PLANS.

Section 613 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196b) is amended—

- (1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and
- (2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) **STANDARDS FOR STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OPERATIONAL PLANS.**—In approving standards for State and local emergency preparedness operational plans pursuant to subsection (b)(3), the Director shall ensure that such plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency.”

SEC. 3. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEASURES OF THE DIRECTOR.

Section 611 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (e)—
 - (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;
 - (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and
 - (C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) plans that take into account the needs of individuals with pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency.”; and
- (2) in subsection (j)—
 - (A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (3) through (9), respectively; and
 - (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) The Director may make financial contributions, on the basis of programs or projects approved by the Director, to the States and local authorities for animal emergency preparedness purposes, including the procurement, construction, leasing, or renovating of emergency shelter facilities and materials that will accommodate people with pets and service animals.”.

SEC. 4. PROVIDING ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH HOUSEHOLD PETS AND SERVICE ANIMALS FOLLOWING A DISASTER.

Section 403(a)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b(a)(3)) is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (H), by striking “and” at the end;
- (2) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and
- (3) by adding at the end the following:
“(J) provision of rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs—
“(i) to individuals with household pets and service animals; and
“(ii) to such pets and animals.”.

BY SENATORS

FONTENOT, ADLEY, BOASSO, CRAVINS, DARDENNE, N. GAUTREAUX, HOLLIS AND QUINN AND REPRESENTATIVES HEBERT, RICHMOND, JACK SMITH, TRICHE, ALARIO, ALEXANDER, ANSARDI, ARNOLD, BADON, BAUDOIN, BAYLOR, BEARD, BRUCE, BURRELL, CAZAYOUX, CHANDLER, CRAVINS, CROWE, DAMICO, DANIEL, DARTEZ, DEWITT, DOERGE, DORSEY, DOVE, DOWNS, DURAND, ERDEY, FARRAR, FAUCHEUX, FRITH, GRAY, HILL, HONEY, HUTTER, JACKSON, JOHNS, KATZ, KENNARD, KENNEY, LABRUZZO, LAFLEUR, LAFONTA, LANCASTER, MARCHAND, MARTINY, MCVEA, PIERRE, PINAC, PITRE, M. POWELL, QUEZAIRE, SCALISE, SCHNEIDER, SMILEY, GARY SMITH, JANE SMITH, JOHN SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STRAIN, THOMPSON, TOWNSEND, TRAHAN, TUCKER, WALKER, WALSWORTH, WHITE AND WOOTON

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 29:726(E)(20), 729(E)(13), and 733.1 and to enact R.S. 29:726(E)(21) and 729(E)(14), relative to emergency preparedness; to provide additional authorities and responsibilities to the office of homeland security and emergency preparedness and to parish homeland security and emergency preparedness agencies relative to a disaster operation plan for service animals and household pets; to provide for limitation of liability of emergency personnel and owners and operators of facilities used for shelter of household pets and service animals in emergencies; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 29:726(E)(20), 729(E)(13), and 733.1 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 29:726(E)(21) and 729(E)(14) are hereby enacted to read as follows

§726. Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; authority and responsibilities
The office shall either directly or through authorized assignment to another state agency or department:

(a) In consultation with parish homeland security and emergency preparedness agency authorities, assist in the formulation of emergency operation plans for the humane evacuation, transport, and temporary sheltering of service animals and household pets in times of emergency or disaster.

(i) Require that persons with disabilities who utilize service animals, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, are evacuated, transported, and sheltered with those service animals and inform all facilities that provide shelter to persons with disabilities who are accompanied by their service animals of their legal obligation to provide shelter to both the disabled person and the service animal.

(ii)(aa) Assist in the identification of evacuation shelters and other state facilities that are designed and equipped to accept and temporarily house household pets and canine search and rescue teams. (bb) Assist in the development of guidelines for such shelters which may include standards or criteria for admission to such shelters, health and safety standards, basic minimum animal care standards regarding nutrition, space, hygiene, and medical needs, protocols, and procedures for ensuring adequate sheltering, management, and veterinary staffing for such shelters.

(iii)(aa) Enable, wherever possible, pet and pet-owner evacuations for disabled, elderly, special needs residents, and all other residents whenever such evacuations can be accomplished without endangering human life. (bb) The office shall coordinate the establishment of an identification system to enable household pet owners who are separated from their household pets during an evacuation to locate and reclaim such household pets.

(iv) Allow household pets in cages or carriers that safely and securely confine such pets and are specifically designed for the containment and transport of such pets to utilize public transportation during an impending disaster, when doing so does not endanger human life. If such pets are not allowed to use public transportation, the primary agency designated under the provisions of R.S. 29:729(E)(13)(b)(i) and (ii) is authorized to provide separate transportation for these pets. The office shall, in consultation with the primary agency designated under the provisions of R.S. 29:729(E)(13)(b)(i) and (ii) and other appropriate

agencies, assist in the development of plans to address the evacuation, transportation, and other needs of those household pets that are not evacuated or transported pursuant to this Item.

(v) Require animal shelters, humane societies, veterinary offices, boarding kennels, breeders, grooming facilities, hospitals, schools, animal testing facilities, and any other businesses or not-for-profit agencies that normally house household pets or service animals to create evacuation plans for such animals consistent with the provisions of this Paragraph. Such plans shall be made available to the public upon request and shall be filed annually with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Animal Health Services and with their respective parish office of homeland security and emergency preparedness.

(vi) Implement a public information program to provide guidance to household pet owners in formulating their own evacuation plans for their household pets and service animals, and inform such pet owners of the resources available to assist them in such evacuations.

(vii) Ensure the primary agency designated under the provisions of R.S. 24 29:729(E)(13)(b)(i) and (ii) is included in emergency preparedness exercises conducted or arranged through the state or parish government, and that animal rescue, evacuation and sheltering needs of residents with pets are made a part of those exercises.

(b) Coordinate the development and establishment of requirements for the authorization and training of volunteer workers to assist the primary agency designated under the provisions of R.S. 29:729(E)(13)(b)(i) and (ii) in carrying out the provisions of this Paragraph.

(c) For the purposes of this Paragraph, "household pet" shall mean any domesticated cat, dog, and other domesticated animal normally maintained on the property of the owner or person who cares for such domesticated animal. Do other things necessary, incidental, or appropriate for the implementation of this Chapter.

§729. Parish homeland security and emergency preparedness; agency authorities and responsibilities
The parish office of homeland security and emergency preparedness shall:

(a) In consultation with experts in the fields of animal sheltering, veterinary medicine, public health and safety, other professional and technical personnel deemed appropriate, and the state office of homeland security and emergency preparedness, formulate emergency operation plans for the humane evacuation, transport, and temporary sheltering of service animals and household pets in times of emergency or disaster that:

(i) Require that persons with disabilities who utilize service animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, are evacuated, transported, and sheltered with those service animals and inform all facilities that provide shelter to persons with disabilities who are accompanied by their service animals of their legal obligation to provide shelter to both the disabled person and the service animal.

(ii)(aa) Identify or establish, as the case may be, in conjunction with the state office of homeland security and emergency preparedness, evacuation shelters designed and equipped to accept and temporarily house household pets and canine search and rescue teams. (bb) Develop guidelines for such shelters which may include standards or criteria for admission to such shelters, health and safety standards, basic minimum animal care standards regarding nutrition, space, hygiene, and medical needs, protocols, and procedures for ensuring adequate sheltering, management, and veterinary staffing for such shelters.

(iii)(aa) Enable, wherever possible, pet and pet-owner evacuations for disabled, elderly, special needs residents, and all other residents whenever such evacuations can be accomplished without endangering human life. (bb) The office shall establish an identification system to ensure that household pet owners who are separated from their household pets during an evacuation are provided with all information necessary to locate and reclaim such household pet.

(iv) Allow household pets in cages or carriers that safely and securely confine such pets and are specifically designed for the containment and transport of such pets to utilize public transportation during an impending disaster, when doing so does not endanger human life. If such pets are not allowed to use public transportation, the primary agency designated under the provisions of R.S. 29:729(E)(13)(b)(i) and (ii) is authorized to provide separate transportation for these pets. The office shall, in consultation with the primary agency designated under the provisions of R.S. 29:729(E)(13)(b)(i) and (ii) and other appropriate

agencies, develop plans to address the evacuation, transportation, and other needs of those household pets that are not evacuated or transported pursuant to this Item.

(v) Establish protocols which require the parish designated animal control, animal sheltering, or animal care agency in each parish to develop a plan for evacuation of household pets.

(vi) Require that animal shelters, humane societies, veterinary offices, boarding kennels, breeders, grooming facilities, hospitals, schools, animal testing facilities, and any other businesses or not-for-profit agencies that normally house household pets or service animals, create evacuation plans for such animals consistent with the provisions of this Paragraph. Such plans shall be made available to the public upon request and shall be filed annually with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, office of animal health services and with their respective parish homeland security and emergency preparedness agency.

(vii) Implement a public information program to provide guidance to household pet owners in formulating their own evacuation plans for their household pets and service animals, inform such pet owners of the resources available to assist them in such evacuations.

(viii) Ensure the primary agency designated under the provisions of R.S. 9 29:729(E)(13)(b)(i) and (ii) is included in emergency preparedness exercises conducted or arranged through the state or parish government, and that animal rescue, evacuation and sheltering needs of residents with pets are made a part of those exercises.

(b)(i) In creating emergency operation plans pursuant to this Paragraph, the parish office of homeland security and emergency preparedness may delegate any or all of the evacuation, transportation, sheltering, or other functions delineated herein to the agency with authority over animal control or animal related issues in that parish which shall serve as the primary department or local entity, provided that such primary department or local entity may delegate any or all such functions to public or private agencies with expertise in the areas of animal control, animal sheltering, or animal care. Emergency operation plans created pursuant to this Paragraph shall be submitted to the state office of homeland security and emergency preparedness and to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry on an annual basis with the first of such plans to be submitted on or before August 1, 2006, and on or before March first of each year thereafter.

(ii) Any parish office of homeland security and emergency preparedness that chooses to designate a local parish department or local entity as the primary department or entity authorized to coordinate and provide for the evacuation, transportation, or sheltering of household pets and service animals shall provide written notification to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the state office of homeland security and emergency preparedness as to the primary department's or entity's physical location and contact information. The Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the state office of homeland security and emergency preparedness shall coordinate with such designated primary department or entity as to their duties relative to the evacuation, transportation, and sheltering of household pets and service animals.

(c) For the purposes of this Paragraph, "household pet" shall mean any domesticated cat, dog, and other domesticated animal normally maintained on the property of the owner or person who cares for such domesticated animal. Do other things necessary, incidental, or appropriate for the implementation of this Chapter.

§733.1. Limitation of liability of owner or operator of facilities

Any person or organization, public or private, owning or operating immovable property or other premises who voluntarily and without compensation grants a license or privilege or otherwise permits the designation by the state or local homeland security and emergency preparedness agency or use of the whole or any part of the immovable property or premises for the purpose of sheltering persons or household pets or service animals during an actual, impending, mock, or practice emergency, together with his successor in interest, if any, shall not be liable for the death of, or injury to, any person or household pets or service animals on or about such immovable property or premises during the actual, impending, mock, or practice emergency, or for loss of, or damage to, the property of such person, solely by reason or as a result of the license, privilege, designation, or use, unless the gross negligence or the willful and wanton misconduct of the person owning or operating the immovable property or premises or his successor in interest is the proximate cause of the death, injury, loss, or damage occurring during the sheltering period.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA




FEMA

OCT 24 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: FEMA Regional Administrators
Regions I - X

ATTENTION: Disaster Assistance Division Directors

FROM: Carlos J. Castillo 
Assistant Administrator
Disaster Assistance Directorate

SUBJECT: Disaster Assistance Policy DAP9523.19
Eligible Costs Related to Pet Evacuations and Sheltering

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce the issuance of the attached final Disaster Assistance Policy DAP9523.19, Eligible Costs Related to Pet Evacuations and Sheltering. This policy identifies the expenses related to State and local governments' emergency pet evacuation and sheltering activities that may be eligible for reimbursement following a major disaster or emergency declaration.

If you have any questions about this policy, please contact Lu Juana Richardson, Public Assistance Division, via email at LuJuana.Richardson@dhs.gov, facsimile (202) 646-3304, or phone (202) 646-4014.

Attachment

www.fema.gov



FEMA

DISASTER ASSISTANCE POLICY

DAP9523.19

I. TITLE: Eligible Costs Related to Pet Evacuations and Sheltering

II. DATE: OCT 24 2007

III. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to identify the expenses related to State and local governments' emergency pet evacuation and sheltering activities that may be eligible for reimbursement following a major disaster or emergency declaration.

IV. SCOPE AND AUDIENCE:

This policy is applicable to all major disasters and emergencies declared on or after its date of issuance. It is intended to be used by FEMA personnel involved in making eligibility determinations under the Public Assistance Program.

V. AUTHORITY:

Sections 403 and 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), 42 U.S.C. 5170b, 42 U.S.C. 5192; the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act) of 2006, P.L. No. 109-308, § 4, 120 Stat. 1725 (2006); and 44 CFR §§ 206.223(a), 206.225(a).

VI. BACKGROUND:

On October 6, 2006, the PETS Act was signed into law, amending Section 403 of the Stafford Act. Section 403, as amended by the PETS Act, authorizes FEMA to provide rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs for individuals with household pets and service animals, and to the household pets and animals themselves following a major disaster or emergency.

VII. POLICY:

A. Definitions:

1. Household Pet. A domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent, or turtle that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers, and be housed in temporary facilities. Household pets do not



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include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses), and animals kept for racing purposes.

2. **Service Animal¹.** Any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

3. **Congregate Household Pet Shelters.** Any private or public facility that provides refuge to rescued household pets and the household pets of shelterees in response to a declared major disaster or emergency.

B. Eligibility. State and local governments that receive evacuees from areas declared a major disaster or an emergency may seek reimbursement for eligible pet rescue, sheltering, and evacuation support costs.

1. State and local governments outside the designated disaster area may seek reimbursement under mutual aid protocols through the affected and supported state(s). (44 CFR § 206.223(a)(2)).

2. State and local governments are the only eligible applicants for sheltering and rescuing household pets and service animals. Contractors or private nonprofit (PNP) organizations that shelter or rescue household pets and service animals cannot be reimbursed directly as an applicant. However, contractors and PNPs can be reimbursed for sheltering and rescuing household pets and service animals through a state or local government, provided a written statement from an eligible applicant is presented in which the applicant verifies that the contractor or PNP is performing or has performed sheltering or rescuing operations on the applicant's behalf and the expenses are documented.

C. Household Pet Rescue. State and local governments may conduct rescue operations for household pets directly or they may contract with other providers for such services. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Overtime for regular full-time employees.

¹ Department of Justice, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 USC 1201 et seq, implementing regulations at 28 CFR § 35.104.



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2. Regular-time and overtime for contract labor (including mutual aid agreements) specifically hired to provide additional support required as a result of the disaster.

3. The use of applicant-owned or leased equipment (such as buses or other vehicles) to provide eligible pet transportation to congregate pet shelters may be reimbursed according to 44 CFR § 206.228(l)(a) (does not include operator labor). The cost of leasing equipment for this purpose may also be eligible for reimbursement.

D. Congregate Household Pet Sheltering. State and local governments may conduct sheltering operations for pets directly, or may contract with other sheltering providers for such services. Eligible Category B congregate pet sheltering costs may include, but are not limited to, the *reasonable* costs for:

1. Facilities.

- Minor modifications to buildings used for congregate household pet sheltering, if necessary to provide increased capacity for the accommodation of shelterers' household pets.
- Facility lease or rent.
- Increase in utility costs, such as power, water, and telephone.
- Generator lease and operation (but not purchase).
- Shelter safety and security.
- Shelter management.
- Shelter and crate/cage cleaning.

2. **Supplies and Commodities.** Eligible items are those needed for, and used directly on, the declared disaster, and are reasonable in both cost and need. Examples include:

- Food, water, and bowls.
- Crates/Cages.
- Pet transport carriers.
- Animal cleaning tables and supplies.
- Medication for animal decontamination and parasite control to ensure that the animal is not a health threat to humans or other animals.

3. **Eligible Labor.** If the regular employees of an eligible applicant perform duties in direct support of congregate pet sheltering operations, any overtime pay related to such duties is eligible for reimbursement. However, the straight-time pay of these employees is not eligible. Regular-time and overtime for contract labor, including mutual aid agreements,



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specifically hired to provide additional support required as a result of the disaster or emergency is also eligible for reimbursement.

4. Equipment. The use of applicant owned or leased equipment (such as buses, trucks, or other vehicles) to provide eligible pet evacuation or sheltering support may be reimbursed according to 44 CFR §206.228(1)(a) (does not include operator labor). The cost of leasing equipment may also be an eligible expense for reimbursement.

5. Emergency Veterinary Services. For the purposes of screening the health of household pets and service animals, and assessing and treating minor illnesses and injuries, congregate pet shelters may be staffed with emergency veterinary teams. The following costs related to the provision of emergency veterinary services in a congregate pet sheltering environment are eligible for reimbursement:

- Veterinary diagnosis, triage, treatment, and stabilization.
- Provision of first aid, including materials (bandages, etc.).
- Medicine.
- Supervision of paid and volunteer veterinary staff.
- Vaccinations administered to protect the health and safety of congregate shelter and supporting emergency workers including but not limited to tetanus and hepatitis.
- Vaccinations administered to protect the health and safety of congregate shelter pets for transmissible or contagious diseases including but not limited to bordetella/kenel cough.

6. Transportation. Transportation of evacuees' household pets and service animals to congregate shelters from pre-established pickup locations is an eligible expense when the means of transportation used is the most cost-effective available.

7. Shelter Safety and Security. Additional reimbursable safety and security services may be provided at congregate pet shelters, based upon need.

8. Cleaning and Restoration. The costs (to the Applicant) to clean, maintain, and restore a facility to pre-congregate pet shelter condition are eligible.

9. Removal and Disposal of Animal Carcasses. The costs (to the Applicant) to remove and dispose of animal carcasses in a safe and timely manner and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations are eligible.



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10. Cataloging/Tracking System for Pets. The reasonable costs (to the Applicant) for tracking animals at congregate pet shelters for the purposes of reuniting them with their owners are eligible.

E. **Service animals**. Service animals will be sheltered with their owners in congregate shelters.

F. **Length of Operation**. Costs of sheltering/caring for household pets will no longer be eligible for FEMA reimbursement when the pet owner transitions out of Section 403 emergency sheltering.

VIII. **ORIGINATING OFFICE**: Disaster Assistance Directorate (Public Assistance Division).

IX. **SUPERSESSION**: This policy supersedes all previous guidance on this subject.

X. **REVIEW DATE**: Three years from date of publication.

Carlos J. Castillo
Assistant Administrator
Disaster Assistance Directorate

Animal Disaster Planning for Emergency Operations Officials Planning Worksheet

What local ordinances in your parish affect animal emergency planning?

What types of disasters can occur in your parish?

___Flood ___Hurricane ___Tornado ___Ice storm ___Wild fire ___Snow storm
___Highway incident ___Railway incident ___Hazardous material spill
___Terrorist attack ___Nuclear incident ___Chemical or biological warfare
___Power shortage or outage ___Other:_____

What types of communities comprise your parish?

___%Rural ___%Suburban ___%Urban

Predominant cultures/ethnicities/religions _____

Significant Demographics_____

Estimating Total Household Pet Numbers

- Calculate total household pets: _____
 - Human Population_____ ÷ 3 = No. of households_____
 - Households_____ x 70% = No. of households owning pets_____
 - No. of households owning pets_____ x 1.5 = est. no. of pets with human population_____

Estimating Household Pets Needing Assistance

- Total number of pets_____ x percent of households in parish requiring assistance (usually 10%) = Pets needing assistance_____
- Pets needing assistance_____ x 10% = actual number of pets assisted in 2008_____*
- *Does this number match the number you counted?
- Number of pets assisted in 2008_____ x 2 = New pet planning est.

Suggested Planning Formula

- Total Pets x % Households needing assistance x 20% = _____
- Estimated planning number based on factoring in a moderate increase in 2008 numbers to account for better public information, other factors

Identify Animal Emergency Coordinators (AEC)

Household Pet AEC _____

Equine AEC _____

Livestock AEC _____

Identify potential shelter locations

In-parish household pet shelter _____

In-parish equine and livestock shelter _____

Parish partner shelters _____

Is pet shelter co-located with human shelter? _____

Shelter Management and Manpower

Who will manage and operate your shelters? _____

How many shelter workers will you need? _____

Are they trained? By whom? _____

Do you have a labor source for set-up, maintenance? _____

Shelter Supplies

What shelter supplies will you need? _____

How many wire crates? _____

Where will you store shelter supplies? _____

Evacuation

Will you use state evacuation assets? _____

What types of evacuation assets do you need? _____

_____ Plastic transport crates _____ Soft-sided pet carriers

Transportation

Will you use State-assisted or parish-organized pet transport? _____

Do you have a standardized pet registration system? _____

Is it linked to human registration system? _____

Are you trained in pet registration and loading procedures? _____

Do you have the supplies you need for pet transportation? _____

Search and Rescue

Who is responsible for Search and Rescue in your parish? _____

Who is responsible for Animal Search and Rescue in your parish? _____

Are they coordinating a joint response? _____

Re-entry and Reunification

Can you provide post-event assessment of animal resources in your community? _____

Do you have a plan for re-entry and reunification that includes pets? _____

Public Information and Messaging

Do you include information for pet owners in your emergency preparedness public messaging? _____

LSART Web Site: www.lsart.org

LSART Animal Emergency Planning Parish Questionnaire

~Please update this questionnaire annually and submit a copy to
LSART and LA Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry~



A. PARISH INFORMATION

Parish :	Region:
1. OEP Contact Information	
Contact Name:	
Title/Position:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, ZIP:	
Work Phone:	
Emergency Phone:	
E-mail Address:	
2. Alternate Contact for OEP	
Contact Name:	
Title/Position:	
Mailing Address:	
City, State, ZIP:	
Work Phone:	
Emergency Phone:	
E-mail Address:	
3. What are the most likely emergencies to affect this parish?	
a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	

B. ANIMAL EMERGENCY COORDINATORS (AEC)

1. Designated Authority for Small Animal Issues in the Parish (SAEC)
Contact Name:
Title/Position:
Mailing Address:
City, State, ZIP:
Work Phone:
Emergency Phone:
E-mail Address:
Is this the person we should communicate with in an emergency? Yes No
2. If not, who is the designated small animal contact during an emergency?
Contact Name:
Title/Position:
Mailing Address:
City, State, ZIP:
Work Phone:
Emergency Phone:
E-mail Address:
3. Is there an alternate contact for small animal emergencies?
Contact Name:
Title/Position:
Mailing Address:
City, State, ZIP:
Work Phone:
Emergency Phone:
E-mail Address:

4. Designated Authority for Equine Issues in the Parish (EAEC)
Contact Name:
Title/Position:
Mailing Address:
City, State, ZIP:
Work Phone:
Emergency Phone:
E-mail Address:
Is this the person we should communicate with in an emergency? Yes No
5. If not, who is the designated equine contact during an emergency?
Contact Name:
Title/Position:
Mailing Address:
City, State, ZIP:
Work Phone:
Emergency Phone:
E-mail Address:
6. Is there an alternate contact for large animal emergencies?
Contact Name:
Title/Position:
Mailing Address:
City, State, ZIP:
Work Phone:
Emergency Phone:
E-mail Address:

7. Designated Authority for Livestock Issues in the Parish (LAEC)
Contact Name:
Title/Position:
Mailing Address:
City, State, ZIP:
Work Phone:
Emergency Phone:
E-mail Address:
Is this the person we should communicate with in an emergency? Yes No
8. If not, who is the designated livestock contact during an emergency?
Contact Name:
Title/Position:
Mailing Address:
City, State, ZIP:
Work Phone:
Emergency Phone:
E-mail Address:
9. Is there an alternate contact for livestock emergencies?
Contact Name:
Title/Position:
Mailing Address:
City, State, ZIP:
Work Phone:
Emergency Phone:
E-mail Address:

C. EMERGENCY PLAN COMPONENTS

1. Sheltering	
Do you have a location for a co-located human /pet shelter in the parish? Yes No (examples include an agricultural facility next to a coliseum, or a school where the people are housed in the classrooms and animals in the hall or locker room)	
Location:	GPS coordinates:
Physical address:	
Facility Manager:	Facility Phone:
Emergency Phone:	E-mail Address:
Would you like to have a small shelter training course in your parish? Yes No	
Do you have a location for a large animal shelter within the parish? Yes No (examples include stockyards and agricultural facilities)	
Location:	GPS coordinates:
Physical address:	
Facility Manager:	Facility Phone:
Emergency Phone:	E-mail Address:
2. Evacuation	
If this is a coastal parish or near-coastal parish, at what category storm will the parish likely call for a mandatory evacuation?	
Do you have a designated Parish Pick-up Point? Yes No	
Location:	GPS coordinates:
Physical address:	
Facility Manager:	Facility Phone:
Emergency Phone:	E-mail Address:
Should this parish call a mandatory evacuation for any reason will you need assistance in transporting and sheltering pets? Yes No	
3. All-Disaster Assistance	
What types of assistance with animal issues do you foresee this parish will need?	
a.	
b.	
c.	
Does this parish have a written agreement (MOU, MOA) with a volunteer animal organization for assistance with: evacuation sheltering search & rescue	
Name of Organization:	
Contact Name:	Contact Phone: Page 37



Who's on First?

- How do you know **what** you need?
 - Look critically at your supply list:
 - What supplies are most frequently used by your agency?
 - Do any or all of these supplies translate well in “the field” (i.e. can they be used & are they useful if there is no power, heat, etc.)?
 - If not, identify what, if any, items are available that could be used in its place during a disaster.
 - Use these items to create a “**Critical Supply List**” to guide your organization’s contractual interfaces.
 - What is in your “daily stock” of these items?
 - How are these items inventoried?
- How do you know **when** you need it?
 - How often are these supplies inventoried?
 - How are those inventories kept?
 - Are the items on it readily available?
 - Can they be purchased locally or do they need to be shipped?
 - If they can be purchased locally, are they items used in / by multiple organizations in your area?
 - What if those suppliers run out? What then?
 - If they need to be shipped, how quickly can they be shipped IF transportation is not disrupted?
 - Does your agency have the capacity to store extras of these supplies?
 - What are your organizational ordering protocols?

- **How** do you get what you need when you need it?
 - You know what you need, but in the event of a disaster, how do you get those additional supplies if you can't keep them stored on-hand?
 - Are supplies ordered via web?
 - What if internet service is down?
 - Have a back-up plan
 - Is only one person responsible for ordering?
 - Have a back-up person
 - Is there a company credit card so that items can be purchased by any employee or volunteer locally?
- **Who** gets you what you need?
 - Think of "who" in terms of within AND outside of your organization.
 - Internally
 - Have several positions / individuals identified, trained & authorized to make company purchases.
 - Externally
 - What resources provide *what* supplies; know *who* suppliers are;
 - Identify local resources as well as companies outside your immediate vicinity;
 - Make sure your agency establishes relationships with suppliers *prior to* an incident!
- **Where** do you get what you need?
 - Look at your Organizational Disaster Supply Lists & identify where / who each supply comes from.
 - Create a list of these contacts with their regular & emergency contact information.
 - Use this information in the creation of your Organizational Disaster Plan.



“All-Hazards” Disaster Planning - getting the biggest ‘bang for your buck’How?

1. Decide Upon Your Organizational Mission;
2. Be Honest About the Hazards Faced in Your Area;
3. Have Well Thought Out, Written Plan in Place;
 - Know the Condition of Your Facility;
 - Take Pictures &/or Video of Your Facility & ALL Equipment;
 - Have a Thorough Inventory of Everything in Your Facility;
 - Review Your Insurance Policy;
 - Be Sure Your Have Accurate and Up-to-Date Information on All Your Employees & Volunteers;
 - Have Emergency Contact Information & Back-Up Files for ALL clients;
 - Ensure EVERY Client, Volunteer & Employee is Given a Disaster Information Resource Packet and
 - Have Emergency Contact Information Readily Available for ALL Contractual Interfaces



WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

How do you begin planning? You need to know what cards you hold or, What's in your wallet? Some questions to consider, others may come up when you start thinking about these.

1. How many animals can your facility/foster homes hold?
 - a. Cats
 - b. Dogs
 - c. Other
2. How many foster homes in your network? Do you have a written list?
3. Where are they located? Different boroughs?
4. What is your return policy for adoptions? Will adopters bring you pets if they are in affected areas?
5. What is your role in the community? Do people “drop” pets off?
6. How do you transport animals?
 - a. Do you rely on public transportation?
 - b. Vehicles? How many?



Focusing on Your Employees / Volunteers!

Without your employees / volunteers, your organizations could not do what they do so well. Ensuring you have current information for your personnel helps to guarantee that your organization will be able to keep doing what it does best!

Ensure That You Have Accurate & Up-to-Date Information on ALL Employees & Volunteers. Information that should be included is:

- Address with GPS Coordinates, if possible (this is particularly helpful in the event of a flood)
- Accurate phone numbers (home, cell, spouse/partner, nearest relative, emergency contact)
- Next of Kin (name, address, phone)
- DL number
- Recent photo

Name	Address (with GPS Coordinates)	Telephone Numbers (cell, home, work)	Emergency Contact Information	Driver's License Number

ABC RESCUE GROUP / VETERINARY CLINIC / GROOMING / BOARDING FACILITY
DISASTER PLAN
EFFECTIVE: October 27th, 2008

In an effort to provide you, our client, with our mission in the event of a disaster either natural or man-made, the following organizational response plan has been developed. Please initial each statement to acknowledge you have read and agree with all the information provided.

- ____1. Plan to take your pet with you. Public shelters will not allow pets. A list of "Pet-Friendly" hotels is available for you to use.
- ____2. If you are going to evacuate, make arrangements for your pet in a non-evacuation zone.
- ____3. If your pet is boarding, we will need an emergency contact person who would be able to pick-up your pet in your absence, if our facility is ordered to evacuate.
- ____4. If your pet is boarding and you are unable to make arrangements for your pet to be picked up, we will, as a last resort, evacuate your pet to a designated non-evacuation zone.
- ____5. If evacuated, your pet will be temporarily housed in an airline approved pet carrier or crate. The crate shall be solid on all sides with a grated metal door and holes for ventilation.
- ____6. Per the recommendation of The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, we have prepared a disaster supplies kit to assist us in our efforts to provide care for your pet.
- ____7. Using the emergency number indicated on your boarding form, pending that communication systems are functioning, you will be advised as to the welfare of your pet.
- ____8. We make no implied or expressed guarantee that our facility, or designated evacuation site, can withstand a disaster. Every effort shall be made to protect your pet as well as the employees of "ABC Veterinary Center / Grooming / Boarding Facility."
- ____9. A (INPUT YOUR SPECIFIC HAZARD HERE) is considered a major disaster. In the event of such an incident, animals will be secured and organizational personnel will be instructed to go home and seek shelter.
- ____10. Mild sedation may be required for some pets; sedation will be administered at the discretion of the Veterinarian. It is in your pet's best interest to remain calm.
- ____11. If our designated evacuation site is damaged, and your pet is injured, we will make every effort to provide first-aid.
- ____12. If your pet is severely injured, and we are unable to provide advanced medical care for whatever reason, at their discretion, our Veterinarians will humanely euthanize your pet. Caring for your pet is our utmost concern; however we do not want any pet to suffer needlessly.
- ____13. There will be an evacuation fee of \$_____ per pet, in addition to regular boarding charges.

____14. Abandoned pet law reviewed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/SIGNATURE:

Owner/Agent: _____

Pet(s): _____, _____, _____

Emergency Contact (Name and phone number):

_____ (_____)

I am the owner, or agent for the owner, of the above described animal(s) and have the authority to execute this acknowledgement. I hereby authorize ABC VETERINARY CENTER to transport, medicate, anesthetize, treat and perform any surgical procedure(s), as are in the opinion of the Veterinarian, necessary and advisable for my pet's health in the event of an emergency. I accept all procedures to be done to the best of the abilities of the professional staff, and I realize that no guarantee or warranty can ethically or professionally be made regarding the results or outcome. I assume all financial responsibility, and understand that payment is due upon completion of service.

Signature of Owner/Agent: _____ Date: _____

Witness (Staff Member): _____ Date: _____

An All-Hazards Approach to Basic Decontamination



When companion animals present after rescue in a disaster situation, they have mostly likely been exposed to variety of contaminants. In order to not only minimize further exposure to these contaminants by the animal, but also to provide increased environmental safety for those who may handle the animal in the immediate future, it is important that every animal be decontaminated

prior to being introduced into the general population of your emergency shelter. These general guidelines should provide a minimum standard for decontamination protocols.

Basic Supplies Needed

- ✓ Dawn dish soap
- ✓ Slip Leads & Catchpoles
- ✓ Cat Sacks
- ✓ Medium Bristle Brushes (long- & short-handled)
- ✓ Personal Protective Equipment (Gloves, masks, safety glass or face shields, boots, long pants, etc.)
- ✓ Water Source
- ✓ Plenty of Volunteers!

Step-By-Step Overview

1. Secure animal appropriately (dogs on slip leads or catch poles as needed; cats in cat sacks);
 - Aggressive dogs should be restrained with catch poles & decontaminated with long-handled brushes for the safety of the animal & volunteers. If possible; safely muzzle the dog.



2. Field Decontamination (sometimes called “Rough Decontamination”) involves one-cycle - Lather, Rinse & then to Intake – whereas a Thorough Decontamination would be a two-cycle process – Lather, Rinse, Repeat & then to Intake.

Things to Remember

- Personnel safety is Number 1!
- All non-disposable equipment will need to be properly cleaned and sanitized.
- Be sure to penetrate any undercoat the animal may have.



Disaster Planning Checklist

Name	
Organization	
Members present	

To do list:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.



Educate, Educate, Educate!

You've got a great plan so now it's time to educate your employees, volunteers & clients!

- **Employees / Volunteers:**

- Provide each employee with a copy of the organizational plan & a checklist of their individual responsibilities (keep this information with their job descriptions as well!);
- Require annual / bi-annual training for all staff;
- Require updated emergency information from ALL employees bi-annually.
- Provide every volunteer with an abbreviated version of the organizational plan as well as any specific roles or responsibilities which they may WANT to volunteer for in the event of an incident
 - Additional training is required for those wishing to volunteer during a disaster
 - Be sure any additional, required training is pre-identified!

- **Clients:**

- Be sure every client is provided with a Disaster Packet when dropping off an animal
- Be sure every client signs a Disaster Release Form
- Explain why you are asking for current contact information for EVERY client!



More Tips to Educate, Educate, Educate!

- Discuss proper identification for all pets
- Scan all patients / strays / owner-surrenders / etc. on every visit to assess microchip function, inquire if chip registration is current & demonstrate to clients / Foster Homes what rescuers would look for if their pet was micro-chipped & lost.
- Post-disaster preparedness guidelines on your website.
- For an example, visit www.ASPCA.org
- Ask clients if they live in an evacuation zone
- Familiarize your clients with your boarding policies or those of organizations around you if you do not offer boarding.
- Brochures & practice handouts.
- List of pet-friendly hotels in the area.
 - www.petfriendlytravel.com
- Get involved in your community.
- Offer first aid classes at your organization.

List any other ideas you may have specific to your organization here:
