



Pet Disaster Preparedness and the Animal Emergency Response

Shari B. O'Neill, DVM, MPH, DACVPM





Personal Pet Preparedness

- Emergency kit
- Disaster plan

Local animal response/ ACCs roles and responsibilities

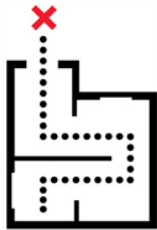
- Considerations for animal sheltering
- Volunteer resources and training

Personal Pet Preparedness

Be Red Cross Ready



Get a Kit



Make a Plan

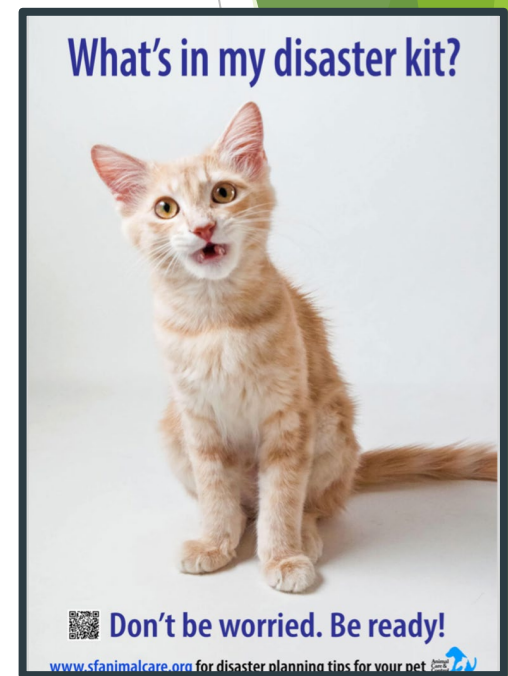


Be Informed

- ✓ Get a Kit
- ✓ Make a Plan
- ✓ Be Informed

Emergency Kits for Pets

- ▶ Records:
 - Proof of ownership (photos and descriptions of all pets)
 - Proof of vaccines
 - Medical history
 - Emergency contacts (veterinarian, local contact, out-of-state contact, boarding facility, list of pet-friendly hotels, etc.)
 - Authorization of treatment



Emergency Kits for Pets



- ▶ Medications (2 week supply, with instructions)
- ▶ Leash, collar/ harness for each pet
- ▶ Stakes, tie-outs, X-pen
- ▶ Cages/ carriers with labels *for each pet*



Emergency Kits for Pets

- ▶ 2 week supply of food and water for each pet (with instructions for feeding)
- ▶ Can opener/ spoon
- ▶ Spill-proof bowls
- ▶ Newspaper, training pads, bedding, towels
- ▶ Litter, litter pan, scoop
- ▶ Comfort items: toys, treats

Emergency Kits for Pets

- ▶ First Aid kit
- ▶ Cat/ wildlife gloves
- ▶ Muzzles
- ▶ Cleaning supplies (trash bags, paper towels, dish soap, disinfectant)



<http://www.ammothedachshund.com/2012/11/20/diy-pet-first-aid-kit/>



Pet Preparedness Plan

- Evacuation and sheltering options (predetermined evacuation site outside of the area)
- Help from friends and neighbors if you are not at home (access and familiarity)
- Signs for first responders and entrances that indicate number and species of animals in the household, favorite hiding spots and where supplies are kept
- Keep handling equipment (gloves, nets, etc.) where it can be found easily



Pet Preparedness Plan

Other Considerations



- Identification
 - **Microchips!**
 - tags, collars, other
- Practice with use of carriers and crates

Take your animal with you!



Pet Preparedness Plan

Other Considerations



- If you cannot bring your animal with you:
 - Bring animals indoors
 - Do not confine animals (with exception of birds, small mammals, etc.)
 - Leave information for first responders
 - Enlist the aid of friends and neighbors that are familiar with your pets



"Otis", Houston
https://media3.snbnews.com/j/MSNBC/Components/Video/201708/tdy_pets_hoda_boost_dog_170828.today-inline-vid-featured-desktop.jpg

Be Informed/ Get Involved



- AVMA's Saving the Whole Family® brochure (also in Spanish: Salvando a la Familia Entera) offers a comprehensive list of what needs to be done to safeguard pets before, during and after a disaster.
- Prepare Your Pets, Too (American Red Cross)
- SF Animal Care and Control
415.554.9400 (dispatch)
www.sfanimalcare.org
- Volunteer Opportunities with SF ACC or other animal-related organizations/ rescue groups

Community Animal Emergency Response



Why plan for animals in a disaster?



<http://www.fags.org/photo-dict/phrase/1223/Golden-Gate-Bridge.html>

- ▶ Geography and demographics

Community Animal Emergency Response



Why plan for animals in a disaster?



- ▶ Human-Animal Bond
- ▶ Public Relations/
Expectations

<http://www.baxterboo.com/catdogblog/post.cfm/the-human-animal-bond-in-photos>

Community Animal Emergency Response



► Legislation

- **Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (Federal 2006)**
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.

- **California Animal Response Emergency System Act (State- 2006)**

9523.19 Eligible Costs Related to Pet Evacuations and Sheltering (10/24/07)
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. 109308, § 4, 120 Stat. 1725 (2006); and 44 CFR §§ 206.223(a), 206.225(a).



Services Provided- Which Are Essential in a Disaster? COOP



Animal Control Services

- Impound dogs at large and rescue animals in distress, including wildlife; provide care and shelter
- Respond to animal-related emergencies
- Enforce all animal control and anti-cruelty ordinances, and investigate reports of animal abuse/neglect
- Transport seriously sick or injured strays for emergency treatment
- Vicious and Dangerous Dogs (VDD) disposition
- Bite reports/ rabies quarantines
- Pick up dead animals





Services Provided- Which Are Essential in a Disaster? COOP

Other services

- Care and custody for animals whose owner is known but unable to care for them (died, hospital, fire, jail, evicted, etc.)
- **Adoptions**
- SAFE Pet
- Quarterly rabies and microchip clinic
- Licensing for dogs
- **Surrenders**
- **Owner/guardian requested euthanasia**
- Medical treatment/ surgical services and wellness/preventive care for all shelter animals
- **Volunteer program**

ACC Department Responsibilities as Coordinating Agency

- Jurisdictional authority for animal care and control
- Assess animal care and sheltering needs
- Identify animal response requirements
- Develop and provide PIOs with information to disseminate to the public
- Coordinate the field response
- Coordinate evacuation and transport of animals from affected areas
- Coordinate the search and rescue effort of affected areas for animals
- Coordinate animal care and the sheltering response and operation
- *Staff the Animal Response Unit Leader position in the CCSF EOC Human Services Branch/ update organizational chart (GSA)*

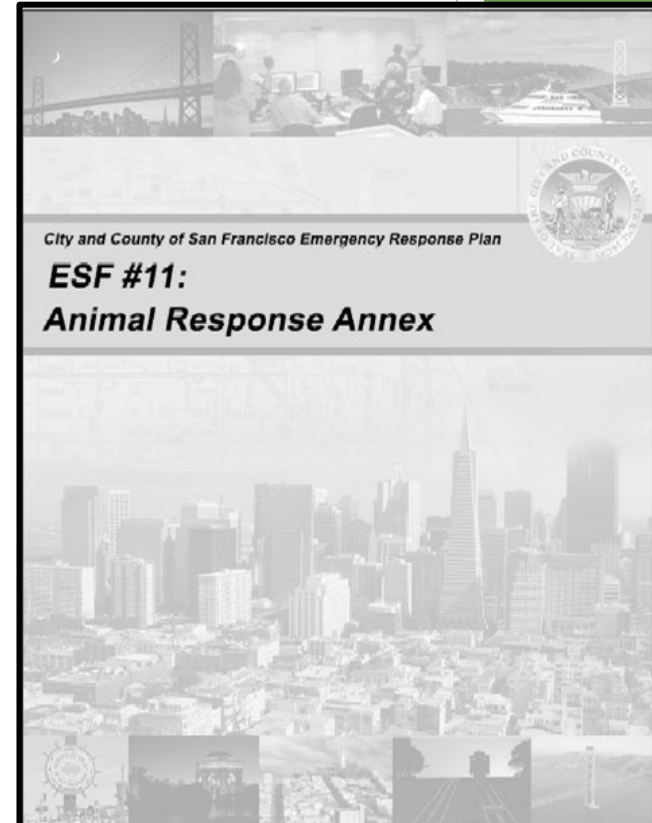
Primary directives are: animal evacuation, search and rescue, triage/ medical treatment, sheltering and reunification, and planning for the outcome of animals not reclaimed.





ESF 11- CCSF Animal Response Annex (Agriculture and Natural Resources)

Preparedness and Partnerships
Activation
Evacuation support
Shelter Ops
Registration and Animal Intake
Public Information and Outreach
Volunteer and Donation Management
Record Keeping/ Documentation
Recovery
Resources



Community Animal Emergency Response



What does a response look like?



- ▶ ACC is the lead agency
- ▶ Use of existing facilities
- ▶ Expansion to include additional resources and support as needed (local and regional)

Community Animal Emergency Response



Considerations for Animal Sheltering

- Types of animal sheltering
- Choosing acceptable locations
- MOUs/ Mutual Aid Agreements
- Liability
- Safety and security
- Communication
- Public messaging
- Staffing roles/ responsibilities
- Volunteer management
- Facility layout
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Demobilization

Community Animal Emergency Response



Types of Disaster Animal Shelters

- Open/ Evacuation Shelter
- Co-Location/ Pet-friendly
- Cohabitation

Community Animal Emergency Response



Animal Sheltering Type and Physical Layout Considerations

- Separation of groups of animals
 - Strays/owned
 - Sick/ healthy (air quality and traffic flow)
 - Species specific areas
 - Space required for dogs vs cats
 - Barriers and security

- Design to prevent escape, theft, disease control, animal-animal and animal-human injuries, interspecies aggression, predatory deaths



Calculation of Animal Population

884,663 total population x 10% evacuating = 88,466

of people evacuating 88,466 / 2.91 people per household = 30,400 (# of evacuating households)

Estimated Evacuating Household Pet Population

Evacuating Households Number that will seek public shelter (approx. 10%) $30,400 \times 0.10 = 3,040$

Number seeking shelter that have pets (1 out of 3) 1,013

Estimated Number of Pets

Dogs (x1.7) = 1,722

Cats (x2.2) = 2,228

Other species ?



Community Animal Emergency Response



Types of Disaster Animal Shelters

Open/ Evacuation Shelter

- Housing both strays and owned animals, not typically near human shelter
- All care provided by animal care professionals and volunteers, better security and control of the environment, less risk for bites/escapes, conflict between animals
- Challenges include lack of contact between people and pets, stress, animal behavior in new environment/ difficulties with confinement, less risk for bites, escape or animal-animal aggression



Community Animal Emergency Response



Types of Disaster Animal Shelters

Co-Location/ Pet Friendly

- Human shelter with animals in same building or nearby
- Staffed by animal care staff and volunteers; owner/guardian is primary caretaker
- Challenges include guardians caring for pets in a shelter environment/animal handling, unable to or lack of responsibility for care, animal behavior, animal escape, disease control, need for trained support



Community Animal Emergency Response



Types of Disaster Animal Shelters

Cohabitation Shelter

- People and pets housed in same area together
- Challenges include safety for people if no physical separation between family units, support in care, difficult to find suitable facility, requires more monitoring of animals for animal safety (crated in space)



Community Animal Emergency Response



- What about DART (Disaster Animal Response Team Training)?
 - Curriculum
 - Barriers and Challenges
 - Purpose/ role of volunteers

- DSW Criteria
 - Credentialing and Endorsement
 - Training topics



Community Animal Emergency Response



Volunteer Resources

- Partner with SPCA to train existing shelter volunteers in disaster response as add-on programming to current volunteer training opportunities, ID special skills
- Revise training topics for volunteers based on DART curriculum/plans for drills
- JIT training for SUVs/ out-of-state volunteers, registration with a local VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in a Disaster), ID special skills, background checks
- Disaster Service Worker volunteers (City employees) credentialing, endorsement and roles
- Risk reduction for injury/ disease for responders and volunteers (Shelter Ops SOP)



Community Animal Emergency Response



Conflicts with human mass care

American Red Cross Statement on Pets in Shelters

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/pet-disaster-preparedness.html>

“Most American Red Cross shelters cannot accept pets because of health and safety concerns and other considerations. Service animals that assist people with disabilities are allowed in Red Cross shelters.”

Community Animal Emergency Response

Pets in Evacuation Centers

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/emergencies/pets-in-evacuation-centers.html>

“During a disaster, people as well as their pets are often displaced from their homes into evacuation shelters. Evacuation shelters try to provide a safe and healthy environment for anyone who is displaced during a disaster. Although pets can provide comfort during the stress of an emergency, it is important to know the potential health and safety risks of housing animals and people together in an evacuation center.

Unfortunately, many evacuation centers (such as Red Cross evacuation centers) do not allow pets and other animals. It’s important to [make plans that include your pets](#) before an emergency so you can identify shelters that will accept animals or alternatives such as family members, local relief organizations, or rescue groups.”



Community Animal Emergency Response



Potential health risks

“Any time animals and people are in close contact, there is a risk for illness and injury. Animals in evacuation centers may be scared or stressed, making them more likely to bite or scratch their owners, other people, or other pets. Crowded conditions make it more likely certain germs will spread between animals and people, and it can be difficult to provide proper sanitation (such as disposal of urine and feces) for pets in evacuation centers. In addition, some people may be allergic to pets with fur or feathers, and allergies can be more serious when people do not have access to their usual allergy medications.”

Community Animal Emergency Response



FEMA Lessons Learned Information Sharing

Physically Separate Human and Animal Shelters

“The majority of emergency shelters, notably American Red Cross shelters, require animal shelters to be physically separate from human shelters. State health and safety regulations generally do not permit humans and pets to be sheltered in the same room. Stressed animals are more likely to exhibit violent behavior, so there is an increased risk for injury and potential infection from animal bites and scratches. Housing pets together with humans also poses serious health risks for some people, particularly immunocompromised people and people with asthma or allergies triggered by pet dander, feathers, or fur. For more information, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Animals in Public Evacuation Centers fact sheet.”

Community Animal Emergency Response



Service Animal Defined by Title II and Title III of the ADA

A service animal means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Tasks performed can include, among other things, pulling a wheelchair, retrieving dropped items, alerting a person to a sound, reminding a person to take medication, or pressing an elevator button.

Emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are not service animals under Title II and Title III of the ADA. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not considered service animals either.

In situations where it is not obvious that the dog is a service animal, staff may ask only two specific questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform? Staff are not allowed to request any documentation for the dog, require that the dog demonstrate its task, or inquire about the nature of the person's disability.

It can be done . . .

ARC Shelter Managers
have some discretion
on cohabitation

Guidance exists
regarding best
practices for pre-
planning and
operations

Ongoing discussions on
a local, state and
national level



Kincade Fire October 2019
St. Mary's Cohabitation
shelter

Community Animal Emergency Response



Hurricane Irma Fall 2017

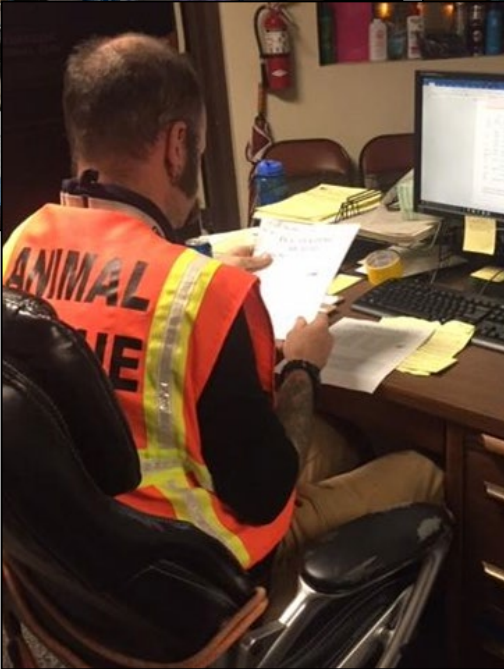
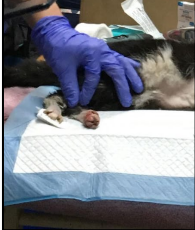
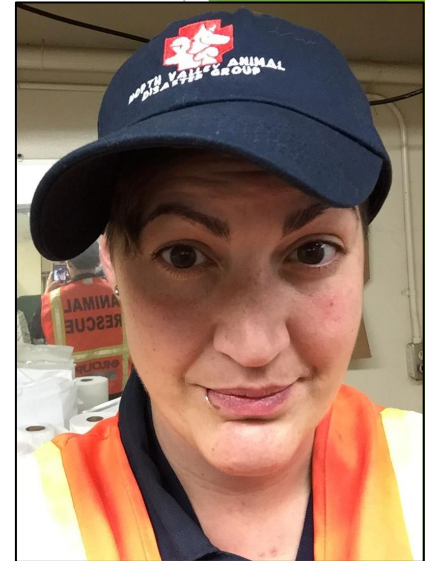
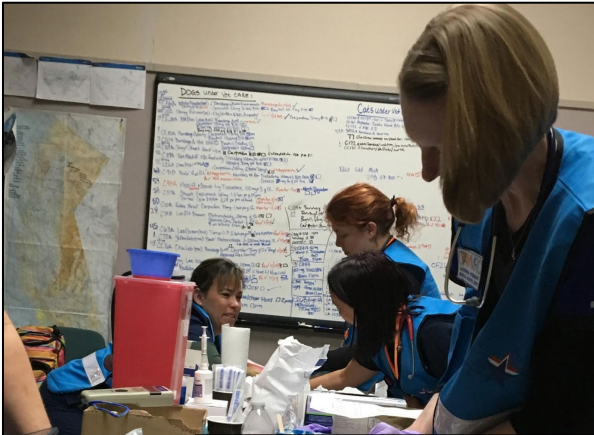


Community Animal Emergency Response



Sonoma County/ Tubbs Fire
Response Oct 2017

Camp Fire Nov 2018



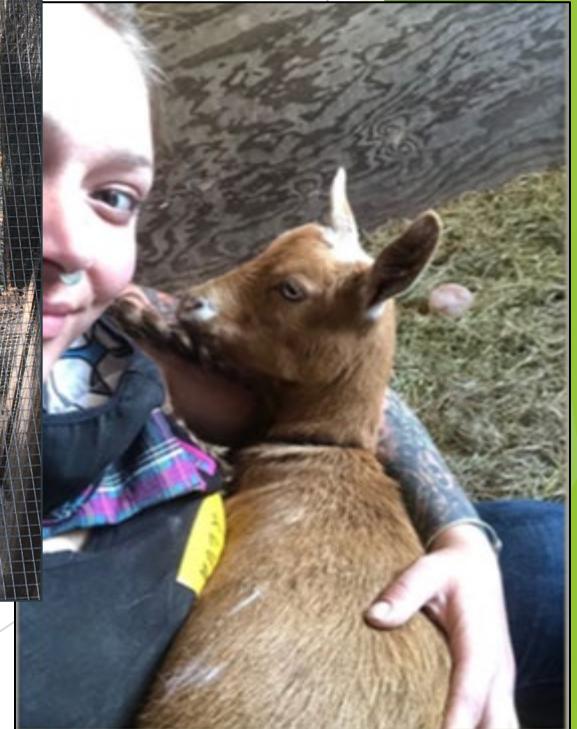
Community Animal Emergency Response



Cat Bus Drill July 2019



Butte/Tehama/Glenn (BTU/TGU) Lightning Complex 2020



Discussion and Questions

