

Solano County Emergency Operations Plan

Animal Care Annex



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Quick Guide – Animal Care and Coordination

Animal Care and Coordination Checklist

Initial Response

When there is a need to transport or evacuate animals in preparation for or in response to a disaster affected area:

- Coordinate with the Animal Control Officers and local law enforcement to assist with animal evacuation and transportation.
- Contact local animal shelters and organizations for transportation vehicles and supplies.
- Coordinate with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to find the best general area for shelter locations. Locations must be safe, acceptable distance from evacuation area, close to major roadways and close to human shelters if possible.
- Coordinate with American Red Cross to determine animal friendly shelter locations and the possibility of co-located shelters.
- Coordinate with local animal shelters and organizations for volunteers and feeding.
- Coordinate with Public Information Officer/Joint Information Center (PIO/JIC) to release information on shelter locations.

General Shelter Support

When there is a need to activate overnight shelters to care for animals, supply food and assess animal medical needs:

- Coordinate with American Red Cross and local animal shelters and organizations to access contact persons for the chosen shelters.
- Coordinate with local animal shelters, organizations and companies to provide food and supplies for animal sheltering.
- Coordinate with local animal shelter and clinic veterinarians for emergency medical care.
- Coordinate with shelter volunteers to track animal owner and identification information.
- Ensure staffing and resources are available for immediate and long-term staffing of the shelters.
- Provide situation status of shelters to the EOC and especially with the PIO/JIC.



Animal Care and Coordination Checklist

Shelter Closure

- Coordinate shelter closure with the American Red Cross and facility management.
- Coordinate reunification of animals with owners.
- Coordinate transportation of shelter animals to alternate facilities.
- Coordinate all financial paperwork (receipts, volunteer and employee sign-in sheets) with EOC Administration/Finance Section.
- Develop a schedule and plan to return the shelter to its original purpose as a first priority.
- Ensure expendable resources are ordered for restocking.



1.0 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 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 needs provides guidance for the needs of livestock.

This annex provides the following information:

- Quick Guides to follow when the County needs to activate animal care operations in response to a disaster
- 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 American Red Cross 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.

1.3 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)*.



2.0 Authorities and References

2.1 Authorities

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

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)

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



3.0 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 American's 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 animals that perform some of the functions and tasks that 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. The table below shows the estimated number of pet owning households in Solano County.¹

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

The table below shows the average number of pets in Solano County.²

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.

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4.0 Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Overview

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 County Animal Services 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.

4.2 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 Services Branch Coordinator within the Logistics 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 as designated by County Animal Services. 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 need 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 is included in the attached Position Guide: Animal Care and Unit Leader.

4.3. Non-Government/Non-Profit/Voluntary Organizations

Non-government, non-profit and voluntary organizations are the backbones of supporting animal care operations within the County. County Animal Services has a limited number of employees and relies heavily on volunteers to run the day to day operations, as well as supplemental supporting during a disaster response.

4.3.1 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 and veterinary support services. 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 Humane Society of the North Bay can be found on their website: <http://www.bvhumane.org/>.

4.3.2 RedRover of Sacramento³

Founded in 1987, RedRover focuses on bringing animals out of crisis and strengthening the bond between people and animals through a variety of programs, including emergency sheltering, disaster relief services, financial assistance and education. Through its volunteer-driven RedRover Responders (formerly the Emergency Animal Rescue Service or EARS), RedRover shelters and cares for animals displaced by natural disasters. A formal agreement has been signed between RedRover and County Animal Services to provide response assistance during a disaster. More information regarding the Red Rover of Sacramento can be found on their website: <http://redrover.org/>.

4.3.3 Humane Animal Services, Animal Control⁴

Humane Animal Services 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 and neglect or other forms of mistreatment

³ <http://redrover.org/>

⁴ <http://www.humaneanimalservices.org/>



- 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 coordinate efforts with Solano Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and County Animal Services. During a disaster, Animal Control Officers will be utilized for search and rescue, evacuation, transportation and care and sheltering of displaced animals. More information regarding the Humane Animal Service, Animal Control can be found on their website: <http://www.humaneanimalservices.org/>.

4.3.4 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. Discussions are currently in progress to develop a formal agreement between County Animal Services and ARC for all local Red Cross shelters to allow the co-location of animal when possible. 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.

4.3.5 Ranchotel Horse Center of Vacaville

The Ranchotel Horse Center is a full service equestrian center serving all of Solano County and beyond and is equipped with three (3) barns, three (3) riding arenas, forty-nine (49) stalls and a tack shop. If the need for relocation of horses or other large animals arises, the stall and barn space at the Ranchotel can be used to temporarily care and shelter facility for the evacuated animals. Discussions of a formal agreement for disaster assistance are currently in progress. More information regarding the Ranchotel Horse center can be found on their website: <http://ranchotelhorsecenter.com/>.

4.3.6 Benicia Medical Reserve Corps⁵

The Benicia Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a volunteer team affiliated with the Benicia Fire Department, Benicia Citizen Corps Council and state and national emergency response organizations and is charged with training for, and responding to, disasters on a local level. Solano County Animal Services is currently working with the Benicia MRC on trainings and sheltering exercises, including animal considerations in sheltering operations. A formal agreement between the Department of Animal Services and the Benicia MRC is currently in progress. More information regarding Benicia MRC can be found on their website: <http://www.beniciamrc.org/>.

⁵ <http://www.beniciamrc.org/>



4.3.7 Other Local Resources

Circle D Horsemen and Buckeye Ranch & Saddle Shop, as well as other horse and livestock service providers, are local resources that could be used to assist with shelter of animals, specifically addressing the needs of horses and livestock in the County. A formal agreement for disaster assistance does not currently exist. More information for the Circle D Horseman can be found on their website: <http://www.circledhorsemen.com>.

4.4 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 out of the 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.

4.4.1 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.

4.4.2 California Department of Food and Agriculture⁶

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:

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

4.4.3 Veterinary Medical Assistance Team

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) supports the Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs). The AVMA has signed an MOU with the Department of Health

⁶ State of California Emergency Plan



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.

4.4.4 National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT)⁷

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.

4.5 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.

4.5.1 University of California, Davis Veterinary Hospital

The University of California, Davis (UC Davis) is one of the highest ranking Veterinary Schools in the county 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 Solano County to assist in disaster response, search and rescue, and veterinary services, if needed. No formal agreement between the County and UC Davis exists at this time.

4.5.2 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, such as *Hills Science Diet*, will be utilized for the procurement of resources. A formal agreement has been signed between County Animal Services and *Hills Science Diet* (located in Vacaville, CA) to supply food to

⁷ <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ndms/teams/Pages/nvrt.aspx>



the temporary animal shelters. When needed, other private companies will be contacted to bring in additional 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. A mission number must be assigned before any resources can be purchase to ensure all associated costs are recorded under the appropriate account. This mission number will be assigned by County administration personnel within the Logistics Section of the EOC.

4.6 Roles and Responsibilities Reference Matrix

The table below shows the various emergency animal care functions and the departments or organizations with a primary role or supporting role.

Roles and Responsibilities Table In support of Animal Care Response Operations											
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
	<i>P= Primary</i> <i>S= Secondary</i>										
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							
County Animal Shelter				P	P			S	S	S	P
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							
Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)			S	S							
Department of Public Health									S		
Veterinary Community				S				P			



Roles and Responsibilities Table In support of Animal Care Response Operations											
Cooperating Agency <i>P= Primary</i> <i>S= Secondary</i>	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
	Volunteer/Animal Organizations		S	S	S		S	S			
Wildlife Organizations (local)							P				
Zoos							P				
CDFG									P	P	
Agriculture Commissioner						P			S	S	
Ranch Hotel Horse Center		S		S		S					
VMAT			S					S	S	S	
NVRT			S					S	S	S	



5.0 Concept of Operations

5.1 Pre-Response - Preparedness

Solano County Animal Services participates in disaster-related trainings throughout the year, and trains with local service providers and partners on animal care and sheltering operations. In addition, many of the County Animal Services' employees and volunteers attend disaster seminars facilitated by the University of California at Davis.

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 also 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 department and organizations regarding animal care during a disaster. The Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader will serve as the main point of contact at the County EOC regarding animal care issues and will report to the Services Branch Coordinator in the Logistics 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, animals 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. For those that do need additional assistance, emergency personnel work within the operations and logistics sections in the EOC to help plan 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 the citizens and emergency personnel. Currently, a county animal search and rescue organization does not exist, but is in the process of being developed.

5.2.4 Veterinary Care and Services

In the event of a disaster, many animals will be in need of veterinary services such as emergency care, disease treatment, vaccinations for sheltering, etc. The Napa Fund is currently in place to reimburse veterinarians for their time while responding to the needs during disaster operations. In addition, both the American Veterinary Medical Association and the California Veterinary Medical Association have a portion of their dues allocated to veterinarian reimbursement funds during disasters. These sources of funding provide the financial incentive for veterinarians to assist during disaster response operations.

Upon the animals' arrival to the shelter site, each animal will be triaged by the on-site veterinarian or technician for determination of further treatment. The County will coordinate efforts with the local shelter veterinarians as well as local humane societies and veterinary practices to provide veterinary care to animals in need. The clinics that the County has worked with for disaster assistance are the following:

- SPEC Veterinary Clinic
- Sunset Veterinary Clinic



Meetings are currently held once a month to discuss the needs of veterinarians during a disaster response. Only trained personnel will be allowed to handle and care for the animals while being transported and sheltered during the response and recovery operations.

5.2.5 Care and Sheltering

The Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader work with the Care and Shelter Branch of the EOC to coordinate the sheltering of animals. The American Red Cross (ARC) is responsible for shelter operations during a disaster event and, in many cases, animals are not allowed in these established shelters. Discussions and coordination agreements are underway to allow co-located human and animal shelters between the American Red Cross and County Animal Services. The main organizations responsible for the care and sheltering of animals are the local SPCA/Humane Society and County Animal Control.

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 Animal Services Department 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.



5.2.6 Animal Identification System

County Animal Services 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.

5.2.7 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 dead animals
- Separation of sick and healthy animals
- Rabies control
- Capture or euthanasia of animals "at large"

5.2.8 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.

5.3 Livestock, Wildlife and Exotic Animal Care

5.3.1 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.

5.3.2 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.

5.4 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

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. The table below includes a list of resources for both small and large animals that may be utilized during a disaster.

Animal Specific Resource List⁸	
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/Water Sources	
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/Veterinary Supplies	
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 • Buckets • Hoses • Fly spray • Chlorine bleach • Disinfectant • Lime

⁸ CDFA Animal Planning Guide



Appendix C: Local Animal Resource Contact List

The table below 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.

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



Attachment 1: Position Guide - Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader

Reports to: Services Branch Coordinator

Function Description:

The Animal Care & Welfare Unit at the Operational Area EOC determines the need for care and shelter of animals displaced or put at risk as a result of an emergency, particularly those belonging to persons who are in a shelter situation. Animals at risk may include domestic pets, farm livestock, and wild animals that may require emergency services. This unit will, in coordination with the Medical & Health Branch, develop and implement a plan for providing services to endangered animals during an emergency.

Responsibilities:

- 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 & Welfare issues and requirements.
- Supervise the Animal Care & Welfare Unit.



Animal Care and Welfare Unit Leader Checklists

Activation Phase:

- Respond immediately to the EOC, identify yourself and locate your functional work area. Put on your vest and determine EOC operational status.
- Obtain briefing from available sources.
- Establish and maintain a Unit Event Log that chronologically describes your actions taken during your shift.

Operational Phase:

- Contact jurisdictional animal welfare facilities and determine their status and ability to function.
- Ensure that animal control measures are in effect and animal care and sheltering services are appropriate for the emergency.
- Determine location and time of any animal welfare facilities that are activated.
- Obtain phone numbers/pager numbers for all essential animal care locations and/or personnel that may have contact with the EOC. Utilize resources in *Animal Care Annex* as necessary. Blank Animal Emergency forms are located in the Forms Section.
- Determine status of available communications systems.
- Obtain current level of staffing and anticipated needs for additional personnel. Work closely with Liaison Officer and Human Resources Unit Leader to include Volunteer/Service Programs (VSPs) personnel where needed and available.
- Determine location and status of major incidents involving a threat to or from animals.
- Determine extent of damage to, and the operational capacity of, all animal shelter facilities in the operational area. Provide this information to Situation Analysis Unit.



- Coordinate with Care & Shelter Unit animal care needs of shelter residents.
- Participate in EOC planning meetings, as required.
- As requested, provide estimate of the emergency's impact on area animals, and the need for animal control and care.
- Communicate plans developed at the EOC that affect animal control and care to appropriate outside locations.
- Assign specific duties to support staff, and supervise staff.
- As needed, request additional resources through established ordering procedures.

Demobilization Phase:

- Deactivate your assigned position and close out logs when authorized by the EOC Director.
- Complete all required forms, reports, and other documentation. All forms should be submitted through your supervisor to the Planning Section, as appropriate, prior to your departure.
- Be prepared to provide input to the After Action/Corrective Action report.
- If another person is relieving you, ensure they are thoroughly briefed before you leave your workstation.
- Clean up your work area before you leave.
- Leave a forwarding phone number where you can be reached.



Attachment 2: Animal Care Forms

Animal Care and Holding/Boarding Survey⁹

Facility Name _____

Address _____
Number and Street City Zip

Facility Phone () ____ - ____ Fax () ____ - ____

Owner's Name _____

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

Owner's Pager () ____ - ____

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.

⁹Adapted from the Indiana State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies Committee.



Small Animal Intake Form - Owned Animals with Owner¹⁰

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: Rhinotracheitis 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 _____

¹⁰Adapted 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/Stray¹¹

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 _____

¹¹Adapted 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 Form¹²

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 () _____

Fax () _____ Pager () _____

Individual Animal Identification

Identification (E.g., Brand/tattoo)	Description, registration name or number	Age	Sex	Breed
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				

Accepted by (staff) _____ Date _____

Owner's signature _____ Date _____

Released by _____ Date _____

Owner's signature _____ Date _____

¹²Adapted from Indiana's State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies Committee.



RELEASE

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 owner (agent) to keep the receiving property owners aware of where the animal owner (agent) can be contacted following the emergency.

Address of Receiving Property _____