



## ANNEX G: Animal Issues

### ESF #17 Agriculture and Animal Issues

#### Introduction

Animals and agriculture are an integral part of our day-to-day lives. When a disaster or emergency strikes, it is vital to ensure our animal and agricultural resources are cared for and are returned to their pre-disaster state as quickly as possible. Impacts to the agricultural industry in Florida have far-reaching effects, not just in Florida but also across the United States and even the world. ESF #17 is responsible for the coordination of response efforts in assisting local and volunteer organizations to provide all animals affected by the disaster with emergency medical care, evacuation, rescue, temporary confinement, shelter, food and water, and identification for return to the owner.

#### Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide emergency medical care for all animals including commercial livestock, poultry, fish, and exhibition animals, zoo animals, etc.
- Coordinate with ESF #15 to refer volunteer personnel to appropriate location.
- Coordinate efforts to provide water, food, shelter, and other physical needs to animals.
- Coordinate with ESF #14 to ensure that information is provided on the location of animals shelters and other animal related matters before, during, and post disaster.
- Coordinate the procurement of health and medical resources.
- Provide nursing staff at special needs shelters.
- Coordinate efforts to rescue and capture animals including relocation before the disaster.
- Coordinate with local agencies to establish a system to register identification data in an effort to reunite animals with their owners.
- Coordinate with ESF #15 to store emergency relief supplies and their distribution to animal caretakers and shelters.
- Coordinate with ESF #8 for the identification, prevention, and control of diseases of animals, which have public health impacts.

#### Basic Health and Medical Functions and Responsibilities

Basic veterinary care, animal sheltering, and animal husbandry functions that are normally available under non-emergency conditions but which are nevertheless required during a catastrophic event or incident will not be routinely available because of prevailing conditions associated with the event itself. The lack of availability of such services are based upon the following types of operational conditions that are specific to the delivery of such services.

- Local veterinary and animal care facilities will probably not be available during the height of the incident itself due to concerns with animal evacuations and returning the animals to their owners.



- The animal healthcare system will be unable to deliver critical services to animals in facilities and in the impact area.
- Animal healthcare issues will begin appearing in nearby cities, counties, and states as a result of general population evacuations and population spillover prior to landfall and will probably increase following landfall.
- There will be insufficient resources available nationally to replace the damaged or destroyed animal care infrastructure in major metropolitan areas. These include veterinary offices, animal shelters, and animal hospitals.
- Any movement of animals that are separate and apart of the movement of human populations should be coordinated with general population movement and should include adequate provisions for animal tracking, temporary sheltering, adequate receiving facilities, and either the final return to Florida, to the community of origin, or positive information of final disposition.
- In a catastrophic event, population reception centers (city, county, state, etc.) will be considered response areas of operations, including receiving states. However, these reception centers may or may not be equipped to handle the influx of domestic animals associated with the evacuation,
- In order to return the impacted community to the delivery of best-practice animal healthcare services, local animal healthcare workers will be housed in temporary medical structures established to provide their delivery.
- The initial response phase of a catastrophic event will likely result in the long-term congregate sheltering of animals, and a greater need for other emergency response animal emergency healthcare functions, thereby stretching the State's capacity to deliver these services in appropriate quantities over an extended timeframe.
- In the initial days of response, vulnerable animal populations will be triaged by life threatening injury or illness, drinking water availability, medications needed, shelter availability, and other critical animal healthcare services.

Each level of government, in partnership with the animal services and healthcare systems, performs vital roles in pre- and post-catastrophic event response efforts. The impacted animal shelters and healthcare facilities at the local level of government, supported by the local emergency operations center, are ostensibly the first line of defense for disaster response and recovery actions related to health and medical care of animals within their local jurisdictions. It is anticipated that a catastrophic event will overwhelm local animal healthcare, animal shelter, and medical response capabilities.

Local animal healthcare facility owners, in cooperation with local decision makers, have the authority to determine if advance animal relocation triggers are applicable within their community and may request evacuation support for the animals. However, in the post-disaster environment, local facility owners and decision makers may either not be able to communicate with the State Emergency Operations Center or lack the ability to monitor post-disaster conditions. Under such catastrophic conditions, when the lives of animals are threatened, the State Emergency Operations Center, in coordination with Federal partner agencies, will activate the animal relocation mission in support of local government response activities.

### Existing MOUs/MOAs



### Basic Planning Assumptions – Animal Issues<sup>1</sup>

1. A catastrophic incident may result in large numbers of casualties and/or displaced persons, possibly in the tens to hundreds of thousands.
2. The nature and scope of a catastrophic incident will immediately overwhelm State and Local response capabilities, this requires that counties understand and be able to clearly articulate their resource needs.
3. A detailed and credible common operating picture reflecting critical, urgent needs, and requirements may not be achievable for 24 to 48 hours after the incident.
4. The response capabilities and resources of the local jurisdictions (to include mutual aid from surrounding jurisdictions and response support from the State) may be insufficient and quickly overwhelmed. Local emergency personnel who normally respond to incidents may be among those affected and unable to perform their duties.
5. The assets outlined in response strategies may not be available at the time of a catastrophic event due to needs at their home institution, family requirements, etc.
6. A catastrophic incident will present a dynamic response and recovery environment requiring that response plans and strategies be flexible enough to effectively address emerging or transforming needs and requirements.
7. Many local, county, or regional level Emergency Support Function 17 resources will be overwhelmed, depleted, or unable to respond. This will require the mobilization of large numbers of personnel to assist and enhance coordination efforts.
8. If multiple regions of the State are impacted or threatened, many in-state resources that might normally be able to respond will be unavailable.
9. If other coastal states are impacted or threatened, this may affect the availability of Emergency Management Assistance Compact resources.
10. Staffing shortfalls may be supplemented by the use of survivors in the impacted area.
11. A prolonged duration event will create additional challenges in managing resources and personnel.
12. The extreme nature of the event may result in excessively large numbers of animals that need to be dealt with, which will require a much more complex level of coordination and management than might usually be planned for.
13. A catastrophic event will have short- and long-term negative economic impacts on the agricultural industries in the impacted area which, if not addressed, will impede the recovery process.
14. Based on the nature and breadth of Florida's agricultural industry, there will be market impacts that will be felt both nationally and internationally.

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<sup>1</sup> Catastrophic Incident Supplement to the National Response Plan (2005)



15. There are a limited number of emergency pet shelters in the State of Florida.
16. General population risk and host shelters will accept any service animal.
17. Many livestock owners will not attempt to evacuate their livestock that will create, at the least, a need for rapid assessment and care post-impact.
18. A large number of carcasses may result from the storm impact, which will need disposal and create a negative impact on local agricultural economies.
19. Livestock will be left in fields or open pastures during impact.
20. Most equine owners will evacuate with their horses pre-impact.
21. Many people will not evacuate without their pets and will not go to a shelter that does not permit pets.
22. Post-impact there will be large numbers of abandoned and loose animals, which could create public nuisance, dangerous situations, and will need capture and care.
23. Individuals in lower socioeconomic categories are more inclined to seek shelter from the government.
24. Clear and concise public information on pet preparation and care pre-event, evacuating with animals and how to care for animals post-event are important factors in successful animal response and recovery operations.
25. If animal and agricultural issues are not handled effectively, all aspects of emergency operations and recovery will be negatively affected.
26. The National Mass Evacuation Tracking System will be used to track evacuees and pets.
27. Animals, as defined by “*Eligible Costs Related to Pet Evacuations and Sheltering*” **FEMA DAP9523.19**, October 24, 2007, will board busses with their owners during evacuation.
28. Some pets, due to size, viciousness, or other circumstance may have to be evacuated separately from their owner.
29. Pets will be considered as part of standard shelter operations and resources needed to care for pets will be included with human commodities supplied to shelters.
30. Fewer human resources are needed to care for animals when pets and livestock are co-located with their owners.

## Definitions

1. **Companion animals:** Dogs, cats and other domestic household pets<sup>2</sup>
2. **Equines:** Domesticated equids such as horses, ponies, donkeys and asses
3. **Livestock:** Cattle, sheep, goats, pigs , commercial poultry
4. **Avian:** Non-commercial poultry, captive, exotic and non-domestic, pet- and wild birds

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<sup>2</sup> The distinction between domestic and non-domestic household pets is to protect the responder. Although non-domestic and exotic animals may be pets to some owners, they may be not regarded as pets to responders.

Information taken from *Animal Emergency Response Positions Credentials*.



5. **Non-domestic:** Wildlife species, exotic species in zoos, captured game premises, and households
6. **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 include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses), and animals kept for racing purposes.<sup>3</sup>
7. **Service Animal:** 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.<sup>4</sup>
8. **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.<sup>5</sup>
9. **Co-mingled Shelter:** A shelter where pets are kept with their owners in the shelter.
10. **Co-located Shelter:** A shelter where pets are kept in a separate area from their owner and the owner takes primary responsibility for caring for their pet.
11. **Animal Rescue Shelter:** A shelter where pets are surrendered to the care of the shelter provider or where animals which have no owner are housed.

#### Additional Issue Points<sup>6</sup>

- What is the current mechanism used to track animals? Are systems interoperable?
- How will current tracking systems be impacted during a catastrophic event?
- What is the mechanism for credentialing out of state animal healthcare providers? Who is responsible for this effort?
- Are all resources that would be requested available through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)?
- What is the existing surge capacity for available animal shelters and healthcare facilities that are unaffected by the incident?
- What are the standard protocols for handling contaminated animal carcasses? Are all staff aware of the existing protocol?

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<sup>3</sup> FEMA DAP9523.19, October 24, 2007

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> **Failure of Initiative:** *Final Report of the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina*, 2007 and the **Florida Catastrophic Plan (Draft)** 2008



**Capability Assessment**

Nationally, approximately 37.2% households have dogs and 32.4% have cats. The table below shows the impacted area data:

**Table 1 : Dog and Cat Ownership in the Impacted Counties<sup>7</sup>**

County	Total Displaced Households	Displaced Households with Cats	Total Cats	Displaced Households with Dogs	Total Dogs
Citrus	287	98	234	112	190
Hardee	6	2	5	2	4
Hernando	951	323	776	371	631
Hillsborough	289,941	98,580	236,592	113,077	192,231
Manatee	88,228	29,998	71,994	34,409	58,495
Pasco	77,221	26,255	63,012	30,116	51,198
Pinellas	383,213	130,292	312,702	149,453	254,070
Polk	459	156	375	179	304
Sumter	3,088	1,050	2,520	1,204	2,047
<b>Total</b>	<b>843,394</b>	<b>286,754</b>	<b>688,210</b>	<b>328,924</b>	<b>559,170</b>

Approximately 20-40% of the region's economy is reliant on agriculture and livestock-related industries including Restaurants, Grocery Stores, Food Supply, Tourism, Dairy, Vets, Feed Stores, and employees.

Below is an estimation of the number of the domestic livestock within the region for the following:

- Horses 20,000
- Cattle 30,000
- Poultry 1,000,000
- Ferrel Hogs - significant
- Caged Birds - significant (Also includes Zoos, Theme Parks, Rescue Centers, Animal Training Facilities, Emu's, Alternative Agriculture; i.e. goats, sheep)

Hurricane Phoenix will present the following hazards that would impact animal health (including Zoos and Wildlife):

- Storm Surge and flooding
- Hazard Material contamination

<sup>7</sup> Dog estimates based on figures from the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association (APPMA) 2005–2006 National Pet Owners Survey.



- Interruption of utilities (power, Lift Stations, water treatment/supplies)
- Mosquito population (standing water )
- Feral population (lost or abandoned animals)

A capability assessment was conducted earlier in the year using a hurricane scenario. Below are the results of this gap analysis.

<b>Capability-Specific Measures for Animal Disease Emergency Support</b>				
	<b>Measure</b>	<b>TCL Activity</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
1	NGOs and other organizations responsible of Animal Health Emergency Support (e.g., ASPCA, Humane Society) are involved in the region's planning process.	Develop and Maintain Plans, Procedures, Programs, and Systems	<b>3</b>	Although Regional Planning is limited NGOs and Counties have been involved. SART is heavily involved in Hillsborough County. Limited at regional level.
2	Plans within the region consider long-term animal health care (e.g., shelter, veterinary medicine, food and staff reserves).	Develop and Maintain Plans, Procedures, Programs, and Systems	<b>8</b>	Response during previous hurricanes. Adopted state plans. Regions will be provided with trailers and supplies through DHS grant.
3	The region has a formal process for activating Animal Health Emergency Support resources.	Develop and Maintain Plans, Procedures, Programs, and Systems/Activate Animal Health Emergency Response	<b>8</b>	SART and RDSTF have activation plans in place.
4	Plans within the region address the public information and communications requirements relevant to Animal Health Emergency Support Care (e.g., the dissemination of accurate, timely, accessible information to public, media, support agencies and vendors).	Develop and Maintain Plans, Procedures, Programs, and Systems	<b>8</b>	FDACS and DOH PIO's. Success in previous events.
5	The region currently has (or has dedicated access to) the personnel needed to support Animal Health Emergency Support (e.g., veterinarians, disease specialists, animal health technicians).	Develop and Maintain Plans, Procedures, Programs, and Systems	<b>9</b>	Under ESF17 leadership we have FADD, RDSTF, UF, IFAS, Vet Corp, FEMA assets available, HSUS
6	The region currently has (or has dedicated access to) the equipment needed to support Animal Health Emergency Support (e.g., PPE, decontamination equipment).	Develop and Maintain Plans, Procedures, Programs, and Systems	<b>7</b>	DHS funds will provide regional equipment in the current year, and additional regional funds will be requested for 2009 Grant year. Basic needs support.



<b>Capability-Specific Measures for Animal Disease Emergency Support</b>				
	<b>Measure</b>	<b>TCL Activity</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
7	The region is able to ensure the self-sufficiency of the facilities intended for use to support Animal Health Emergency Support (e.g., with respect to communications, power).	Develop and Maintain Plans, Procedures, Programs, and Systems	5	During past hurricane responses, Agriculture has historically been low on the priority list. Plans should be in place to ensure needed services before landfall (generators, fuel, additional feed, etc.). Possible outages, flooded towers for phones; human needs override.
8	The region has implemented deterrence and defense protection measures.	Develop and Maintain Plans, Procedures, Programs, and Systems	N/A	N/A
9	The region's local veterinary communities are currently trained on activities required to conduct Animal Health Emergency Support (e.g., recognition of CBRNE materials, ability to use tools and equipment to detect CBRNE materials).	Develop and Maintain Training and Exercise Programs	2	N/A
10	The region has experience implementing Animal Health Emergency Support during actual incidents.	Develop and Maintain Training and Exercise Programs	9	Regional personnel have deep experience in real life disease response. Good experience with hurricanes.
11	The region has a program to train the public to be aware and to report suspicious items and behavior.	Develop and Maintain Training and Exercise Programs	6	N/A; Stolen animals; looting.
12	Plans within the region for Animal Health Emergency Support address transportation of live animals, carcasses, people, pharmaceuticals, and equipment while ensuring bio-security.	Direct Animal Disease Emergency Support Tactical Operations	7	Ag Law Interdiction Stations, SART, Statewide Plans, Oversight and Training of transporters. Regional representatives are unfamiliar with how vet stockpiles would work. Animal health will be competing with other needs.
13	The region's inventories and reserves are adequate to support Animal Health Emergency Support.	Direct Animal Disease Emergency Support Tactical Operations	7	Needs are ongoing. Animal health will be competing with other needs.
14	The region has the information resources required to track history, location, distribution of animals and their related products.	Direct Animal Disease Emergency Support Tactical Operations	6	FDACS and DOH oversight. FFW have oversight of exotics. Commercial animals are tracked better than feral population and non traditional livestock. Varies by species.



Capability-Specific Measures for Animal Disease Emergency Support				
	Measure	TCL Activity	Score	Explanation
15	Plans within the region address investigating Animal Health Emergency threats (e.g., tracing affected animals to determine source, destination, and disposition, obtaining samples for lab testing).	Conduct Animal Health Epidemiological Investigation & Surveillance	8	Tracking systems in place
16	Plans within the region for Animal Health Emergency Support address cleaning and decontamination of affected food facilities.	Implement Disease Containment Measures	7	Food Safety, DOH and DBPR protocols.
17	Plans within the region for Animal Health Emergency Support address procedures for the reduction of the spread of animal diseases (e.g., disposal of contaminated waste, euthanasia of infected animals).	Implement Disease Containment Measures/Conduct Euthanasia/Disposal	9	FDACS, SART, USDA, DEP
18	Plans within the region for Animal Health Emergency Support address animal welfare (e.g., provision of water, food, protection from elements).	Provide Animal Welfare	7	SART, DART, Pet Friendly Shelter, Animal Transport Law , Horse Transportation Act, Difficulties transporting feed, Donations and volunteers may be affected because of economy. Fuel concerns, port closures, transportation issues. Due to economy affecting donations and volunteers. Unless economy downturn backs the private sector back out and their donations.
19	Plans within the region address the demobilization of Animal Health Emergency Support (e.g., return personnel and equipment to normal operations, completes documentation, coordinate long-term support).	Demobilize Animal Disease Emergency Support Operations	8	SART standard procedures.



**Operations: Roles and Responsibilities**

**ESF #17 Agriculture and Animal Care Issues**

Level	Primary Agency	Support Agencies
National <sup>8</sup>	Department of Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness and Response/Federal Emergency Management Agency American Red Cross	Department of Agriculture Department of Defense Department of Health and Human Services Department of Homeland Security Department of Housing and Urban Development Department of the Interior Department of Justice Department of Labor Department of Transportation Department of the Treasury Department of Veterans Affairs General Services Administration Office of Personnel Management Small Business Administration Social Security Administration U.S. Postal Service Corporation for National and Community Service National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
State	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Florida Department of Health, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences, Cooperative Extension and Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture Office of the Inspector General. <b>VOLUNTEER RESOURCES:</b> Disaster Animal Response Teams, Florida Animal Control Association, Florida Association of Kennel Clubs, Florida Cattlemen’s Association, Florida Farm Bureau, Florida Mosquito Control Association, Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association, Florida Veterinary Medical Association, Humane Society of the United States, Southeast Milk Incorporated, Southern Plant Diagnostic Network, Sunshine State Horse Council, and United Animal Nations with its Emergency Animal Rescue Service.
Citrus	Citrus County Animal Services Division	Citrus County Emergency Management Section Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Hardee	Hardee County Animal Services	Hardee County Office of Emergency Management Hardee County Public Health

<sup>8</sup> At the Federal level, animal issues are addressed in ESF #6 Mass Care



Level	Primary Agency	Support Agencies
		private veterinary clinics Great Ape Peace River Refuge & Ranch Little Animal Kingdom Reality Ranch and VMAT-1
Hernando	Hernando County Animal Control	Hernando Emergency Animal Response Team (H.E.A.R.T.) Hernando County Veterinarians
Hillsborough	Hillsborough County Department of Animal Services	Bay Area Disaster Animal Response Teams (Bay Area DART) Florida Animal Control Association Member agencies (FACA) Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS) Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT) Humane Society of Tampa Bay Hillsborough County Veterinary Medical Society (HCVMS) Hillsborough Animal Health Foundation (HAHF) Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Agricultural Unit County Cooperative Extension Service Hillsborough County Solid Waste
Manatee	Manatee County Animal Services	Humane Society of Manatee County, Inc. Bishop Animal Shelter (SPCA) Florida West Coast Avian Society Cattleman's Association of Manatee County Florida Wildlife Commission Florida Department of Agriculture Manatee County Health Department Myakka River Ryders Wildlife Rescue, Inc. Wildlife Rehabilitation Wildlife, Inc.
Pasco (ESF 11)	Pasco County Community Services Department/Animal Services Division	Volunteer Animal Protection Group Pasco County Veterinarians Pasco Animal Response Team (PART)
Pinellas	County's department of Animal Services	SPCA Humane Society Disaster Animal Rescue Teams (DART)
Polk	Polk County Sheriff's Office (Animal Services Division)	Public Safety Department (Emergency Management Division) Infrastructure/Growth Management Group (Solid Waste Division) Human Services Department (Cooperative Extension Services)



### Preparedness (D-5 – D-0) Tasks

Tasks
<b>Resource Assessment and Protective Actions</b>
<b>Impacted Counties</b>
Determine existing available resources and Request needed resources from the State
Work with local animal care entities to identify potential resources such as food, medication and other animal supplies for protection. Entities include the following: Veterinarians, NGOs, Agribusiness, Zoos, Wildlife Organizations, Research Facilities,
As appropriate, move resources to a safe location (evacuate)
<p>Sheltering and evacuation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine available shelter locations and activate as appropriate</li> <li>• Determine evacuation timeline and implement evacuation procedures</li> </ul>
<b>Host County Activities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess resources for hosting an influx of animals Shelter, Feed, Personnel, Medication</li> <li>• Activate shelter resources for evacuees and their animals</li> <li>• Monitor resource consumption and request assistance from the State as required</li> </ul>
<p>Determine existing available resources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feed</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Medicine and medical supplies</li> <li>• Veterinary personnel</li> <li>• Animal transportation resources</li> <li>• Crates</li> </ul> <p>Determine potential resource needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place in-state and out-of-state available resources on standby including non-governmental animal disaster response organizations (National Animal Response Coalition, United Animal Nations, Humane Society of the United States)</li> <li>• Contact out-of-State facilities to assess availability and put on standby if available, (Georgia National Fairgrounds Agricenter, Perry, Georgia; Montgomery, Alabama State Fair Grounds;</li> <li>• Place assets to assist with animal tracking and reunification on standby</li> <li>• Deploy county-requested resources for assisting with animal evacuation and sheltering – including the evacuation of wildlife/exotic animals.</li> </ul>



Tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deploy veterinary team resources as requested</li> <li>• Pre-position existing resources as appropriate</li> <li>• Begin the request process for needed resources</li> <li>• Push information to the Public Information group regarding animal evacuation and tracking.</li> <li>• Waivers on Coggins Tests; Movement requirements of certain animals; Notification of pet-friendly hotels; Available places for large animals and equines; Evacuate with food for your pets;</li> </ul> <p>Governor’s declaration issued with inclusion of language regarding pets including Ninety (90) Day holding period for rescued animals post impact; Animals on buses</p>

### Immediate Response and Short-Term Recovery Tasks

Tasks
<p><b>Impacted County Activities</b></p>
<p>Determine capabilities of local resources to respond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify available local resources including resources on hand and resources available from local suppliers.</li> <li>• Identify animal hospitals and veterinarians which may be open</li> <li>• Determine needed resources and develop list for State and Federal support (Feed, Hay, Water, Medicine, Crates/cages/containers, Human resources, large animal relocation for areas projected to have sustained flooding, Animal hospitals/vets, etc.</li> </ul>
<p>Continue sheltering/care of animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capture/shelter/veterinary care of abandoned and loose animals (Household pets, Large animals (Equines, Livestock), exotics, etc.</li> <li>• Assess impact of carcasses on public health</li> </ul> <p>Assist the Debris Mission with the removal and disposal of nuisance carcasses as issues arise.</p>
<p>Coordinate with County Human Services Branch, including emergency support functions which provide food and water to prioritize county resource distribution for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pet-friendly Shelters</li> <li>• Other animal care facilities</li> </ul> <p>Identify local animal resources including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functioning veterinary offices</li> <li>• Animal hospitals and clinics</li> <li>• Other animal and agricultural resources</li> </ul> <p>Determine animal and agricultural resource needs and request of State</p> <p>Local animal response teams will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support animal search and rescue efforts</li> </ul>



<b>Tasks</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess large animal needs</li><li>• Coordinate veterinary needs</li></ul>
<b>Host County Activities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Determine capabilities of local resources to:</li><li>• Feed influx of animals.</li><li>• Continue to shelter animals.</li><li>• Accept additional animals into the area from the impacted counties.</li><li>• Deal with death and disposal of carcasses of animals that evacuated but did not survive.</li><li>• Identify needed resources.</li><li>• Determine what resources are locally available including Feed, Hay, Water, Medicine, Crates/cages/containers, Human resources</li><li>• Request needed resources from State</li></ul>
<b>State Activities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begin impact assessment to critical animal infrastructure including commercial and non-commercial animal and agricultural producers.</li><li>• Assess the status of feed stores and availability of feed.</li><li>• Conduct assessment of county resources; determine gaps for State and Federal assistance.</li><li>• Assessment of existing food supplies for contamination (e.g., water, moldy grains, etc.).</li><li>• Deploy Animal Search and Rescue.</li><li>• Coordinate with ESF 9 at the communications/dispatch center.</li><li>• Ensure information and resources are available to protect ESF 17 responders from contagious and infectious human and zoonotic diseases.</li><li>• Individual ESF 17 agencies will conduct damage assessment of their facilities and repair to the extent possible for use in response activities.</li><li>• Provide information and resources for animal disease control and eradication.</li><li>• Deploy Veterinary team resources as needed.</li><li>• Request emergency law enforcement response as required.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify and deploy specialty debris handlers to assist with carcass assessment and disposal supplementing county resources</li><li>• Survey for potential zoonotic diseases</li><li>• Push information to the Public Information relating to sheltering of animals, resources for large animal owners and pet owners, include public health messages and messages related to wild and exotic animals.</li><li>• Push animal feed resources to shelters along with mass care commodities (Dog food – dry; Cat food – dry; Large animal Feed (Generic) – no hay)</li><li>• Provide resources to support the post-impact assisted evacuation from the embarkation points to host</li></ul>



Tasks
communities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respond to county requests for supplemental food, water, and medication resources for animals.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begin surveying for potential animal and plant diseases that could threaten the animal and agricultural industries.</li><li>• Push information to Public Information for publishing regarding:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Assistance and resources for the animal agricultural industry.</li><li>2. How to reunite with lost animals and State policies regarding animal fostering, adoption and euthanization.</li></ol></li></ul>

**Florida’s Interim Guidance for Catastrophic Events provides the following operational overview:**

**Response Operations: Evacuation and Sheltering**

- Local emergency management agencies will begin evacuation and sheltering activities in accordance with their comprehensive emergency management plans.
- There will be an increased need for pet-friendly shelters. Availability of pet-friendly shelters will be based upon the desire and capability of each individual county. Three types of pet-friendly shelters found are:
  - **Co-mingled Shelter:** A shelter where pets are kept with their owners in the shelter
  - **Co-located Shelter:** A shelter where pets are kept in a separate area from their owner and the owner takes primary responsibility for caring for their pet
  - **Animal Rescue Shelter:** Shelter separate from human shelter: A shelter where pets are surrendered to the care of the shelter provider. Animals that are found during the evacuation and response phases are brought to this shelter for care.
- The State of Florida will support evacuation and sheltering activities as requested. Potential requests for support include:
  - Personnel (Supplemental animal shelter staff, Credentialed veterinary staff)
  - Supplies (Feed, Medical supplies including medication and animal first aid supplies)
- Small animal evacuation and sheltering concepts:
  - Owners are responsible for the needs of their own pets; therefore, owners and pets should be kept together whenever possible.
  - Adequate public information and education will be provided to pet owners pre-event to ensure that owners are prepared and have the basic information with them (e.g., animal identification, proof of ownership, vaccination schedule, etc.) to facilitate evacuation or rescue.



- Enhanced coordination with Emergency Support Function 6 is vital to support designated shelters that house animals.
- Event situation estimates of resources for request and mobilization can be obtained from the Animal Issues Resource Matrix (calculator) found in **Error! Reference source not found.** of this document.
- Volunteer responders from the organizations that comprise the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (comprised of nine national animal rescue and sheltering organizations with approximately 5,000 trained volunteers) may be requested to assist with sheltering and evacuation in Florida.
- It may be necessary to provide sheltering facilities for owners with pets for an extended period of time.
  - Ongoing coordination with Emergency Support Function 6 will take place.
  - Emergency Support Function 17 will provide supplemental resources to Emergency Support Function 6 to assist with animal care in Pet-friendly shelters.
- Large Animal Evacuation Concepts
  - Horse owners will generally self-evacuate with their horses prior to a storm making land-fall
  - Emergency Support Function 17 will provide information to large animal owners via the State Animal Response Team website ([www.flsart.org](http://www.flsart.org)) requesting that those that have the ability to evacuate their animals do so immediately and those who cannot evacuate their animals should make preparations for a high-wind and flood event.
  - Emergency Support Function 17 will coordinate with Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina Animal Response Teams to be prepared to receive large numbers of evacuated animals.
  - Requests will be made to use:
    - Perry, Georgia facility (Georgia National Fairgrounds Agricenter).
    - Montgomery, Alabama State Fair Grounds.
  - Use of these facilities is contingent on their availability.
  - Lists of animal evacuation centers and other options in Florida are located online at:
    - [www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/index.shtml](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/index.shtml)
    - [www.flsart.org/resources/pet\\_friendly\\_shelters.pdf](http://www.flsart.org/resources/pet_friendly_shelters.pdf)
  - Some Florida counties do have limited livestock evacuation destinations.
  - Livestock evacuation will be conducted by owners who have the responsibility of locating an appropriate destination and affecting their own evacuation.
  - Livestock trailers could slow down evacuation along specified evacuation routes.



## Immediate Response/ Short Term Recovery Operations: Emergency shelter, relocation and health issues

- Animal Rescue Sheltering Concepts
  - Animal Rescue Shelters house animals that have no owner or where owners voluntarily surrender their animals.
  - A standardized receiving, registering process needs to be developed and put into place to enhance the ability to reunite owners with their pets.
  - Emergency Support Function 17 will communicate with counties to assist in the identification of appropriate areas for setting up mass emergency animal rescue shelters.
  - The county Emergency Support Function 17 Emergency Coordinating Officer will be responsible for the site selection of the emergency animal shelter.
  - Counties may request supplemental resources to assist with the management and running of these facilities.
  - The State will request adequate volunteer staff from the National Animal Response Coalition to support these shelters.
    1. NARC volunteers will have limited animal supplies.
    2. NARC volunteers will be self-sufficient for 3 – 5 days. After that, they will need logistical support from the State.
    3. This includes staff familiar with animal processing using accepted forms of identification.
    4. Facilities should be safe and have adequate space, electrical supply, and water to accommodate the needs of large numbers of animals.
    5. Safe and secure transportation will need to be provided from the rescue location to the shelter.
    6. It may be necessary to relocate rescued animals out of the impacted area to host communities when local infrastructure and support mechanisms are insufficient to meet the needs of the rescued animals.
    7. State Emergency Support Function 17 will facilitate the identification of a host community to accept rescued animals without their owner.
    8. State Emergency Support Function 17 will facilitate the identification of appropriate transport and care services during transport between the impacted community and the identified host community.
    9. Each county in the State has established their own holding period for rescued animals prior to euthanizing an unclaimed animal. A standard holding period post-event of 90 days has been identified

**Comment [A1]:** There is no standardized process currently in place in Florida. See the section below on tracking of animals.



to balance owner and shelter needs. This holding period should be added to the Governor's Declaration.

- **Exotic Animals and Wildlife**

- Florida has a significant amount of wildlife that may pose a dangerous threat to survivors or responders.
- There are a number of exotic animal farms, breeders, and private owners which may pose a hazard through both intentional or unintentional release of exotic wildlife pre or post event.
- State regulations require captive wildlife facilities and private owners of exotic animals to show proof of an emergency plan for the facility.
- Wildlife facilities will implement their plans.
- If assistance is needed they should make that request to their local Emergency Management Agency.
- Local jurisdictions should consult a subject matter expert regarding capture and relocation of exotic animals and wildlife.
- If local resources do not exist or are overwhelmed, local jurisdictions will request additional resources from Emergency Support Function 17 at the State Emergency Operations Center.

- **Animal Tracking**

- There is currently no state-wide animal tracking or identification system in Florida.
- Non-governmental organizations have individual tracking systems that may be implemented by those organizations during a disaster.
- Micro-chipping
  - Pet owners are not required to have their pet micro-chipped by the State.
  - There are several different micro-chipping systems.
  - These systems currently do not communicate with each other.
  - A universal chip reader is under development.
  - Micro-chipping may be done only by a licensed veterinarian in the State of Florida.

- **National Mass Evacuation Tracking System**

- Comprises an open source database developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency designed to track the movement of evacuees, pets, luggage and medical equipment.
- Provides a single, national system to support multi-state, State managed or local level evacuation operations.
- National Mass Evacuation Tracking System "light" should be available to states for implementation during the 2009 hurricane season.



- Allows for the registration of pets (according to the Federal definition of pets) along with their owners during a government-sponsored evacuation.
- Does not track animals which present without an owner.

#### **Animal Search and Rescue**

- It is anticipated that a large number of animals may be left behind during evacuations and post-event rescue of those animals and owners with pets will be necessary.
- Emergency Support Function 17 will enhance coordination with Emergency Support Function 9 – Urban Search and Rescue to assist in the handling and removal of animals identified by Urban Search and Rescue as needed.
- Coordination will be provided by assigning an Emergency Support Function 17 Liaison to the Urban Search and Rescue Command Post to facilitate in communicating animal removal needs and placement in appropriate sheltering facilities.
- Animal Search and Rescue teams will follow Primary Search and Rescue when they are notified of a stranded animal.
- There are a limited number of animal search and rescue teams.
- Survivors may be identified to assist with animal search and rescue.
- Supplemental animal control officers to assist with search and rescue efforts can be requested through Emergency Management Assistance Compact as needed.
- Transportation will be necessary to transfer unaccompanied, rescued animals to designated Animal Rescue Shelters.
- Transportation will be necessary to transfer rescued owners and their companion animals to congregate shelters.
- Medical attention may be necessary for rescued animals and owners.

#### **Veterinary Care**

- It is anticipated there will be an increased need for State and Federal support to local jurisdictions for veterinary care to assist with animal emergency medical care, surgery, decontamination, vaccination, and euthanasia due to the loss of veterinary infrastructure in the impacted area.
- The Florida Veterinary Corps will be mobilized through the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine.
- Additional support will be requested through the United States Department of Agriculture National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps.
- Nine mobile surgical spay and neuter clinics are available to respond as needed.
- These mobile clinics are mostly county-owned assets and should be requested via mutual aid or through the State Emergency Operations Center.
- Staffing for the mobile clinics is minimal and they will require logistical support.



- Other State requests for veterinary assistance may be made as needed to:
  - Florida Veterinary Medical Association
  - American Veterinary Medical Association
  - Departments of Agriculture from other states
  - United States Department of Agriculture – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
  - Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Local available veterinary resources will be first identified by counties before bringing in outside resources.
- It is vital to first support the available local resources by meeting infrastructure needs, such as coordinating supply of fuel, water and emergency power.
- Emergency Support Function 17 will assist in the coordination of replenishment of critical emergency medical resources as requested from the counties.

#### **Agricultural Issues**

- There is currently no funding for the implementation of protective measures for the agriculture industry.
- Future planning should include the identification of potential sources for pre-impact emergency funding for the industry.
- The United States Department of Agriculture could be a resource in the identification of funding sources or a source for this funding.
- Fuel for dairies and poultry operations is needed to for the following reasons:
  - To prevent cows from drying up.
  - To prevent a surge of beef and poultry in the industry.
  - To permit milk to be produced locally and re-engage survivors in the local economy.

#### **Animal Carcass Issues**

- Animal carcasses do not create a public health issue unless the carcasses are diseased.
- An identification of a disease outbreak that could create a potential health threat would have been identified pre-impact.
- Animal carcasses will be considered part of the normal debris removal process.
- Carcasses may clog canals and require disposal.
- Emergency Support Function 17 will provide technical assistance to the Debris mission should issues arise.
- A potentially large number of animal carcasses could be large livestock species.
- Due to the nature of Florida's environment, several options of animal disposal may not be available in catastrophic conditions.



- o Local conditions may prevent the removal and transport of carcasses to other locations for disposal.

Response Concepts:

- o Carcasses which are not blocking infrastructure or creating a public nuisance will be left where they are to decompose. They do not create a public health risk unless they have been identified as being diseased.
- o Animal carcasses which block infrastructure will be treated as debris. Removal work will be funded under Category B and normal operations for debris removal will be applied.
- o Options for disposal include burying, burning, composting, etc.
- o Carcasses in the debris stream will not be identified for notification of owners.
- o Work with private land owners to assist with timely disposal of animal carcasses on their property.
- o Contact and work through renderers to support carcass removal and disposal.
- o Specific animal carcass situations will be evaluated and prioritized. Situations creating a public health, safety, or welfare risk will receive a higher priority.
- o Provide clear communication regarding disposal issues for public information, if there is a need. (For example, cattle that have died in remote locations and that do not pose a public health risk may be left as a lower priority until other urgent incident priorities are addressed and resources become available).



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