Animals in Disasters

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WV STATE DIRECTOR – HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
How Did DART Start?

- After Hurricane Andrew struck Florida, in 1992, victims were distressed when they could not bring pets to public shelters.
- Some people are more concerned for their animals in disasters than they are for themselves. This may impair their ability to make sensible decisions about their own safety & that of rescue workers. Examples include: Evacuation failures & re-entry attempts, and unsafe rescue attempts.
Why Plan?

• If not managed, the animals themselves can become part of the problem and create public health and safety risks - protect animal and human health.

• Good animal management will assist in minimising the impact of the event – reduce magnitude.

• Planning can help protect animal management teams from being expected to work miracles with very short notice & inadequate resources.

• Consulting with local emergency management coordinators can help capture any plans that are in place & can ensure that are part of the overall response.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Understand:</th>
<th>Impact:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• People will not want to leave pets.</td>
<td>• Think outside the box (dogs/cats).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 60% would risk their life for pet (AVMA).</td>
<td>• Be cautious, even if you know the animal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 60% households include animals.</td>
<td>• Animal behavior.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Most have more than 1.</td>
<td>• Disorientation/stress</td>
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Disaster/Evacuation Planning

- Don’t be complacent – no one is immune.
- Animals take more time to evacuate/plan for.
- Planning reduces stress & helps leave earlier.
- Planning preserves options and LIFE!
- Record keeping
- Potential media nightmare.
Options For Animals During Disasters

- **Shelter in place**
  - If owners are able

- **Evacuate**
  - Owners need plan & options for shelter

- **Pet friendly shelter**
  - “people” shelters allowing animals – owners care for own pets

- **Emergency animal shelter**
  - Volunteers care for pets
Why Pet Friendly Shelters are Needed

- Do not want separation.
- Some pets do better w/owners caring for them.
- Cannot afford cost of hotel/boarding.
- Cannot find a pet friendly hotel.
- No options w/family/friends.
- Should be last resort but may be only option.
### Sheltering/Evacuating by Owners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educating Pet Owners</th>
<th>Livestock Owners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparedness kits for each pet:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Owners must have a plan!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Medications</td>
<td>○ Trailering/transport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Evacuation plan</td>
<td>○ Containment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Blankets &amp; toys</td>
<td>○ Identification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Food &amp; water for @ least 3 days</td>
<td>○ Veterinary records/paperwork</td>
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<tr>
<td>○ Crate(s)</td>
<td>○ Where can you go with your animals?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Collar with tags should always be on animal(s)</td>
<td>○ Feed/water access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Veterinary records</td>
<td>○ Other useful items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Livestock Disaster/Evacuation Plan Cont’d

- Evacuation – can prevent electrocution, dehydration, & barn collapse deaths
  - Evacuate ASAP – be ready
  - Work to establish shelters for livestock – fairgrounds, etc
  - Identify evacuation routes
  - Identify handlers and drivers

- Disaster kit (in central location, available to everyone)
  - Current listing of all animals (location, feeding info, etc)
  - Proof of ownership
  - Temporary ID supplies (neckbands, halters, markers)
  - First aid, flashlight, batteries, flares
### Plan for Your Community

Including key stakeholders and allies, can help synchronise any processes and apply consistency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Possible Partners</th>
<th>First Actions:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Animal control representative</td>
<td>- <strong>Create Local Animal Issues Committee or DART and Plan</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Animal humane association representative</td>
<td>- Submit to Local EM for approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Public veterinarians</td>
<td>- Committee should advise local government authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Private veterinarians</td>
<td>- Lay out possible animal disasters in area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Veterinary technicians</td>
<td>- Include Human Care Agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Animal health regulatory agency representative</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Public works representatives</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Animal industry representatives</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Environmental representative</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- County Extension agent</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Media communication representatives</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Elected official representative</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Emergency management coordinator representative</td>
<td></td>
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## Disasters – the Expected & Unexpected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Man Made</th>
<th>Natural</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Flooding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can/will you assist</td>
<td>Earthquake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>local law enforcement?</td>
<td>Wildfire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoarding</td>
<td>Blizzard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neglect</td>
<td>Tornado</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heat Wave</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic “pets”</td>
<td></td>
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Additional Thoughts

Options for animal care:
- **Foster care program:**
  - When shelter is closing but animals still need care.
  - Last resort & used w/ caution.
  - Thoroughly screened private homes.
- **Temporary day care**
  - Owners may be returning to retrieve belongings or working.
  - May be unable to leave pet where they are staying.

Donation management!
- Off site storage?
- Control intake of supplies or it will control you!
- Set up drop off/pick up of food to those affected.
- Need a donation manager
  - Approves requests
Distribution plan for food/water/crates

How will contain distressed animals?

Proper skills/equipment to deal with a control distressed animals.

Knowing when NOT to respond & having a list of experts to contact.

Staying organized: signage, paperwork, ICS, protocol.

Continue Training Needs & Update Plans Often
Implementation

- Educate public:
  - The best plan is to evacuate with your pets to friends and/or family
  - Identify and promote pet friendly policies of Hotels and Motels during emergencies
  - Shelters are life boats, for both you and/or your pets

- Step One: Establish Policy Guidelines
- Step Two: Develop Standard Operating Guides, Procedures, and Best Practices
- Step Three: Training & Implementation
  - No one should be turned away from a shelter with pets
What Do You Need?

Facility:
- Animal shelter/kennel
- Pet shops
- Vet clinics
- Wildlife rehab center
- Horse stable

Non porous/solid flooring, safety standards, free of obligations during emergencies – MOU.

- Team members!
  - Staffing & security.

- Training
  - Florida SART
  - FEMA
  - American Humane
  - HSUS

- Supplies
  - Trailer?
  - Crates
  - Leashes
  - Bowls – food & water
  - Cleaning supplies
  - Hardware, tools, zip ties, duct tape.
  - Signage & paperwork – office equip
  - Litter, trash cans & bags, first aid, blankets.
Interested in joining a “DART”?

DARTs & emergency trailers exist in some WV counties:

  Jefferson
  Ohio Valley
  Preston
  Hancock

WW DART in next 5 years??

National Disaster Prep Month Project?

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