



# Upshur Co. Animal Shelter Program

CERT Small Animal Shelter  
Trailer, Equipment & Personnel



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# The Stafford Act

- **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) of 1974** is a federal law designed to bring an orderly and systemic means of federal natural disaster assistance for state and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to aid citizens. Congress' intention was to encourage states and localities to develop comprehensive disaster preparedness plans, prepare for better intergovernmental coordination in the face of a disaster, encourage the use of insurance coverage, and provide federal assistance programs for losses due to a disaster.
- **The Stafford Act is a 1988** amended version of the **Disaster Relief Act of 1974**. It created the system in place today by which a presidential disaster declaration of an emergency triggers financial and physical assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Act gives FEMA the responsibility for coordinating government-wide relief efforts.



### **Pet Evacuation Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (PETS Act)**

- The **PETS Act of 2006** was enacted following the events of Hurricane Katrina. PETS **amends the Stafford Act** to include requirements for jurisdictions to include planning for people with animals.
- The legislation specifically states that all cities and states must have a pet plan in place to receive FEMA funding.
- This law is meant to address the problematic issue of people refusing to evacuate because they do not want to leave household pets behind as witnessed during Hurricane Katrina and other disasters.
- **FEMA funding eligibility is dependent on compliance.**
- All emergency evacuation plans must include policies and procedures for evacuating both service animals and household pets.



# Upshur County Animal Shelter Trailer



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Pet Trailer Purchased Inventory & Setup in 2007

- Stafford Act changes requires care & sheltering of small animals and pets.
- WV Homeland Security, Region IV Grant in 2007 – Trailers & Equipment





**Animals in Disaster Plan:  
Lewis and Upshur Counties**

Upshur Co. OEM – Developed Animal Shelter Plan, Lewis & Upshur Counties  
w/State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Grant in 2009.





Animal response team training & equipment familiarization.

- Joint response team from Upshur & Lewis Counties
- Training conducted by Humane Society University in 2011 through a CERT Grant.
- Team made up of CERT volunteers & OEM staff.
- Current team leaders are two Upshur Citizen Corps Council members.



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Pet Trailer & Comfort Station Exercise

- **CERT Animal & Comfort Shelter Trailers were deployed during mass evacuation exercise held for Region IV in March 2013.**
- **Provided a complete setup and inventory of equipment.**
- **Provided the team the opportunity to practice and learn.**



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# Shelter Deployment Exercise



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# Shelter Deployment Exercise



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## Shelter Equipment & Agreements

- 16x7 box trailer
- 75 cages in 4 different sizes
- Cat carriers
- Collars and leashes
- ID Tags & other tracking devices and material.
- Pop-up canopies 10x10 & 10x20
- Traps, heaters, cooling devices,.
- Pressure washer & other cleaning/sanitation equipment
- Generator, power cords, portable lighting
- Feeding & watering bowls
- Local agreements for providing food and veterinary care.
- Work with Animal Control in rescue efforts.



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## **Basic Operational Theory**

To deploy the animal shelter trailer and team whenever local evacuation shelters are established in order to allow for people to have their pets cared for and near them during an emergency or disaster.

This will encourage people to evacuate their homes knowing their pets are safe & being cared for.



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## **Basic Operational Theory (cont.)**

- Having pet shelter adjacent to an evacuation shelter allows pet owner to interact with their pets.
- Feed & water them, walk & play w/them
- Provide less stressful situation for the evacuees and their pets.
- Never know how long people & pets will have be in shelters. Makes situation more tolerable by being together.



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## What is the future for Animal Rescue & Shelter programs?

- The rescue and care of large farm animals.
- Transportation – Vehicles & Trailers
- Area large enough to hold animals
- Food & water availability
- Knowledgeable and trained personnel
- Equipment required – New & Replacement
- Funding ????



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## You are ready, are your pets?

- Be able to gather your pets & get their carriers, leashes, etc.
- Wearing their collars with identification.
  - Their Name
  - Your Name & Address
  - Phone #
- Go-Kit for your pets:
  - Food/Water – 3 to 5 day supply
  - Photo & Description (in event you get separated)
  - Veterinary, Medical & Medication Information
  - Toys, blankets etc. – make them feel at home
- Know where you can go with your pets (Hotels, Friends, Relatives)



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## How Could You Leave Her Behind?



"The Baby"



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