



Animals in Disaster Working Group Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, May 16, 2023

The meeting commenced at 1:30pm.

In attendance:

Cal Animals Emergency Management Committee (Cal Animals): N. McKinney

Calaveras County: C. Baldwin

California Central Animal Disaster Team (CCADT) N. Tobias

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA): S. Brown, A. Jones, L. Quiroz

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES): B. Blair, J. Carrington, D. Chapman, K. Nielsen, G. Merceron, J. Ortega, N. Richmond, E. Rubio, G. Smith

California Department of Social Services (CDSS): M. Wakefield, S. Naidu

California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA): J. Kerr, G. Miller

California Volunteers (Cal Volunteers): Z. Corbo

Los Angeles County Animal Services: Lt. P. Maradiaga

Napa Valley Equine/Napa Community Animal Response Team (Napa CART): C. Sonders

University of California, Davis (UC Davis): S. Buhl, W. Burke, A. Patterson, W. Ziccardi

I. Agency Updates

a. CDFA (S. Brown)

Winter Storms

- Activated Operations Center with a continuous presence at the State Operations Center for the Winter Storms. Stayed in close communication with UC Davis for any unmet needs.
- Provided on-the-job training for California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) staff on deployment preparedness.
- Assisted counties with approvals to move dairy cattle, food safety programs, food safety inspections, and information to assist their impacted farmers and ranchers and identified high-risk areas within counties.
- Ensured Agricultural Commissioner and Animal Control Director had seats in the county Emergency Operations Center to be a central point of coordination.
- Field staff identified volunteer livestock haulers to assist in moving animals that were affected by floods.
- Created social media posts to amplify county and state messaging and posted guidance on the CARES website. Also posted on social media regarding a sample MOU for fairs and expositions.
- S. Brown temporarily assuming CA-ESF 11 coordinator position.

b. C-VET, UC Davis (W. Burke)

- Completed outreach to those within the counties that work on animal response.

- Posted coastal region summary regarding animal emergency preparedness to new website, cvetucdavis.org.
 - Working on an information campaign at events (i.e., California Emergency Services Association (CESA) Conference and Pacific Veterinary Conference).
 - Continuing draft and finalizing C-VET standard operations guidelines.
 - Working on building a C-VET basics course.
 - Preparing for fire season such as finishing 24-hour kits/go bags and expanding their space on campus.
 - A. Patterson (UC Davis): Kern County reached out for assistance for potential flooding and started conversation on UC Davis assisting.
- c. Cal OES (N. Richmond)
- Currently responding to State Operations Center activations for flood response.
 - Presented at the CESA Conference in a breakout session on Animals in Disasters. Discussed the following:
 - The importance of ensuring animal control or representation is in emergency operation centers (EOCs), leveraging their Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with fairgrounds/CARTs and/or stressing the importance of starting an on MOU.
 - Animal response updates on behalf of CDFA and C-VET.
 - New request process for ACOs through Emergency Management Mutual Aid (EMMA) versus Law Enforcement Mutual Aid (LEMA). State agencies should be concentrating their outreach on this since it is such a universal/statewide issue.
 - Animal Control Officer (ACO) Fact Sheet: Draft was sent to the working group. Please send additional feedback/edits to D. Chapman by May 31, 2023, so that Cal OES can finalize and socialize with counties, advisory committees, stakeholders, and at MARAC meetings.

II. New Business

- a. County Animal Annexes (Large Animal/Livestock), N. Richmond (Cal OES): Legislation in 2021, requires counties to put large animal evacuation plans in County Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) every three years.
- Tasked with reviewing and giving recommendations to every EOP to ensure large animals as well as the Ag Pass Program are incorporated into the Plan.
 - Due to the unprecedented flooding, snow melt, and rising dams, there is a chance this legislation will pass.
 - N. Tobias (CCADT): Counties have reached out regarding annexes and looking to update them.

- S. Brown (CDFA): Reached out to some of counties that are little more prepared. Sample of plans and template are on the CARES website.

Action Item: Inform S. Brown (CDFA) if counties send Cal OES or CCART their county EOPs so that she can post to the CARES website.

Action Item: S. Brown (CDFA) will be reviewing the EOP checklist and potentially updating based on the storms this year as well as any recommendations Noele Richmond may have from her reviews.

b. Merced County, N. Richmond (Cal OES): Adam Amaral with Merced Office of Emergency Services is working with his emergency team, Agricultural commissioner, county farm bureaus, ACOs, law enforcement, and local fire on Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping to plot dairy/poultry farms. Contact Adam if your county needs assistance.

a. Lisa Quiroz (CDFA): CDFa worked extensively with Merced County for carcass disposal planning and emergency waivers for composting.

I. Old Business

a. Animal Control Officer Request Process, N. Richmond (Cal OES):

- As mentioned earlier in the Cal OES updates, please review the draft, and provide your feedback to D. Chapman (Cal OES) by May 31, 2023, as Cal OES would like to have the final version socialized by June.

II. Roundtable (Member Updates)

- Lt. P. Maradiaga (Los Angeles County Animal Services): Working on GIS Planning with LA County Office of Emergency Management and identifying counties with livestock using Zonehaven.
 - N. Richmond (Cal OES): Had a strategic meeting at Cal OES, but it is not shared information. If the need is flood inundation information, we have to go to Department of Water Resources. Zonehaven is a great tool, and underutilized.
 - Lt. Paul Maradiaga (LA County Animal Services): Challenging to identify those communities. Potentially present Zonehaven to the group. Great for counties and CARTs. Finding those areas with water companies.
- N. Tobias (CCADT): January 2023, CCART was in Merced County for 12 – 13 days as well as 17 counties in their region during the storms. Worked with Tulare County, specifically Porterville response flood planning and how to shelter animals. Currently concerned for Goodmanville (Kern County), Yosemite, and a mobile home park in Madera County located on a canal that is threatened.

- Working with American Red Cross and sending animal supplies to Mono County and will be visiting Mono County tribes that are having challenges with animal response. AmeriCorps helped in volunteering and will be getting trained in the fall to assist.
- A. Patterson (UC Davis): Animal care training/Nat'l CERT conference, half a day workshop, so there are several variations to be an animal handler. As that training develops, we can ensure that people are trained on the same thing.
- Lt. Paul Maradiaga (LA County Animal Services): Situational Awareness: Public utility code 9166 regarding best practices allowing pets on public transit.

Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.