



Animals in Disaster Working Group Meeting Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 27, 2022
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Purpose: Establish Animals in Disasters Working Group

Decisions to Make: Goal and Objectives of Work Group

Agenda:

- I. Welcome and Introductions

The following individuals were in attendance:

CalOES

Noele Richmond

Nick Murray

Danielle Chapman Huizar

Winston Lin

Kim Nielsen

Kelly Riley

Lindsey Stanley

Jose Ortega

James Griffith

Greg Smith

CA Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

Lisa Quiroz

Annette Jones, DVM

Sonia Brown

Asha Raj

Mike Francesconi

Animal Rescue Team Representatives

Naomi Tobias (Central CA Animal Disaster Team)

Claudia Sonder, DVM (Napa CART – Napa Valley Equine)

CACASA

Louie Mendoza

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Brandon Munk, DVM



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Randy Lovell

CA Department of Social Services (CDSS)

Mathias Wakefield

Jeremy Horan

CVMA & CV Medical Reserve Corp

Grant Miller, DVM

Jay Kerr, DVM

UC Cooperative Extension

Roselle Busch, DVM

UC Davis

Michael Zaccardi, DVM

Matthew Blake

LA County Animal Services

Lt. Paul Maradiaga

Cal Animals Emergency Management Committee

Nancy McKenney

Brian Whipple

El Dorado County Animal Control

Henry Brzezinski

- II. Update on current activities and recent experience
 - a. Overview of CARES
 - Sonia Brown, CDFA Program Manager, CARES
 - i. California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES): a unit within the emergency preparedness and response section of the CDFA animal health branch. CARES can:
 - 1. Mission coordinate animal-related resources when an incident escalates to a state-level emergency, is tasked by Cal OES, and only when local resources are exhausted or fully committed.
 - 2. Assist and support CA ESF-11.



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3. Develop procurements for consumables (feed, vet supplies)
4. Carcass disposal depending on the disaster.
- ii. CARES cannot:
 1. Provide a cache of resources or supplies.
 2. Provide boots on the ground during a disaster.
 3. Provide support for exotics, zoos, or veterinary medical care.
 4. Staff operation centers or shelters, especially if an incident is multi-regional.
 5. Provide animal control officers.
 6. Provide transportation vehicles.
 7. Provide per diem for non-CDFA responders.
- iii. CARES Accomplishments:
 1. February 2021: Conducted CARES survey for OAs and volunteer organizations, to determine capabilities. Survey showed volunteer agencies will most likely self-deploy, and little communication exists between volunteers and local government
 2. August 2021: Public Utilities Commission, 99166 Best Practices, allowing pets on public transportation. One-on-one strategizing with individual counties.
 3. February 2022: Resource Request Process document - shows how to complete resource requests for animal services so that it is completed in a timely manner and resources are allocated appropriately.
 4. February 2022: Operational Area Volunteer Agency Resource Catalogue, currently working on a revision to be released soon.
 5. February 2022: Began the framework for the C-VET MOU between Cal OES, CDFA, and UC Davis.
 6. March 2022: CARES Concept of Operation. Describes all four bases of emergency management.



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7. CARES Updated Website: Should be operational in the next few weeks.
 8. More active outreach between now and December 2022.
- b. Ag Pass
Louie Mendoza, CACASA (Butte County)
- i. Ag pass developed after 2018-2019 fires. Worked with UC Cooperative extension to develop Ag Pass and was implemented in November 2021.
 - ii. April 2022: Beekeepers added to the Ag Pass program.
 - iii. May 2022: Current Ag pass holders will be required to do a one-hour recertification
 - iv. Many counties are working on developing their own Ag Pass program and process with CAL FIRE, county law enforcement and Ag Commissioner.
- c. California Veterinary Emergency Team (C-VET) Program
Michael Ziccardi, DVM, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine
- i. Developed in 2021 through legislative action; MOU is between UC Davis, Cal OES, and CDFA.
 - ii. MOU to support and train a network of government agencies, NGOs, and individuals to assist in evacuation/care of animals in emergencies.
 - iii. Research on best practices for evacuation/care of animals.
 - iv. Ensure training and care are at levels consistent with standards.
 - v. Deploy responders to oversee volunteers.
 - vi. Distribution of duties will have elements of ICS structure.
 - vii. Extensive meetings with stakeholders to ensure key concerns are implemented into the C-VET.
- d. Caldor Fire Experience
Henry Brzezinski, El Dorado County Animal Control



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- i. Advised early in the incident that the El Dorado County Fairgrounds would be unavailable to shelter animals due to the mass of evacuees and law enforcement. Fortunately, Amador County Fairgrounds agreed to shelter evacuated animals.
 - ii. Asha Raj, CDFA CA ESF-11, was instrumental in getting 60 livestock panels and coordinating with Department of Transportation to deliver panels.
 - iii. Individual in El Dorado County Owns with a winery has a large animal facility for equines and allows usage for evacuated equines.
 - iv. Animal shelter for Caldor Fire loaded 800 small animals into one location. CalVERT/CAVMARC were instrumental in animal care.
 - v. Challenges
 1. Animal services lacked the necessary resources to respond when the incident initially started. Challenging to observe 20-60 deputies dedicated to other resources when animal services did not receive necessary resources.
 2. Must expand their net of resources significantly to receive the necessary number of staff.
 3. Had to euthanize several cattle due to severely burned hooves.
- III. Looking Forward – Facilitators: Noele Richmond, Annette Jones
- a. Goal/Purpose of Work Group
Noele Richmond
 - i. Consistency for operational areas in terms of how approach animal evac/care/shelter/recovery
 - ii. Educate operational areas on resources that we have. How to utilize the systems already in place
 - iii. Will be reviewing each County EOP animal evacuation, shelter and care plans per AB580, and providing comments and recommendations for improvement.



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- iv. Common issues found from member responses: Resource directory for disaster response and recovery, standardized training for response and recovery groups, clear deployment and demobilization process, resource ordering process, and clarifying when requests to EMMA is appropriate.

Grant Miller, DVM

- i. What can CDFA and Cal OES do? Red lights that originate at the SOC. If we need resources outside of immediate ESF, Cal OES and CDFA dialed in at the SOC.
- ii. Ensure CDFA and CalOES is aware of animal resources (what we can/cannot do)
- iii. Recommend that State guidance be developed on how to place request for resources.

Claudia Sonder, DVM

- i. Identified Gap: Challenging when a mandatory evacuation is in place and asked to leave early; it is difficult to evacuate animals quickly, and there is no place for the animals to go once evacuated.
- ii. Local attempts for resources before moving it through the official process has led to tasking volunteers who have no experience around large animals. Recommends that when CVET MOU is developed, it will divide roles and responsibilities to avoid overlap.

Randy Lovell

- i. Commercial aqua culture is considered a branch of agriculture. Life support system that keeps fish alive in captivity is very vulnerable (oxygen, personnel, generators). Recommend bringing resources to aqua culture.

Lisa Quiroz

- i. This group could be a multi-agency coordination group.



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- ii. Recommend incident command post (e.g., IAP, operational periods) in the EOCs.
 - a. Lt. Paul Maridiaga: Representative at County EOC and incident command post so that information can be disseminated.
- iii. Recommend discussing the financial piece/reimbursement during disasters.

Annette Jones, DVM

- i. Resource Coordination: Who will be coordinating what (UC Davis vs. Cal OES vs. CDFFA vs. Cal Animals). Potential concern for overlapping requests for the same resource.

Lindsey Stanley

- i. Local EOCs prepared for high level responses; counties and cities that are on wide spectrum of preparation. EMMA, often used as a tool to request animal resources, but may not sure be a suitable option. EMMA should not be the first resource to request. Ensure you know who to make your requests to and then remember to reconcile the resource.

Naomi Tobias

- i. Recommend standardized training

Sonia Brown

- i. Recommend better understanding resource typing, also looking deep into what EMMA and LEMA can/cannot do.
 - a. Greg Smith: Law enforcement overwhelmed with enforcement aid requests (e.g., luting). We will do whatever we need to do but may not be as effective.
- b. Potential longer-term objectives
 - i. Note for future meetings: Danielle Chapman Huizar will complete the meeting minutes and send out to the group by Monday, May 2.

IV. Action Items



**Animals in Disaster Working Group
Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

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- a. Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Presentation: Danielle Chapman Huizar will contact Don Glueckert to be a guest presenter for the next meeting.
 - i. Potentially a fact sheet so that individuals have the information in hand.
 - b. Retrieve contacts for Mariposa, Madera, Merced, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern Counties: Danielle Chapman Huizar will contact Cal OES Inland Region to request those contacts and share with Naomi Tobias.
- V. Next Meeting Date and Agenda: May 24, 2022, 1:00 to 3:00pm.