



## Animals in Disaster Working Group Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

### Agenda:

**The meeting commenced at 1:35pm.**

**In attendance:** M. Blake, S. Brown, D. Chapman Huizar, D. Clifford, DVM, Z. Corbo, J. Griffith, J. Kerr, DVM, A. Jones, DVM, W. Lin, R. Lovell, Lt. P. Maradiaga, G. Miller, DVM, B. Munk, DVM, N. Murray, K. Nielsen, J. Ortega, J.K. Osborn (M.A.), A. Raj, N. Richmond, G. Smith, C. Sonder, DVM, L. Stanley, N. Tobias, M. Wakefield, and B. Whipple

**Absent:** J. Albrecht, K. Anater, E. Baker, R. Busch, J. Horan, J. Maretti, N. McKenney, L. Mendoza, L. Quiroz, K. Riley, and M. Vasquez.

### Guests:

T. Graham, K. Leyden, and R. Soulsby

#### I. Review and approve Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

#### II. New Business

a. Current preparedness activities for upcoming fire season

##### C-VET

- VERT Team focused on preparedness (lessons learned at Sentinel Exercise) and updating response trailers and confirming available personnel for the fire season.
- C-VET hired two Associate Directors for logistics and operations and transitioning into full time by fire season.

##### Cal OES Regions

- Updated EMMA Operational Area (OA) training. Clarifying the scope of CARES and EMMA to help local governments when requesting resources.
- Expanding the EMMA Board in Web EOC programmers, adding placeholders for new functionalities including resource inventory of personnel.
- Looking at mission tasking and drafting a quick reference document for local government based on new CDFA CONOPS.

- Working with OAs, reviewing EOPs for animals and disasters.
- Gathering as much information as possible and building communication in OAs.

### **CARES**

- Developed org chart with potential personnel to deploy.
- Updating resource catalog, continuing basic emergency management training, and completed position-specific checklists.
- Presenting on CARES at MARACs and OA meetings as well as participating in ESF-11 County meetings.
- A portion of the new CARES website includes a page for any upcoming animal-related training/workshops from a verifiable source.

### **CVMA**

- Outfitting mobile command center and working on supply trailer functionality before fire season.
- Conducting training in San Francisco for veterinarians and scheduling training for their members in Fall, 2022. Currently 2600 members available for deployment.

### **North Valley Animal Disaster Group**

- Exercise drill with new trainees on June 1.
- Biggest task for North Valley is the electronic tracking system for animals, focusing on sheltering.

### **Cal Animals**

- Meeting monthly with CA Animal Management Disaster committee to support other agencies through peer support. Conducting webinar next week to share lessons learned and areas needing improvement. Introducing preparedness to local agencies.

### **Central CA Animal Disaster Team**

- Currently meeting with local emergency managers and meeting with counties to update emergency animal plans (Mariposa).
- Recruiting volunteers and training, including doing cross-training with Red Cross.
- Meeting with local Evacuation Teams.
- Engaging in community preparedness such as town hall meetings. Providing preparedness information, working on PSAs for preparedness, and really pushing to build up on partnerships.

### **LA County Animal Services**

Currently practicing how to track animal control vehicles with LA County Sheriff and trying to add more sheltering sites with LA County Sheriff, especially with LA County Sheriff and Public Works.

## CDFW

- Received one time funding for biodiversity enhancement that will go towards technology, facility, personnel for disaster response. Training held in April 2022 for biologists dedicated towards response.
- CDFW is working with an outdated infrastructure and to mitigate, CDFW has focused on other groups to standup rehab facilities. We realize these agencies have limited capacity. Our agency has been working for 10 years to increase capacity (facility/staff/materials).

**Action Item:** R. Soulsby requested contact for CDFW for Butte County.

- CDFW has a joint database with the Wildlife Disaster Network at UC Davis with an active hotline. CDFW also has a Wildlife rehabilitator coordinator and will be engaged in response issues (traffic control, triage, etc). Note: large, injured wildlife received significant press/media.
  - Q: If we come across deceased wildfire, is there reporting mechanism for CDFW?  
A: Yes, there is a CDFW Mortality Report online which captures location, pictures, and information
- Until the CARES webpage is deployed, send Danielle Chapman Huizar any information you want to share, and it will be distributed to the working group. Once deployed, send requests to Sonia Brown at CDFA.

## Cal Volunteers

- Expanding (doubling) AmeriCorps team. Will be a deployable resource on the ground.
- Contact Cal Volunteers if you need the resources.
  - Q: how would it be tasked? Through mission tasking, or you could contact them and respond without being mission tasked?
  - Q: Can AmeriCorps handle animals?

**Action Item:** Will double check on AmeriCorps. National Civilian Community Corps teams may be limited to just human response. Comment: During the Caldor Fire, CDFA did reach out to Cal Volunteers. Local resources must be exhausted before you state resources can be requested.

Recommendation: Cal Volunteers should advertise for volunteers with animal-related backgrounds.

- Don Glueckert, the Cal OES Disaster Service Worker Volunteer Program representative gave a presentation on DSW's. (Power Point Presentation is attached to the meeting minutes.)

### III. Old Business

#### a. Action Items

**Action Item:** Request for current point of contacts in Central California. (N. Tobias wanted to ensure CDFA resources were going to the right people due to movement in Central California. Email to Joann G., to help update list of individuals.)

**Action Item:** Resource Typing - MOU in the works (C-VET) which will include resource typing. Need to look through existing resource typing to ensure it is applicable to California.

#### b. Potential longer-term objectives

Q: When will the C-VET MOU be signed?

A: Still currently under review by Cal OES Legal. Potentially next Fall but no definitive date. UC Davis, CDFA, and Cal OES are moving forward with the response related to C-VET as the MOU language is finalized.

- FEMA website has different resource typing definitions. Existing resource typing are based on FEMA, but they must be accordance the SEMS.

**Action Item:** subcommittee for resource typing.

### IV. Next Meeting Date and Agenda

- #### a. Poll for meeting dates: Will send out a poll for the next meeting. Members can send agenda topics as well to D. Chapman Huizar.

### V. Roundtable

- L. Stanley mentioned CDFA had put out a list of different types of resources but wants to confirm how these resources are requested and the request process is efficient as possible.
- Dr. Sonders: With the 2020 fire complexes, there were requests for local mutual aid for CARTS, but Cal EOCs would not release the teams due to red flags.  
Recommendation: Be prepared to ask for resources that are farther away if there are similar fires in the future.
- R. Soulsby: County and agencies disconnected with their local OES, they do not know how to find resources or communicate during disasters.
  - S. Brown: Meet, start communicating at the local level before an incident starts.
  - L. Stanley: Cal OES Regions can support and assist. Can share best practices at the MARACs.

- Z. Corbo: Number of counties have gold star programs, and it would be beneficial for these small groups to communicate their recommendations and best practices.
- J. Griffith: Would it be helpful to add guidance for tracking animal fatalities in AARs?

**Action Item:** Request tracking animal fatalities in AARs.

**VI. Adjournment:** 3:27pm.

**VII. Next Meeting:** To be determined.