



# Animals in Disaster Working Group Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

The meeting commenced at 1:30 pm.

## In attendance:

**Butte County Agricultural Commissioner:** L. Mendoza

**Cal Animals Emergency Management Committee (Cal Animals):** S. Geckler

**Calaveras County:** C. Baldwin

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

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):** D. Clifford

**California Department of Social Services (CDSS):** M. Wakefield

**California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES):** D. Chapman, R. Essepian, G. Merceron (Contractor), S. Murdock, K. Nielsen, J. Ortega, N. Richmond, L. Rubio, G. Smith, L. Stanley.

**California Volunteers (Cal Volunteers):** Z. Corbo.

**California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CAVMRC):** J. Kerr, G. Miller.

**Central California Animal Disaster Team (CCADT):** N. Tobias

**Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control:** P. Maradiaga

**Napa Valley Equina/Napa Community Animal Response Team (Napa CART):** C. Sonder

**Riverside County:** J. Huffman

**San Bernardino County:** S. Turnpaugh

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

## I. Agency Updates

### a. CDFA

(S. Brown)

- Revising several documents to reflect the new policy change on requesting Animal Control Officers through EMMA.
  - J. Ortega (Cal OES): Request to receive responses on completed access/shelters/unmet needs forms for situational awareness.
  - S. Brown (CDFA): If decision is made to have feedback for that form, one would need a tracking system. Cal OES regions may want to reach out to their operational areas and gather that information.
  - S. Buhl (UC Davis): California Veterinary Response Team (CVET) is currently conducting county outreach to understand capacity, equipment supplies, and animal service capabilities in their area, and that date is documented in white papers and posted to the CVET website.

- Updated Operational Area Volunteer Organization Resource Catalog and released in June 2023.
- Created and distributed emergency animal shelter assessment fillable form for local government. Use during pre-disaster to assess facilities as potential sites for emergency animal shelters or during a disaster to gain situational awareness for unmet needs. Vetted through CAVMRC and American Red Cross.
- S. Brown is proposing for Cal OES Regions to meet with counties/animal coordinators to assess any preparedness gaps and needed support. Cal OES can either lead or facilitate meeting.
  - L. Stanley (Cal OES): Who is on this meeting at the management level?
  - S. Brown (CDFA): Noele Richmond, but I can find management within response if preferred.

**ACTION ITEM:** N. Richmond will coordinate and set-up a meeting discuss.

**ACTION ITEM:** Distribute Cal OES Animal Representatives' contact information to the working group.

- Preparing for fire season by monitoring weather, on stand-by in case CDFA mission-tasked, and position lists are in place and transferable between CDFA Department Operations Centers (DOCs) or Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs).

(A. Raj)

- CA-ESF 11: Mainly recovery efforts for the floods/winter storms and participating in the Agriculture and Economic Recovery Task Force. Working with producers and farm workers.

(L. Quiroz)

- Working on role in carcass management and ensuring that carcasses are handled in accordance with the law.

b. California Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET)/UC Davis (S. Buhl)

- Attended the Pacific Veterinary Conference in June 2023.
- Continuing county outreach campaign.
- Conducted a workshop in Long Beach, California in June 2023.
- Prepping for fire season to be in a state of readiness.
- Will conduct CVET Basics Virtual Training on August 10, 2023.
- Conducting supply and equipment acquisition.
- Asking responders to take required ICS courses (100, 200, 700, 800) and all hazards/fire line safety courses.
  - Also requiring responders to complete disaster service worker form.

- Creating identification badges so responders are easily identified in the field.
  - New CVET management team member: Dr. Brianna Hamamoto, Operation Specialist.
  - Update on CAVMRC Training (CAVMRC, G. Miller):
    - Signed Memorandum of Understanding with CVET. CAVMRC considers themselves one responding entity.
    - CVET brings logistical help and equipment while CAVMRC brings the personnel (3,000 volunteers).
    - Next step is to schedule a virtual meeting between 15-20 field coordinators and CVET team to review equipment inventory, burn protocols, and controlled drug protocols.
    - Will share November virtual training with the group.
- c. Cal OES (N. Richmond)
- Animal Control Officer (ACO) Fact Sheet: Feedback from Cal OES Mutual Aid, Regions, and working group was incorporated into final draft.
  - CVET MOU partnership: Meeting monthly to touch base on what agencies are doing and how to address CVET/animal related topics.
  - Veterinary Resource Fact Sheet: A. Patterson (UC Davis) took the lead. Cal OES will send the working group a draft.
    - L. Stanley (Cal OES, EMMA) will be creating scenario examples of allowable animal resource requests through EMMA.
  - Presented at various agencies/organization on animal preparedness/CVET, ACO resource ordering process, and conducted discussions with counties on the Live Agriculture Access program.
    - L. Stanley (Cal OES, EMMA): Conflicting information on how animal resource requests are being processed, especially with regional emergency operation centers (REOCs) virtually not be operating any longer.
      - N. Richmond (Cal OES): CVET request process is still being finalized. CVET partners all agree that it will be pushed up like any other request.
      - A. Jones (CDFA): Will most likely have a small live exercise to practice resource ordering.
      - N. Richmond (Cal OES): Planning and Preparedness Division has given CVET and working group presentations/updates at MARAC meetings when requested and to regions and stakeholders. Decision to remove REOCs came from executive management—there will be a Cal OES presence in the regions but without a physical location.
      - G. Miller (CAVMRC): Concern for REOC closure due to the greater need for animals due to long distance transportation, special equipment needs, and complex processes for animal sheltering/evacuation/care.

- S. Brown (CDFA): Encourage the working group to review the resource catalog, it contains all the information regions may need and has socialized the document at the MARAC meetings.
- G. Miller (CAVMRC): Reminder that there are approximately 65-70 animal sheltering supply caches within California and must be shared by the counties. Only circumstance would be if the county itself needed it during a disaster, but there have been disasters that span multiple counties. Remind local emergency authorities that it was a condition from the governor and needs to be understood they are communal properties that must be shared. There are over \$2.1 million of animal cages in three sizes dispersed across this state.

## II. New Business

### a. Veterinary Resources Fact Sheet (N. Richmond):

- Document introduces CVET, why the fact sheet was created, and mirrors the Animal Control Officer (ACO) fact sheet template. Currently going over the elements of the document, and the next step is a review from response operations. Most importantly, local resources MUST BE reasonably exhausted for CVET to be deployed.

**ACTION ITEM:** Please give feedback to D. Chapman and N. Richmond by August 9, 2023.

### b. Tulare Lake Treatment Facility

- D. Clifford (CDFW): Leading monitoring for wild birds with Avian botulism.
  - Lake Tulare is great habitat for different species, however when temperatures rise, it causes a botulism outbreak. Right now, mainly trying to reduce an outbreak, recover carcasses, and reduced maggot cycle.
    - Conducting coordination meetings with Cal OES, Region 4.
    - Air boats doing surveys.
    - N. Richmond (Cal OES): Does this spread into the domestic bird population?
    - D. Clifford (CDFW): Usually no, rare reports in chickens. Trying to ensure that messaging shows it is a wildlife issue. Not a human health issue and have talked with California Department of Public Health on that messaging. Stanislaus Wildlife Care, international bird rescue center researching how far do birds go from their area? Next approach will be small animal care sites. Kern National Wildlife Refuge is responsible for search and recovery.

## III. Old Business

- ### a. Animal Control Officer (ACO) Fact Sheet: Cal OES will be sending this out to the regions and socializing it as much as possible.

IV. Roundtable (Member Updates)

- a. N Richmond (Cal OES): If you would like to discuss certain topics at the next meeting, please email your suggestions to [Danielle.Chapman@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:Danielle.Chapman@caloes.ca.gov) or [Noele.Richmond@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:Noele.Richmond@caloes.ca.gov).
- b. S. Brown (CDFA): Suggestion to create a subcommittee to develop products to address/mitigate issues that have been discussed in past meetings.
- c. C. Sonder (Napa CART): Central California Collaborative and CVET working together to put together a volunteer "CHEAT SHEET" that has specific guidance on how to feed animals and what to look for when out in the field. We appreciate working with CVET and their experts' review of the product so that volunteer training can be standardized; volunteers can recognize an animal in need of veterinary help and can make good decisions in the field.
- d. Z. Corbo (Cal Volunteers): Still working to get AmeriCorps members trained in basic animal handling skills. Also suggesting for a subcommittee for animal sheltering.

**V. This meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.**