



Animals in Disaster Working Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 11, 2024

In attendance:

ARC: L. Bleich, J. Winston.

Cal Animals: R. Soulsby.

Cal Animals/Sonoma County Animal Services: B. Whipple

Cal CARTS: C. Sonders

Cal CARTS/CCADT: N. Tobias

Cal OES: D. Chapman, Z. Corbo, J. Griffith, S. Murdock, J. Ortega, N. Richmond, E. Rubio, G. Smith, L. Stanley.

CAVMRC: J. Kerr, G. Miller

CDFA: S. Brown, A. Jones.

CDFW: D. Clifford, R. Lovell

CDSS: F. Carrillo, E. Clifton, J. Dulay.

Nevada County Sheriff's Department/HEART: S. Geckler

Riverside County Animal Services: Lt. J. Huffman

UC Cooperative Extension: L. Costa, T. Schohr

UC Davis, CVET: S. Buhl, W. Burke, A. Patterson, M. Ziccardi.

I. Stakeholder Updates

a. UC Davis, CVET (S. Buhl)

CVET had a townhall meeting with Riverside Animal Services, an event to engage with the CVET responder database. Recruiting vet professionals in database through technician schools and UC Davis alumni. Held first internal exercise as a program. Walked through series of tabletop exercises and short functional exercises to put together trailers according to the scenario. Hosted CART Summit in Davis in March – best practices, various training, exchange info and networking. The CVET grant is still open which is grant assistance program for animal rescue teams. More information on website. Application deadline is April 15, 2024. Working with student groups to pilot what UC Davis, CVET would like to do as a larger response organization. Working with CAVMRC partners. Series of exercises at different levels. Response program during the summer. The CVET executed a Memorandum of Agreement with Northern California Equine Practitioners. CVET is presenting at the California Emergency Services Association (CESA) Conference and participating in a panel with Cal OES and CDFA. In July CVET will attend the Pacific Veterinary Conference.



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b. CDFA (A. Jones, S. Brown)

CA-ESF 11: CDFA has added more positions to help overall emergency response coordination.

CARES: Updating documents based on changes with policies and new legislation; having difficulty updating since updates are contingent on state agencies getting approval from their own department. Developed livestock Agricultural (Ag) Pass Program infographic. Developed a CARES webpage showing counties that have the ag pass program for producers – currently under review. Meeting with CVET partners monthly. CDFA is a participant in the 2024 Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Ingestion Pathway Exercise. Provided input to various modules for the California Nevada Tahoe Basin Evacuation Workshop. Contributing to Cal OES 2022 Southern Catastrophic Earthquake Plan. Presented at a survivor movement workshop which included large and small animals. Created webpage for creating resources at each level of government. Updates were made to the CDFA CARES Resource Catalog at the end of January 2024. Agencies outside of California have contacted CDFA on their process for developing the Resource Catalog. Currently interviewing for several vacancies under CARES. Participating in panel discussion at CESA Conference in May.

c. Cal CARTs (C. Sonders)

CART Summit: Ninety-five attended, 70% were CART members. A survey was distributed after the Summit which provided positive feedback. Most indicated that it was valuable for personal growth and provided suggestions for workshops in 2025. Cal CARTS had developed packets for participants with detailed roles, org charts (shelters – large and small), search and rescue, training, radio communications and personal protective equipment examples to review at breakout sessions to make initial determination of realistic goals/deliverables for the CARTS; of those that participated, 76% felt what was distributed was achievable for their organization. The breakout groups are still working on their respective subject areas to provide recommendations with a July 1 deadline. The summit attendees learned about Maui response and the challenges associated with ordering resources.

d. Cal Animals (R. Soulsby)

Developing an operational authority or local animal services role in disasters presentation to highlight how OAs and animal services work within their jurisdiction and

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process of Animal Services in Emergency Operations Center to follow to achieve all goals regarding personnel safety and animal safety and welfare. Animal services and local authorities are refreshing for disaster response (checking on MOUS, working with local CARTs to be sworn in). Updating Cal Animals Checklist for local animal services to be prepared for a disaster. Still an interest to have local animal services involved in these groups, subcommittees, and presentations; Contact Ryan Soulsby to include them.

e. CAVMRC (G. Miller)

Will conduct a joint exercise with UC Davis, CVET at the beginning of August. Undergoing recruitment in Central and Northern California for large animal veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians. Trying to better integrate our groups together, so when local jurisdictions call, we can be a one-stop shop for veterinary needs.

f. CDFW (D. Clifford)

Small redevelopment of animal pens. Trying to upgrade as best as we can. Pens may be down during this summer and may affect the ability to take in animals. Will keep the group and stakeholders apprised of the status.

g. CDSS and ARC - CA-ESF 6 (E. Clifton, L. Bleich, J. Winston)

CDSS

Continues to work with OAs, fielding questions, such as:

1. What classifies as a pet? Do pets extend outside of a cat or dog (e.g., reptiles, rabbits, ferrets, hamsters)?
2. Is there funding to make AB 781 legislation happen? Is there a process to request reimbursement since AB 781 states that California will be required to reimburse local agencies for certain costs mandated by the state?
3. Is there a difference between the terms "co-locating" and "co-sheltering"?

ARC

Pet Division is approximately a year old, designed to care for all companion animals, large and small that have been impacted by disasters. Six division pet champions along with regional pet liaisons. Cohabitated shelter – the pet owner can keep the animals with them. ARC will set up shelters but work with local jurisdiction for the care of animals. For liability reasons, ARC does not care for the animals.

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ACTION ITEM: D. Chapman will attach AIDWG Roster to the meeting minutes email.

h. UC Cooperative Extension (L. Costa, T. Schohr)

Meeting with different leadership and county advisors; starting needs assessments in rural communities to see where new program can assist. Spearheaded Ag Pass Program in Butte County and nine other counties. Also shared information on the program with Vietnam, Canada, and Australia. Looking at the impact of fires on farmers and ranchers. Developing policy brief and hope to complete in two weeks. Helping producers prepare for wildfire season and recover from disasters while seeing how important policy programs can help with future relief.

i. Cal OES Response (L. Stanley, E. Rubio, J. Ortega, S. Murdock)

Emergency Management Mutual Aid (EMMA)

Lindsey Stanley promoted and working on transitioning out of the EMMA program; no one currently identified to assume the role. Still an effort to build out ACO request guides. For any questions on EMMA please email Lindsey.Stanley@caloes.ca.gov.

Coastal

Has the Veterinary Resources Fact Sheet been finalized?

- N. Richmond: Waiting for the draft to be approved by executive management.

ACTION ITEM: D. Chapman will send the draft Veterinary Resources and Animal Control Officer (ACO) Informational Guidance documents to the working group.

Inland

Sarah Murdock is the now the Inland Region lead for animals with James Griffith as the second lead. Attended Cal CART Summit in Davis, California.

Southern

Rearranging project areas. Dalton Sanders is covering Inyo and Mono counties. Received multiple inquiries of AB 781 from stakeholders. Recommend that Operational Area (OA) partners review facility agreements and collaborate with their disaster councils and sheltering partners to determine what should be considered a pet in their local jurisdiction.

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j. Cal OES Planning (N. Richmond)

Animal Control Officer (ACO) and Veterinary Resource Fact Sheets renamed to Informational Guidance; waiting for approval to send drafts to Cal OES Response for review. Draft Informational Guidance documents will be sent out with the meeting minutes. Question: R. Soulsby: Is the process of only requesting ACOs through EMMA socialized with stakeholders? Answer: EMMA and Law Enforcement Mutual Aid (LEMA) coordinators have discussed it with their OAs. We will continue to socialize the new policy of ACO request must go through EMMA and **not** LEMA.

Attended CART Summit and presented on current projects, accomplishments, and how CalOES is tied to animals in disasters. D. Chapman currently working on updating 2012 Agricultural-Related Disaster Guidance for Local Government. Working closely with Asha Raj (CDFA) to get CA ESF-11 Annex updated before the SEP is released/published.

II. Humane Emergency Animal Response Team (HEART) Presentation (S. Geckler)

PowerPoint presentation will be provided to participants at a separate attachment. Follow-up questions and answers:

Q1: R. Soulsby: *What database does the Nevada County Sheriff's Office use to track volunteers?*

A: Currently DFA, but we may be switching to Better Impact.

Q2: C. Sonders: *How did HEART receive the funding?*

A: This is the first year that HEART funding has been in the county's budget, the Sheriff sees the animal disaster response as a necessity.

Q3: C. Sonders: *Is it possible for the Sheriff to present to the CA State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA) on this concept to discuss financing and return on investment?*

A: Yes, it has already been requested and am currently working on a presentation.

Q4: S. Murdock: *Can you include Cal OES Inland Region for the presentation to the CSSA?*

ACTION ITEM: S. Geckler requested that S. Murdock and C. Sonders email her topics to discuss during the presentation so that the conversation has input from Inland Region and CART experiences.

III. Animal Emergency Response, Animal Resources

S. Brown: Developed draft resource descriptions in lieu of resource typing—currently 15 descriptions. Consulted with CARTs in developing the document. Presented the

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document to CVET MOU partners who are reviewing; S. Brown will address the comments provided. Hope to share the document by next AIDWG meeting. An Ad Hoc Committee for animal resources and training minimum requirements will be established. If interested in participating in the Animal Resources and Minimum Training Ad Hoc Committee, email Danielle.Chapman@caloes.ca.gov. The Ad Hoc Committee will meet independently of the AIDWG and provide a status report and/or recommendations at the next AIDWG meeting. Recommendations will be reviewed and discussed, but all may not be implemented due to statute and regulation.

IV. Develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Template

Another Ad Hoc Committee will be established to standardize MOU templates for animal-related resources (CARTS, fairgrounds and other shelter locations, and other volunteer organizations). A standard MOU will define roles and responsibilities between Local Governments/Operational Areas and CARTS, other volunteer and non-profit organizations, and facilities and provide all parties with standardized language and clear expectations. MOUs allow for the parties to be sworn Disaster Service Workers and may allow for financial compensation/reimbursement for both MOU parties. MOUs also help to embed CARTs and volunteer organizations into the emergency response structure. If interested in participating in the MOU Standardization Ad Hoc Committee, email Danielle.Chapman@caloes.ca.gov. The Ad Hoc Committee will meet independently of the AIDWG and provide a status report and/or recommendations at the next AIDWG meeting. The MOU template will be reviewed and once approved, will be published on stakeholder websites (Cal OES, CDFA CARES, CVET, Cal Animals, Cal CARTS, etc.).

V. Old Business

UC Davis, CVET continues to work on the AIDWG objectives to ensure they align with the CVET MOU and hopes to have a draft of objectives for the working group by the next AIDWG meeting.

VI. Meeting Chat Capture

Due to the functionality of the Microsoft Teams Meeting, we could not download the chat into a document. If you have any questions or need information from the chat, contact Danielle.Chapman@caloes.ca.gov.

VII. Topics for next Working Group Meeting



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If there is an organization or topic that you would like to see presented at the AIGWG, email Danielle.Chapman@caloes.ca.gov.

VIII. Next Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2024, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.