

Mid Ohio Valley Plan
for
ANIMALS IN DISASTER



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Mid Ohio Valley Animal Emergency Preparedness Committee, in conjunction with the Mid Ohio Valley Health Department, Wood County Office of Emergency Management, WV Department of Agriculture, Humane Society of Parkersburg, Wood County LEPC and animal welfare organizations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	PURPOSE	PAGE 1
II.	INTRODUCTION	PAGE 1
III.	THE REGION/COUNTY ROLE	PAGE 3
IV.	DEFINITION OF ANIMAL	PAGE 3
V.	PLANNING GROUP & STAKEHOLDERS	PAGE 4
VI.	LOCAL ISSUES RELATIVE TO DISASTER PLANNING	PAGE 5
VII.	PREPARATION	PAGE 9
VIII.	RESPONSE and RECOVERY	PAGE 14
X.	MITIGATION and PLANNING RESOURCES	PAGE 15

MID OHIO VALLEY ANIMAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE PLAN FOR HANDLING ANIMALS IN DISASTER

I. PURPOSE

To protect the animal community, the public health, the environment, and to assure the humane care and treatment of animals in case of a large scale natural, manmade, or technological disaster or other situation that could cause animal suffering.

II. INTRODUCTION

The Mid Ohio Valley region consists of six counties that include Calhoun, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt, and Wood. There are 1950 square miles with a population of 134,000. It is estimated that approximately 60 % of households have pets and animals of some type. To some people these animals are like children and are a big part of their lives. To others they are an important way to make a living, and some animals provide a very necessary role as service animals.

When it comes to emergencies, animals, whether house pets, livestock, or in the wild, have often been overlooked by emergency planners and the general public. This is changing in the United States and elsewhere. Congress has passed H.R. 3858 and Senate Bill 2548 establishing the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act. This legislation will amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that State and local emergency operations plans take into account the needs of individuals with pets and service animals in the event of a major disaster or emergency.

In the last few years there have been emergencies and disasters in the Mid Ohio Valley, including major floods in September 2004 and January 2005. A Presidential Disaster Declaration was received in September 2004. Data shows that the Mid Ohio Valley is vulnerable to all types of emergencies, including but not limited to, flooding, winter storms, severe thunderstorms, effects of hurricanes, hazardous materials, and an influx of people in the event of a disaster in the nation's capital or other urban area.

In emergencies and disasters, the first priority is to the protection of life, property, and the environment. In the past, this has not included a coordinated response for the evacuation, care, and sheltering of animals. Although the protection of human life is the highest priority in emergency response, recent disasters show that proper preparation and effective coordination of animal issues enhances the ability of emergency personnel to protect both human and animal health and safety. It is much more efficient and effective to develop plans to address animal issues prior to an incident than during one. The following issues highlight why animal preparedness is necessary.

A. REFUSAL TO EVACUATE AND EARLY RETURNS TO UNSAFE AREAS

Since human evacuation shelters do not allow pets in facilities, pet owners requiring sheltering must choose between deserting their animals, refusing to evacuate, or evacuating their animals to a pre-determined site. Without advanced planning, this can be a difficult decision. Farmers who depend on animals for their livelihood are often unwilling to leave their animals unsupervised in the event of a disaster. Some key factors to consider are:

- Up to 25 % of pet owners will fail to evacuate because of their animals.
- 30 – 50 % of pet owners will leave pets behind, even with advance notice of evacuation.
- Approximately 50 –70 % of people leaving animals behind will attempt to reenter a secure site to rescue their animals. This represents 5- 15 % of the total population directed to evacuate.

The 10 – 25 % of individuals who refuse to evacuate, or attempt to return to the evacuated areas because of their animals, risk injury, exposure to hazardous materials, and their own lives, as well as those of emergency response personnel who must rescue them. The most effective way to minimize human and animal health and safety risks is for individuals and responding agencies to be properly prepared to address animal issues well in advance of a disaster.

B. PUBLIC HEALTH and SAFETY RISKS CAUSED BY ANIMALS AT LARGE

Animals that are not cared for by their owners during a disaster may become a public health and safety risk. Loose and displaced animals are possible carriers of diseases such as rabies, and plague, and can become a nuisance or a danger to the public.

C. PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS CAUSED BY ANIMAL CARCASSES

Another public health concern and safety risk is the presence of animal carcasses. Decaying carcasses can contaminate water sources or lead to disease outbreaks. Timely carcass removal is critical. The methods for environmentally acceptable disposal of animal carcasses are limited, and can become particularly difficult and expensive when there are many large animal carcasses.

D. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The loss of production animals due to a disaster can result in a major economic loss to individual farmers and ranchers as well as local, state, and national economies.

E. PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

Society views animals as dependant upon human care and support. Many pets are considered an integral part of their families. Animals attract media attention. This is particularly true in a disaster. Failure to deal with these issues can result in significant public outcry and negative media coverage.

F. CONTROL OF SELF RESPONDERS

Experience has shown that when animals are impacted by disasters, a number of self responders will arrive to help with the situation. These well meaning, but untrained and emotionally driven individuals can, at times, be disruptive and create law enforcement challenges. These situations may encourage the arrival of rescue groups. These individuals can be well trained and helpful. Effective control and accountability of these responder rescue groups is critical. This may include an understanding of and training in the National Incident Management System and Incident Command. An emergency animal plan allows for appropriate identification and utilization of available resources within the structure of the animal response plan. This will minimize the intrusion of untrained and unsolicited volunteers in a crisis situation.

III. THE COUNTY'S ROLE

A. Integrating the Animals In Disaster Plan into the county Emergency Operations Plan

Animal issues, like all other disaster response activities, are addressed in the County Emergency Operations Plan. It shall be the responsibility of County Emergency Management to include the approved Animals in Disaster Annex into the County EOPs.

The detailed plan outlines plans to effectively prevent and respond to animal issues during emergencies and disasters, facilitates mutual aid activities relating to animal issues, and the utilization of broader regional, state, and federal resources.

B. The Roles of County Emergency Management Agencies in the Mid Ohio Valley Region.

The Emergency Management Agencies coordinate local, state, and federal resources, in support of local government responding to animal issues. During a disaster, if local resources are insufficient to meet the existing need, emergency management agencies may request state assistance through the State Emergency Operations Center at the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

IV. DEFINITION OF "ANIMAL"

For the purpose of responding to animal issues during disasters, Mid Ohio Valley Animal Emergency Preparedness Committee defines animals as, "affected livestock, companion animals, service animals, exhibition animals, captive wildlife, and exotic pets." This definition excludes non-captive wildlife.

V. PLANNING GROUP and STAKEHOLDERS

It is important to have a wide range of groups concerned about animal issues and as many stakeholders as possible included in the planning process. It is also most important to foster cooperation, understanding, and commitment to work within the plan in our community.

A. Government Agencies

- Wood County Commission
- Wood County Office of Emergency Management
- Pleasants County Commission
- Pleasants County Emergency Services
- Ritchie County Commission
- Ritchie County Emergency Services
- Wirt County Commission
- Wirt County Emergency Services
- Roane County Commission
- Roane County Emergency Services
- Calhoun County Commission
- Calhoun County Emergency Services
- West Virginia Department of Agriculture
- City Animal Control Units
- WV Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

B. Industry Groups

- Veterinarians and Veterinary Clinics
- WVU Extension Office
- Humane Society
- Pet Food and Supply Businesses
- Home Owners Associations
- Animal Transporters
- Commercial Animal Industries
- Cattleman and Farmers
- Kennel and Boarding Facilities
- Animal Shelters
- Wildlife Control and Removal Services
- Public Health Agencies

C. Voluntary Organizations

- Medical Reserve Corps
- Community Emergency Response Teams
- Local Fair Boards
- 4-H and FFA Groups
- Mid Ohio Valley Chapter – American Red Cross

VI. LOCAL ISSUES RELATIVE TO DISASTER PLANNING

A. Types of Disasters Likely in the Mid Ohio Valley

- Flood
- Severe Thunderstorm/ Lightning/Hail/Wind
- Severe Heat
- Winter Storm
- Drought
- Wildfire
- Tornado
- Effects of Hurricane
- Civil Disturbance
- Transportation Accident/Airplane, Bus, Train
- Hazardous Materials Emergency – Fixed facility or transportation
- Terrorism – Bio Terrorism
- Public Health Emergency – Pandemic Flu

B. Animal Population in the Mid Ohio Valley

1. The total number of households in the Mid Ohio Valley with pets is estimated at 33,000 based on the percent of United States households owning pets which is 60%.
2. Production animals in the Mid Ohio Valley are, but not limited to the following:
 - Cattle
 - Horses
 - Swine

C. Location of Animal Population

In the Mid Ohio Valley, the largest pet population exists in the urban areas of the six county region. The largest equine population obviously exists in the more rural areas of the region.

D. Local Resources

The resources available for animal survival during a disaster are included in this section.

KENNELS

1. Winding Road Kennel Inc.
1886 Winding Road
Parkersburg, WV 26104
(304) 428-3518
2. Hocking Hills Kennel
138 Emory Lane
Little Hocking, Ohio 45715
(740) 423-6770
3. Ohio Valley Kennels
State Route 7
North Reno, Ohio 5750
(740) 373-7400
4. Fen's Mountain Kennel
Fowler Road Route 16
Harrisville, WV 26262
(304) 643-4668
5. Four Paw's Kennels
1400 Broadway Ave.
Parkersburg, WV 26101
(304) 485-1321
6. Devoted Care Pet Sitting Services
1368 Cave Hill Road
Little Hocking, Ohio 45715
(740) 989-273
7. The K-9 Training Barn
Davisville, WV 26142
(304) 422-5784
8. Animal Groom & Board
Rt. 21
Ripley, WV 25271
(304) 372-3587
9. Best Friends Grooming
745 Silver Globe Road
Marietta, Ohio 45750
10. The Doghouse
4611 46th Street
Vienna, WV 26105
(304) 295-9224

FOOD

1. Apex Feed & Supply
Rosemar Road
Vienna, WV 26105
(304) 295-9751
2. C & H Feed & Seed
436 South Church Street
Ripley, WV 25271
(304) 372-8663
3. F & S Feed
Rt. 14 South
Mineral Wells, WV 26150
(304) 489-9500
4. Halls Feed & Farm Supply
Rt. 50, Ritchie Industrial Park
Pennsboro, WV 26415
(304) 659-3282
5. Pampered Reptile
120 Maple Street
Marietta, Ohio 45750
(740) 374-4474
6. Parkersburg Pet Supply
1504 36th Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
(304) 485-7387
7. Patriot Pets
2609 21st Ave.
Parkersburg, WV 26101
(304) 424-7387
8. Pet Supplies Plus
4010 Murdoch Ave.
Parkesburg, WV 26101
(304) 422-5100
9. Petland – Marietta
239 Captain D. Seeley MIA Drive
Marietta, Ohio 45750
(740) 373-5294
10. Reese's Country Store
Rt. 50 & Rt. 31
Deerwalk, WV
(304) 679-3502

11. Seamans General Merchandise
State Rt. 50 & Route 339
Barlow, Ohio 45712
(740) 678-2450
12. Tractor Supply
101 Tara Lane
Parkersburg, WV 26101
(304) 489-1028
13. Wal Mart
701 Grand Central Ave.
Vienna, WV 26105
(304) 422-3522
14. Wal Mart
2900 Pike Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
(304) 439-5743
15. Wal Mart
Marietta, Ohio 45750
(740) 376-9030
16. Ward's Farm Supply Inc.
310 Hickory Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
(304) 485-7133

Stables

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Double C Ranch
County Road 63
Coolville, Ohio 45723
(740) 667-6311 2. Meredith Manor
Rt.1 Box 66
Waverly, WV 26184
(304) 679-3128 3. Stanleyville Stables
Marietta, Ohio 45750
(740) 236-0149 4. Withawind Farm
13441 State Rt. 339
Watertown, Ohio 45786
(740) 749-3297 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. West Virginia Interstate Fairgrounds
Butcher Bend Road
Mineral Wells, WV 26150
(304) 489-1301 |
|--|--|

E. Liability Issues

There could be various areas where liability issues may arise. Individuals releasing animals into the care of the emergency shelter must sign a Mid Ohio Valley Animal Emergency Preparedness release form.

11. Releases

The release form is in the **Appendix** section of this document

12. Volunteer Workers

Volunteers may assist at the animal shelter to provide the following assistance

- Set – up
- Daily cleaning
- Registration
- Pet visitation schedules
- Enforcement of Rules
- Management of Feeding Areas.

VII. PREPARATION

A. County Animal Coordinator

The Mid Ohio Valley Animal Control Officers will serve as the point of contact on animal issues in event of disaster. These persons or an alternate representative will staff the Emergency Operations Center during a disaster and will coordinate with the EMA Director to staff all activities relative to animal issues.

These individuals may also serve in or supply information to the Joint Information Center so that information can be distributed to the public and media by the Public Information Officer.

1. Supplies (not comprehensive)

The following is a list of supplies to locate and/or obtain for animal care and sheltering.

a. Non Medical Animal Care Supplies

Small Animals

Pet carriers	Shovels
Cat Litter	Chlorine bleach
Collars	Disinfect
Cages	Water hoses
Food and water dishes	Muzzles (dog & cat)

b. Large Animals

Halters	Pitchforks
Lead Ropes	Buckets
Blankets	Water hoses
Bedding	Fly spray
Wheelbarrows	Chlorine Bleach
Rakes	Disinfect
Lime	Trailers and Trucks for Transport

c. Veterinary Supplies

Latex gloves
Medications
Vaccines
IV Fluids
Leg wraps
Bandages
Shot box
Up to elbow leather gloves
Ambulatory clinics

2. Transportation

The following are possible sources of animal transportation resources

a. Small Animal

Animal care and control vehicles
Humane Society
Public and/or private vans, trucks, and trailers

b. Large Animals

Private horse trailers
Horse transport companies
Farming livestock transport
Dairy livestock
Livestock yard vehicles
Feedlot transport
Animal care and control vehicles
WV Department of Agriculture

3. Volunteer Resources

The following is a list of groups that could supply volunteers and help gather other needed resources.

- Humane Society
- Dept. of Agriculture
- School groups (4-H, FFA, etc)
- CERT Community Emergency Response Teams
- Kennel clubs
- Veterinarians
- Public Health
- Volunteer Action Center

4. Pet Owner Responsibilities (when appropriate)

Pet owners will be advised ahead of time (through various methods, including, news media, speaking engagements, websites, etc.) that certain supplies should be brought with pets to the shelters by the owners. This includes but not limited to crates, cages, food, water, medicine, collars, tags, leashes, harnesses, kitty liter, newspapers, chew toys or other comfort items.

Pets must be crated and caged, allowing them to stand up, sit down and turn around.

Must show proof of vaccinations, however, rabies tag requirement are waived during a disaster.

B. Organization of Response Activities

The following is an outline of response activities, as identified in the Mid Ohio Valley Animal Preparedness Plan

1. MANAGEMENT - Is responsible for overall emergency policy and coordination through joint efforts of governmental agencies and private organizations. Management duties include:

- a. Liaison - The Animal Care and Control Managers serve as the liaison and will communicate with staff from other agencies in the EOC.
- b. Public Information Officer – The emergency management agency has the responsibility for the operation of the Joint Information Center and the release of information to the media, personnel involved in emergency response, and other appropriate agencies and organizations.

2. PLANNING AND INTELLIGENCE

Planning and intelligence is responsible for collecting and evaluating information during response and recovery activities.

PLANNING AND INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS

a. Situation and Status Analysis

May be assigned to provide information on animal rescue care and sheltering

b. Documentation

c.

Compiles records and data pertaining to the response efforts

d. Mobilization and Demobilization

Mobilization and demobilization works with operations and logistics to help plan for the mobilization of personnel, equipment, supplies, and facilities. It also prepares for demobilization and monitors its execution.

3. OPERATIONS

The Operations section will coordinate all operations in support of the emergency through the EOP.

Animal issues may be assigned to deal with:

a. Care and Sheltering

b. Disease Control

c. Animal Identification System

4. LOGISTICS

Logistics is responsible for providing facilities, services, personnel, equipment and materials. The following is a list of logistical activities needed for responding to animal issues:

a. Communications

b. Transportation

c. Facility Coordination

d. Resource Tracking

5. FINANCE

Finance is responsible for tracking financial activities. The following is a list of activities that need to be tracked for costs incurred in case of future reimbursement.

- a. Employee Time Reporting
- b. Procurement of Supplies and Materials.
- c. Workers Compensation and Claims
- d. Cost Accounting for Response Activities
- e. Damage Survey

EXERCISES

The plan will be tested periodically through Tabletop and Functional Exercises

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Training programs through national, state, and local groups will be sought to assure that the volunteers dealing with animals, particularly in stressful and chaotic situations such as disasters, possess the necessary special skills to perform this function.

VIII. RESPONSE

Response is putting the plan to work. To ensure a smooth response, some things to consider are:

- a. Develop SOPs that specifically outline the response duties of the personnel and organizations.
- b. Develop a data base or make a binder for forms that are needed in each shelter facility.
- c. Develop a notification system to be activated in the event of a disaster.
- d. Update the resource list, plan and SOPs often

VIII. RECOVERY

During the recovery stage of a disaster, the following activities must be coordinated:

A. Shelter Closure and Redistribution of Supplies

Develop guidelines to decide when closure is appropriate and how it will be done. This will be coordinated with the closure of human shelters. Animal shelters can usually be closed 48 hours after the closure of human shelters. Owners may make special arrangements and can do so on a case by case basis.

B. Removal and Disposal of Animal Carcasses

Animal Control agencies will be responsible for oversight and removal and disposal to assure that there are no negative environmental impacts. Facility incinerator and mobile incinerators will be used as much as possible and other resources including burial will be coordinated by Animal Control agencies.

C. Unclaimed Animal Adoption or Euthanasia Procedures

Unclaimed animals will receive an extended holding time of 10 days following the demobilization of the animal shelter. At the end of ten days, if the animal remains unclaimed, procedures for adoption will be initiated. Euthanasia will be used as a last resort.

X. MITIGATION

Mitigation activities will include as assessment of the response activities and assurance that all needed supplies are available.

XI. OTHER PLANNING RESOURCES

The following is a list of disaster planning and information resources available from other agencies and non – profit organizations:

West Virginia Department of Agriculture
www.wvagriculture.org

State Information
www.wvflu.org

Local Information
www.movhd.com/pandemicflu

FEMA Resources
www.fema.gov/doc/emergency/nims/508-1animalhealthresources.doc

FEMA Independent Study: IS 10 Animals in Disaster
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/is10.asp>

Federal Website
<http://pandemicflu.gov/issies/#panimals>

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

Humane Society of the United States
www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center