
Functional Annex N:
ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

MISSION

The disaster mission of Animal Care and Control is to provide rapid response to disasters affecting the health, safety, and welfare of animals. Animal care and control activities in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery include, but are not limited to, companion animals, livestock and wildlife care, facility usage, displaced pet/livestock assistance, animal owner reunification, and carcass disposal.

ORGANIZATION

- A. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal and Food Industry Services (DAFIS) is designated as the lead agency for Animal Care and Control. Within the DAFIS, the Office of the State Veterinarian is designated as Coordinator for the management of operations, planning, and training for the Animal Care and Control function. Primary participating agencies include:

1. State Agencies:

- a. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- b. Department of Environmental Quality
- c. Department of Emergency Management
- d. Department of Health
- e. Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

2. Professional Societies and Private Organizations:

All animal care and control related professional societies and organizations, through their Virginia chapters where appropriate, and commercial animal care and control services may be requested to assist in a variety of disaster related services. The following organizations provide specific response or coordination capabilities.

- a. Virginia Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA)
- b. Virginia Association of Licensed Veterinary Technicians (VALVT)
- c. Virginia Animal Control Association (VACA)
- d. Virginia Federation of Humane Societies (VFHS)
- e. Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
- f. Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM)
- g. Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC)
- h. Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC)
- i. Virginia Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators (VAWR)

3. Disaster Animal Care and Control (DACC) Committee

All agencies, societies, and organizations identified in A. 1. and 2. are members of the DACC Committee. This is the coordinating body responsible for planning all animal response through the state emergency operations plan. The State Veterinarian will serve as chair for the DACC Committee.

- B. It is the responsibility of the DACC Committee to assure that all involved non-governmental agencies, organizations, and societies in disaster response have a current Memorandum of Agreement with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Office of the State Veterinarian on file (see Attachment 3).
- C. The State Veterinarian represents animal health concerns of the state and maintains liaison with the organizations listed in A. The initial point of contact for any impending or existing disaster is the State Veterinarian.
- D. The State Veterinarian coordinates animal care and control involvement with the Department of Emergency Management.
- E. The State Veterinarian appoints the State Veterinarian Coordinator.
- F. Under the Federal Response Plan, Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF-8) coordinates veterinary response. Virginia Animal Care and Control agencies, organizations, and societies will fully integrate response and recovery actions with Federal ESF-8 response and recovery actions.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Animal Care and Control agencies, societies and organizations involved in emergency management will:

- 1. Temporarily arrange for or provide adequate care and proper disposition for companion animals, livestock and wildlife.
- 2. Coordinate with governmental authorities in establishment of emergency staging of veterinary care.
- 3. Manage livestock and poultry disease outbreaks.
- 4. Manage wildlife disease outbreaks.
- 5. Recommend and monitor methods of proper disposal of dead animals as needed - coordinate with the VDACS and VDEQ.
- 6. Recommend methods and supervise prevention and control of zoonotic diseases under direction of the VDH.
- 7. Coordinate with governmental authorities in matters of animal rescue, evacuation, equipment use, provision of transportation and security of their animal care and control facilities and supplies.
- 8. Coordinate with public information operations to communicate alert status, volunteer mobilization, and casualty and damage information.
- 9. Provide advice and assistance to local jurisdictions.

10. Provide estimates of the numbers of injuries and deaths of animals.
11. Facilitate a system for companion animal/owner reunification.

ACTION CHECKLIST

1. Routine Operations

- a. The State Veterinarian, with input from DACC Committee members, provides an organizational structure (see Attachment 1), chain of command, and outline of duties and responsibilities of the participating agencies and organizations within the Disaster Animal Care and Control Committee in the implementation of response to a disaster or major emergency (see Attachment 2).
- b. The DACC Committee shall maintain operational plans and mutual aid agreements. Each of the agencies will provide to the State Veterinarian a 24-hour/7 day a week contact list with at least a primary, secondary and tertiary contact. These agencies will need to update these contacts as needed and send confirmation of their continued validity to the State Veterinarian at least annually.
 1. The VVMA shall maintain a current directory of veterinarians.
 2. The VALVT will maintain a directory of veterinary technicians.
 3. The VDGIF will maintain a directory of wildlife personnel.
 4. The VACA will maintain a directory of animal control agencies.
- c. The DACC Committee will publish a list of training recommendations for responders.
- d. Animal care and control personnel shall participate in VDEM and local emergency planning, exercises and training.
- e. Applicable member organizations of the DACC Committee should encourage their members to make contact with local Emergency Coordinators to relay their capability and availability during times of disaster.
- f. The DACC Committee shall provide information to local groups and individuals on reducing disaster impacts on animals.

2. **Increased Readiness**

A natural or man-made disaster is threatening some part of the state.

a. **Communications Watch Level**

On detection or notification by the EOC of a potential disaster condition that may develop into a threat.

The State Veterinarian will:

1. Start monitoring the developing situation.
2. Advise all agencies, societies, and organizations identified in A. 1. and 2.
3. Initiate operational record keeping.

b. **Initial Alert Level**

On receipt of an Initial alert from the Department of Emergency Management:

The State Veterinarian will:

1. Alert all agencies, societies, and organizations identified in A. 1. and 2.
2. Develop a staffing plan to staff the Disaster Animal Care and Control desk in the State EOC.
3. Establish contact with Federal agencies involved with Disaster Animal Care and Control.
 - a. United State Department of Agriculture
 - b. Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams
 - c. ??????
4. Record all expenses incurred due to the event.

c. **Advanced Alert Level**

On staffing the State EOC.

The State Veterinarian will:

1. Staff the State EOC in accordance with the staffing plan.
2. Gather and provide animal care and control information for inclusion in situation reports.

3. Provide situation status to all agencies, societies, and organizations identified in A. 1. and 2.
4. Coordinate potential resource requirements with Virginia and Federal Animal Care and Control agencies, societies, and organizations and initiate planning for evacuation, resource augmentation, and deployment if appropriate.
5. Based on expected affected areas, establish liaison with Animal Care and Control agencies of adjoining states.

3. **Response Operations**

a. **Mobilization Phase**

Conditions continue to worsen requiring full-scale mitigation and preparedness activities.

The State Veterinarian will:

1. Determine initial requirements for animal care and control resources.
2. Coordinate with Public Affairs staff in the State EOC to provide information on animal care and control issues.
3. Coordinate with other staff in the State EOC to recommend protective actions procedures for dissemination to local government.

b. **Emergency Phase**

Disaster strikes or is imminent. An emergency response is required to save lives and protect property.

The State Veterinarian will:

1. Respond to local requests for animal care and control services, resources, and qualified personnel.
2. Compile estimates of the numbers of injuries and deaths of animals.
3. Compile damage reports of Animal Care and Control facilities.
4. Coordinate sample collection with the DCLS, VDACS, VDH and VMRCVM laboratories.

c. **Emergency Relief Phase**

Assistance is provided to affected individuals and organizations. Stopgap measures (such as tent cities and potable water trucks) are implemented in order to provide

essential services. Damage assessment surveys are conducted. This phase ends when the locality is no longer in an official state of emergency.

The State Veterinarian will:

1. Expedite re-establishment of critical animal care and control services.
2. Provide supplies of public education materials to animal care and control agencies, societies, and organizations for distribution in the disaster area.
3. Monitor response assets (services, resources, and personnel) still in the affected area. Establish rotation and relief schedules.
4. Provide consultative services to affect animal care and control agencies, societies, and organizations.
5. Make the Donations Coordination Team aware of needed resources.
6. Initiate recovery planning.

4. **Recovery Operations**

Essential facilities and services are restored. Displaced persons return to their homes. Federal disaster assistance programs are implemented. "Normal" conditions are restored. Severely damaged structures are rebuilt or demolished and replaced. The damaged parts of the transportation, water, and communications infrastructure are replaced. The economy is restored. The duration of this period may extend for two years or more, depending upon the severity of the disaster.

The State Veterinarian will:

1. As required, deploy staff to the Disaster Field Office.
2. Reestablish regular animal care and control services provided by the animal care and control agencies, societies, and organizations.
3. Develop complete documentation of disaster response and recovery actions.
4. Complete an after-action report of the disaster with all involved animal care and control agencies, societies, and organizations.