

APPENDIX 2 WASHINGTON ANIMAL RESPONSE MANAGEMENT TEAM

PRIMARY AGENCY: Washington State Department of Agriculture

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Washington Military Department
Emergency Management Division
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington State Department of Health
Washington State University, Cooperative Extension Service
Washington State Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Support Agencies and Organizations
Volunteer Organizations

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Washington Animal Response Management (WARM) Team is to coordinate the response of state agencies in assisting local and volunteer organizations to provide all animals affected by the disaster with emergency medical care; evacuation; rescue; temporary confinement, shelter, food and water; and identification for return to the owner. The coordination may also involve diagnosis, prevention, and control of foreign animal diseases and diseases of public health significance. Another major concern is disposal of dead animals.

II. WARM TEAM STRUCTURE

- A. The WARM Team will be the coordinating body responsible for planning response to animal issues at the state level through the *Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* (CEMP).
- B. The WARM members will consist of the following state agencies: Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), state Emergency Management Division (EMD), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and Washington State University Cooperative Extension Service.
- C. Other member non-state agencies: Washington Animal Control Association, Humane Society and other animal advocate groups, Washington State Veterinary Medical Association (WSVMA).
- D. Other agencies, such as the American Red Cross; United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC); may be asked to participate in planning meetings, training, exercises and actual disasters.
- E. Local emergency management and animal response personnel will be included on the team when emergencies or disasters occur in a specific area.
- F. A member of WSDA will chair the WARM Team.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

The coordination of state agencies involved in assisting local and volunteer agencies includes tasks before, during, and after a disaster where local resources are not sufficient and local governments request state assistance.

1. Coordinate and assist with emergency medical care for all animals, including commercial livestock, poultry, fish, and exhibition (racing) animals; zoo animals; laboratory and research animals; wildlife; and domestic pets.
2. Coordinate and refer volunteers and donated goods to the county. Coordinate efforts to provide water, food, and shelter and other physical needs to animals. Store and distribute animal food and medical supplies to the requesting county. When necessary, assist counties distribute supplies to animal caretakers/shelters.
3. Coordinate with public information personnel to ensure that information is provided on the location of animal shelters and other animal-related matters before, during, and after the disaster. Also, coordinate public education efforts, such as brochures distributed to veterinary offices. Abandonment of animals should be discouraged due to the welfare of both animals and the public. When necessary, assist with soliciting needed resources to fill shortages.
4. Coordinate efforts to rescue and capture animals including relocation prior to the disaster. Counties will identify available barns, pastures, kennels, etc., with local agencies and volunteer organizations.
5. Coordinate with local agencies to establish a system to register identification data in an effort to reunite animals with their owners.
6. Coordinate with DOH on the identification, prevention, and control of diseases of animals with public health significance, including epidemiological and environmental health activities.

B. Organization

1. Emergency Support Function (ESF) 25 is organized to ensure rapid response of animal care needs. The primary and support agencies, including local animal control, should have a thorough and up-to-date disaster plan. Each county should have a County Animal Emergency Coordinator (CAEC) contact person before contacting the state.
2. ESF 25 focuses primarily on emergency medical care, evacuation, rescue, capture, temporary confinement, shelter, provision of food and water, identification and tracking for reunification of owners with their animals and on disposal of dead animals.

3. The primary agency for Appendix 2 of ESF 25 is WSDA with direct contact for animal issues in the State Veterinarian's Office. WSDA personnel assigned will provide daily direction. This direction is limited to operation of the ESF 25, assignment of personnel to handle requests for assistance, and ensuring that requests for assistance are prioritized, met, and documented. The ESF 25 establishes coordination with other appropriate ESFs and will maintain open communications with these ESFs in both the planning and operational phases.
4. Support agencies will operate with the daily leadership of WSDA personnel. Support agencies will be appropriately assigned based on known capabilities and in accordance with their own operating procedures. Should a conflict arise between the primary agency and a support agency, the issue will be turned over to the Emergency Management Division (EMD) on-site Operations Officer for resolution.
5. The WDFW and WSDA provide sufficient personnel to staff the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) 24 hours per day, seven days per week while operational or as requested by the EMD.
6. In coordination with WSDA, support agencies will be encouraged to develop plans that support the ESF 25 assignments.
7. The primary agency will participate in preparing disaster exercises as requested by the EMD. The support agencies will be requested to have a system in place for response of personnel to the disaster exercises.

C. Notification

1. Upon notification by the State Warning System of a potential or actual event requiring response, WSDA will notify all support agencies and organization members by telephone or through other communication facilities.
2. All support groups' contact persons will be instructed to alert their contacts throughout the state to ensure all available resources are on standby.
3. Other resource inventories will be confirmed for possible use.

D. Actions

1. Mitigation/Preparedness

- a. WARM Team will conduct training programs for county animal coordinators and other interested persons.
- b. WARM Team assists in releasing information on disaster planning and safety for animals through news releases or brochures.
- c. WARM Team maintains a database of all county animal emergency plans and all county animal emergency coordinators.

- d. WARM Team will develop and maintain an updated list of available animal shelters and confinement areas in Washington, including shelter for exotic or zoo animals. This list will be provided by county animal coordinators and will include personnel and resource information.
- e. When feasible, WARM Team will assist county animal emergency coordinators identify suitable facilities for shelters and confinement areas.
- f. The WARM Team expects county animal emergency coordinators to develop and maintain a list of local non-medical volunteers and agencies that will provide care assistance. The information available should list the type of service being offered, number of volunteers, resources available, contact person with telephone numbers and logistical abilities of each. This information should be forwarded to the primary agency for this ESF along with other lists and plans.

2. Response

- a. WARM Team will track the activities of all available animal shelter facilities and confinement areas identified before, during, and after the disaster. This tracking will be based on information provided by the county animal emergency coordinator.
- b. WARM Team will coordinate with ESF 5 – Information Analysis and Planning to provide information on the location and availability of shelter space, food, and water for animals.
- c. WARM Team will coordinate with ESF 11 – Food and Water and ESF 7 – Resource Support for storage sites and staging areas for animal food and medical supplies.

3. Recovery

- a. WARM Team will coordinate damage assessment through the CAEC.
- b. WARM Team will coordinate with the CAEC on assignment of relief personnel and the distribution of supplies from supply areas or staging areas.
- c. WARM Team will be kept informed by the CAEC of the closing of animal shelters or confinement areas, personnel status, and supplies as the need diminishes.
- d. WARM Team will assist support agencies for long term maintenance, placement, or disposition of animals, which cannot be returned to their normal habitat are separated from their owners.

- e. WARM Team, CAEC, and support agencies will coordinate on animal medical services needed for remaining animals in animal shelters and confinement areas.
- f. WARM Team will coordinate with ESF 1 – Transportation, ESF 3 – Public Works and Engineering, and ESF 8 – Health and Medical Services for the removal and proper disposal of animal waste and dead animals.

E. Direction and Control

1. It is assumed that the following activities have occurred prior to initiating the actions outlined in this document:
 - a. That the local government has taken all necessary actions to respond to the emergency prior to requesting assistance from the state.
 - b. Local government has responded to the emergency by activating its emergency response plan and response teams.
 - c. Local government has called upon its local resources, implementing mutual aid and cooperative agreements for additional services and personnel.
2. During a disaster, if local resources are insufficient to meet existing needs, local county governments may request state assistance. When official state assistance is not requested, cities and counties may access information and/or direction from the WARM Team by contacting WSDA, Animal Health Program. The WARM Team will assist local governments coordinate with other state agencies as needed.
3. WSDA is the primary agency for the WARM Team, with responsibility for animal issues in the State Veterinarian's Office based on the authority for actions required in an emergency designated in the Washington Animal Health Law Chapter 16.36 RCW.
4. WSDA will activate ESF 25 when requested by EMD.
5. WSDA will request assistance from EMD and support agencies in the event of a foreign animal disease or any disease outbreak that requires a quick response and assistance from other state agencies (Appendix 1).
6. WARM Team response activities are coordinated through the state EOC.
7. The CAEC or person designated by the county emergency management director or coordinator will be the contact for the WARM Team at the local government.
8. During a state response, national animal rescue and support groups shall respond only when requested by WARM under the Standardized Emergency Management System. These groups shall operate under the

direction of the local incident commander or CAEC in accordance with the incident command structure established for that incident.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Primary Agency: Washington State Department of Agriculture

1. Coordinates the availability of resources by maintaining lists of CAECs and WSVMA volunteer county veterinary coordinators.
2. When the information is provided by each CAEC, WSDA may coordinate the availability of resources by maintaining the following:
 - a. A list of shelters and confinement areas for each county.
 - b. A list of food and water sources for each county.
 - c. A list of county animal emergency coordinators.
3. Establishes a protocol for prioritizing decision making during response activities.
4. With the assistance of EMD, and their Public Information Officer (PIO), shall release information on disaster planning and safety for animals through news releases and/or brochures.
5. WSDA may conduct training for CAEC, volunteer county veterinary coordinators, and other interested persons.
6. In coordination with WSVMA and Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, may develop and maintain a list of volunteer county veterinary and non-veterinary coordinators to provide assistance to the WARM Team. The list may include information on the type of service being offered, number of volunteers, resources available, contact persons with telephone numbers and logistical abilities of each person.
7. Coordinates with WSDA personnel to develop roster for 24 hours per day, seven days per week staff coverage of the state EOC.
8. Prepares status reports.
9. Coordinates activities with other ESFs.
10. Coordinates animal issues during multi-state disaster responses with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or other state emergency management agencies.
11. Reviews and updates ESF 25 with the assistance from the WARM Team.

B. Support Agencies

1. Washington Emergency Management Division

- a. Assists WSDA in the coordination of resources during a response.
- b. Assists WSDA in coordinating damage assessment.
- c. Assist WSDA in releasing information on disaster planning and safety for animals through news releases and/or brochures.
- d. Participates in disaster preparation exercises in conjunction with WSDA.

2. Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

- a. Assists permitted facilities in the location of suitable alternative housing for their restricted species.
- b. Conducts inspections and assist in the evaluation of confined wildlife and exotic animals including, but not limited to those held under WDFW permits.
- c. Assists with the assessment of lost or escaped captive wildlife, exotic animals, oil soaked birds or other species as deemed appropriate.
- d. Coordinates the use of specialized personnel and equipment to recapture potential dangerous escaped captive wildlife and exotic animals.

3. Washington State University, Cooperative Extension Service

- a. Identifies and educates animal owners on disaster planning for animals.
- b. Assists CAEC in locating shelter areas for livestock during development of the county/local plan.
- c. Assists CAEC in sheltering livestock during training exercises and actual disasters.

4. Washington State Department of Health

Coordinates with WSDA to diagnose, prevent and control zoonotic diseases and other animal related conditions of public health significance.

5. Animal Support Agencies and Organizations

- a. Identifies possible locations within the county for emergency animal shelters and confinement areas.

- b. Maintains a list of local sources of food and water for sheltered and confined animals.
- c. Maintains a list of local transportation resources.
- d. Establishes an adoption procedure consistent with local statutes for unclaimed animals.
- e. Develops plans and agreements for the disposal of animal carcasses and animal waste.
- f. Request assistance through the local Emergency Operations Center when local resources are insufficient to meet needs.
- g. Coordinates trained volunteers through the local EOC.
- h. Provides identification and documentation of injuries and deaths of animals rescued and sheltered as a result of a disaster.
- i. Provides damage assessment personnel, when requested, may work through WARM and state EOC, to assist in determining what resources may be needed from outside the local Operational Area.
- j. Delivers services and other forms of assistance in coordination with the county animal coordinator, when requested, and may work through WARM and the state EOC.

6. Washington State Veterinary Medical Association

- a. Appoints a designated representative for coordinating with WSDA for veterinary medical support during a disaster.
- b. Coordinates volunteer veterinarians and technicians to provide medical care.
- c. Provides documentation of injuries and deaths of animals under the care of the veterinary disaster team.

7. Volunteer Organizations

- a. Provides registered and trained disaster service workers who volunteer as personnel to support WARM.
- b. Provides additional resources.

V. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

WARM participants should keep complete and accurate records of all costs incurred in the disaster, should there be funds available to reimburse expenses. See Appendix 5 Administration to the CEMP.

VI. REFERENCES AND AUTHORITIES

RCW 43.06.010(12) Governor's General Powers and Duties
RCW 38.52 Emergency Management
State Agency Emergency Plans