Temporary Sheltering

Companion Animals
Disasters

- People evacuating with their pets
  - Evacuation facilities do not allow pets
  - Pet owners may refuse to evacuate
- Pets left behind
- Injured, displaced or lost pets
- Dogs, cats, pocket pets, birds
SETTING UP A SHELTER
WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT COORDINATION TOOL WE HAVE?

• Incident Command System (ICS)
Assessment and Planning

- Location and facilities
- Animal requirements
- Supplies and housing
- Sanitation
- Security
- Volunteer training and coordination
Location

- Out of affected area
- Near human shelters
- Possible locations
  - Animal control or humane society shelters
  - Veterinary hospitals
  - Pet boarding facilities
  - Dog training centers
  - Fairgrounds, school gyms, parking garage, warehouses
Facilities

- Water source
- Adequate size
- Ventilation and climate control
- Sanitation and waste disposal
- Allow for animal segregation
  - Species, age, illness, aggression
Supplies

- Animal supplies
  - Food and water
  - Kennels and crates
  - Collars, leashes
  - Bowls
  - Cat litter
- Medical supplies
- Cleaning supplies
- Office supplies
Sanitation

- Prevent spread of disease
- Keep environment clean
- Procedures for
  - Waste removal and disposal
  - Cleaning and disinfection
- Shovels or scoopers, buckets and mops, hoses, scrub brushes, trash cans, sawdust
- Detergent, broad spectrum disinfectants, paper towels, disposable gloves
- Separate equipment should be used for isolated animals
Site Security

● Needed to limit unauthorized access
  – Protect animals on-site
  – Prevent pillage of stored supplies
  – Controlled substances
    ▪ Locked cabinets
    ▪ Authorized veterinary personnel

● Methods
  – Shelter is well lit, especially in evening
  – Control entry and exit points
  – Log book of persons entering/exiting shelter
  – Locked doors at nighttime
  – Personnel present at all times of day
Volunteers

- Animal handling experience
  - Pre-exposure rabies vaccination desirable
- Register all volunteers
- Training and coordination
  - Incident Command System critical
  - Animal handling
  - Personal protection and appropriate PPE
  - Infection control procedures
    - Biosecurity
ANIMAL ARRIVAL
Animal Identification

- Identification number and collar
- Record sheet
  - Animal description
  - Owner’s name, cell
  - Location found
  - Date found
- Photograph
  - Book of photos for owners to find pets
Incoming Assessment

- Physical exam
  - Veterinarian
- Microchip scan
- Triage
  - Sick and injured animals
- Potential procedures
  - Bathing
  - Parasite treatment
  - Vaccination
Animal Handling

- Stressed and fearful
- Proper handling minimizes stress
- Decrease risk through training
- Report all animal bites and scratches
- Highly aggressive animals should only be handled by experienced personnel
Animal Housing

- Every pet needs a cage
- Plastic, collapsible, wire
- Large enough for
  - Food dishes
  - Standing
  - Lying down
  - Litter box for cats
- Appropriate density
Sanitation

● Processing areas, high traffic areas
  – Between each animal
  – Entire area once a day
● Feces
  – Removed daily from runs and cages
  – Removed immediately from play areas
● Broad spectrum disinfection
  – Use according to product label
  – New solutions daily or when visibly dirty
● Clean and disinfect equipment after use
● Separate equipment for isolation animals
Animal Management

● Daily
  – Food and water
  – Clean bowls and cages
  – Dogs walked
  – Visual health checks

● As needed
  – Medical treatment
  – Bathing

● Record sheet
Infection Control

● Infectious disease
  – Cleaning and disinfection
  – Isolation area
  – Clear posting on cage
  – Limit contact
  – Protective clothing

● Visual health checks before handling
Resources


- **AVMA and CDC. Interim Guidelines for Animal Health and Control of Disease Transmission in Pet Shelters**
  - [https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=19712](https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=19712)

- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**
  - Lessons Learned Information Sharing: Shelter Operations – Pet-Friendly Shelters
Resources (cont’d)

- LSU Emergency Animal Shelter Disaster Response Manual
  - [http://www.lsuemergencyanimalsshelter.org/](http://www.lsuemergencyanimalsshelter.org/)
- Louisiana State Animal Response Team
  - Companion Animal Evacuation and Sheltering Manual
    [www.lsart.org/refId,12776/refDownload.pml](http://www.lsart.org/refId,12776/refDownload.pml)
- ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)
  - Sample Plans for Evacuation and Sheltering
Acknowledgments

Development of this presentation was by the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University through funding from the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture

Authors: Sarah Weiland; Katie Steneroden, DVM, MPH, PhD, DACVPM
Reviewer: Glenda Dvorak, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Thank You

● Questions?

● Kelly J. Hamilton
  – NM ESF #11 Coordinator
  – 575-646-3007
  – khamilton@nmda.nmsu.edu