

Building Local Capacity-How Do I Develop an Animal Plan?

Things you need:

- Pet shelter locations (accessible year-round), preferably co-located with human shelter
- Livestock shelter locations (accessible year-round)
- Veterinary support (vaccines, medical supplies, parasite control, expertise)
- Transportation for animals
- Supplies (cages or kennels, bowls, leashes, food, vaccines, etc.)
- Resources for foreign animal disease support if your county has livestock species (MNWALK 37)
- Determine how long your jurisdiction can be self-sufficient prior to receiving regional or state resources or volunteers. Mobilization and deployment of these resources/volunteers may take 48 hours or more before they will be operational in your jurisdiction.

Contacts to make:

- Local veterinary clinics
- Local shelters and rescues
- Local pet supply or livestock supply stores
- Red Cross (to help identify locations for human and co-located animal shelters)
- Local livestock resources (county livestock boards, 4H, FFA, horse clubs, extension, etc.)
- County fairgrounds or livestock arenas for possible large animal sheltering
- Local boarding facilities or kennels
- Local livestock haulers/horse trailers (transport)
- Local animal control (capture and transport)
- Local CERT, CART or DART

Helpful things to know:

- What types of animals are in my community? How do I estimate numbers?
<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Statistics/Pages/US-pet-ownership-calculator.aspx>
- How many animals can we realistically house with our current supplies and local volunteer pool before becoming overwhelmed?
- Will we require all animals admitted to the shelter to be current on vaccinations?
- How will we deal with service animals or other support animals, and are we aware of current statutes and regulations regarding these types of animals?
- Do I have residents in my jurisdiction who own exotic animals that may have specific needs?
- Do I have animal businesses such as breeding kennels, exhibitors, reptile breeders, etc.?
- Do I have wildlife rehabilitators in my community? If so, what species do they rehabilitate?
- What sorts of emergencies am I most likely to deal with?
- When assessing local animal resources such as shelters and rescues, please remember that the term “rescue” for these groups often refers to rehoming an animal versus a technical rescue of an animal from a hazardous condition such as a flood. Technical rescue should not be undertaken by anyone who has not had formal training in these conditions.

****Remember, you *must* have a conversation with these resources prior to an emergency. A formal MOU may also be helpful. Volunteer groups who traditionally provide animal or veterinary support in disasters are nonprofit organizations and do not have the budget for stocking vaccines or medical supplies. It is imperative that you have a formal agreement with a local clinic obtain necessary vaccines**

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and to provide medical treatment at their clinic or to provide the appropriate supplies for treatment if you are planning to use the temporary animal shelter as a treatment facility.

Also be aware state resources available through the Duty Officer (MNVOAD resources or Medical Reserve Corps teams) must follow standard deployment procedures in order to activate and deploy to your jurisdiction. We encourage local emergency managers to initiate conversations in the planning stage, so the requesting entity is aware of the team's deployment protocols (i.e. does the team only activate when the jurisdiction declares an emergency?), capabilities, number of volunteers to expect and reasonable timeframe for activation and deployment. The jurisdiction may want to consider a formal MOU with the resource.

FEMA definition of a household pet: domesticated animal such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent or turtle that is traditionally kept in a home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers and be housed in temporary facilities. Does not include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals and animals kept for racing purposes.

For questions or help with your plan, please contact the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps coordinator.mnvmrc@gmail.com or the Minnesota Animal Disaster Coalition http://www.minnesotanimaldisastercoalition.org/home_10.html

Sheltering Resources:

- <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Emergency-Response/just-in-time-training.php>
- <https://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/aspcapro-emergencykit-checklist.pdf>
- <https://www.aspcapro.org/cruelty-disasters>
- <https://aspcapro.org/resources/3-tips-intake-and-operations-temporary-shelter>
- <https://aspcapro.org/resource/3-tips-setting-temporary-shelter>

Livestock Response Resources:

- <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Emergency-Response/Just-in-Time/08-Animal-Behavior-Restraint-Cattle-JIT-PPT-6slide-HANDOUT.pdf>
- <http://doublehphoto.blogspot.com/2011/10/loading-cattlepot.html>
- <http://www.livestocknetwork.com/Master Cattle Transporter Guide/>
- <http://www.grandin.com/meat.association.institute.html>
- [https://www.vetfood.theclinics.com/article/S0749-0720\(18\)30010-0/ppt](https://www.vetfood.theclinics.com/article/S0749-0720(18)30010-0/ppt)
- <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Emergency-Response/just-in-time-training.php>
- <https://www.avma.org/policies/avma-guidelines-euthanasia-animals>
- <http://www.aabp.org/resources/euth.pdf>
- <http://wdmc.org/2013/Euthanasia%20Guidelines%20for%20Cattle.pdf>
- <https://www.grandin.com/ritual/euthanasia.slaughter.livestock.html>

For a 60-page resource guide and regional resources, please see the AMEM website in the shared file library or contact the MNVMRC for a digital copy.