

\_\_\_\_\_ **City/County**  
**Animal Emergency Response Annex**

[Date]

# \_\_\_\_\_ City/County Animal Emergency Response Annex

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## **PURPOSE**

This plan provides a collaborative framework for prevention, protection, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts related to management of companion animals, livestock, and other animals during emergency events.

## **SCOPE**

This plan addresses emergency management issues for \_\_\_\_\_ City/County related to companion, service/assistance animals, police or search and rescue animals, non-native captive wildlife, native wildlife, livestock, and other animal species.

## **SITUATION**

### **Authorities**

**The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act of 2006** requires that emergency preparedness operational plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency. It also requires the provision of essential assistance (e.g. rescue, care, shelter, and basic needs) to individuals with household pets and service animals, and to their animals, following a disaster.

**FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy (DAP) 9523.19** identifies expenses related to emergency pet evacuation and sheltering activities that are eligible for reimbursement following a major disaster declaration.

**Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** – Provides enforceable standards to eliminate discrimination towards people with disabilities. This law requires all businesses and organizations that serve the public to allow people with disabilities to bring their service animals into all areas of the facility where customers normally go. Service animals are animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities. A person with a disability cannot be asked to remove their service animal from the premises unless (1) the animal is out of control and the animal’s owner does not take effective action to control it or (2) the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others.

### **Definitions**

**Community Animal Response Team (CART)** – A community-based disaster response team integrated with local government emergency response and composed of trained and vetted

## \_\_\_\_\_ City/County Animal Emergency Response Annex

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volunteers. Official CARTs are registered with and meet the standards set by the State CART Coordinator.

**Congregate household pet shelter** - refers to any private or public facility that provides refuge to the household pets of shelterees in response to a declared major disaster or emergency.

**City/County Animal Coordinator (CAC)** – the individual designated by the City/County Emergency Manager to coordinate preparation, response, and mitigation efforts for animal issues before, during, and after a disaster. The CAC may also be the local CART Coordinator.

**Household pet** – Per FEMA DAP 9523.19, household pet refers to a domesticated pet, such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent, or turtle that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes and can travel in commercial carriers and be housed in temporary facilities. Household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals, horses, and animals kept for racing purposes.

**CART Team Coordinator** - the individual who is the point of contact for a CART.

**Service animal** - Per FEMA DAP 9523.19, service animal refers to any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding animals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

**State CART Coordinator** - the individual at the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food who registers CARTs and sets training standards for CART members.

**Technical animal rescue** - The utilization of special equipment and techniques by trained and certified personnel to extract animals from hazardous circumstances such as vehicular accidents, flood water, ice, or collapsed buildings.

**Zoonotic disease** - diseases that can be passed from animals to people, causing disease symptoms in people.

### **Plan Activation**

In the event of an emergency or incident involving or requiring the evacuation of animals, the City/County Emergency Manager will assess whether the Animal Emergency Response Annex may be activated with the City/County EOP or independent of the EOP to coordinate assistance with animal evacuation, transportation, sheltering, or other animal issues. If assistance is needed, the Emergency Manager will contact the CAC to request assistance according to the

# \_\_\_\_\_ City/County Animal Emergency Response Annex

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Animal Emergency Response Annex. The CAC will contact local CART Team Coordinators and other response personnel to respond to support operations.

## **PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS**

- Prioritized concerns for emergency management include:
  1. Life safety for people
  2. Protection of property (including animals)
  3. Protection of the environment
- Companion animals, livestock, and non-domesticated animals may be affected by all types of natural and man-made emergencies and disasters.
  - Natural disasters that could affect animals in \_\_\_\_\_ City/County include [floods, fires, earthquakes, lightning strikes, wind storms, drought, toxic forage, excessive heat, and winter storms.]
  - Man-made disasters affecting animals may result from [vehicular accidents, poisoning, power outages, bioterrorism, hazardous materials spills, explosions, radiation incidents, and other biological or chemical events.]
- Animals may be injured, lost, or abandoned or may die during or after an emergency or disaster situation.
- To enhance the welfare of animals during disaster situations, activities may involve many functions, such as evacuation and transport, search and rescue, capture, identification, shelter, feeding, and veterinary medical care.
- Inability to evacuate animals is a leading cause of human evacuation failure in disasters. Failure to evacuate may endanger both animal owners and the emergency responders who attempt to protect them.
- While most owners of pets and livestock will take reasonable steps to evacuate, shelter, and provide for their animals, others cannot or will not take adequate actions for the protection of their animals. Reasons may include special needs, limited mobility, large numbers of animals in their possession, or language/cultural barriers.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act mandates that service animals be treated as an extension of a disabled person and must receive all needed services.
- Consideration for the care of search and rescue and law enforcement animals should be incorporated into emergency plans.
- Some state agencies such as the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) or the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) may have certain statutory responsibilities, and emergency plans must be executed in cooperation with those agencies.
- Animal populations should be estimated for each jurisdiction.

# City/County Animal Emergency Response Annex

- Nationwide, approximately 60 percent of households own companion animals.
- AVMA estimates for household pet ownership (*from the 2017-2018 US Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook*)

	Dogs	Cats	Birds	Horses
<b>% households owning</b>	38.4	25.4	2.8	0.7
<b>Average number owned per pet household</b>	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.1
<b>Average number per household for all households</b>	0.614	0.457	0.058	0.015

- Other pets are harder to calculate, but will include a significant number of rabbits, rodents, ferrets, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and other species.
- Zoological parks and wildlife sanctuaries may be present within local communities and should be considered in the planning process.
- Utah State University Extension and UDAF may be helpful in estimating the number of equines (horses, ponies, mules, and donkeys), camelids (llamas, alpacas, and vicunas), poultry, non-commercial livestock, and commercial livestock within the county.

## CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### City/County Animal Coordinator (CAC)

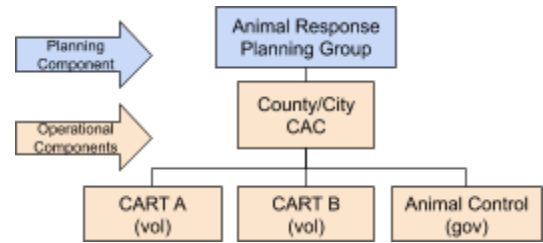
The City/County Emergency Manager will designate a CAC, who will serve as the lead for animal issues during preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery efforts, supervise CARTs and other responders, and serve as the primary contact for animal resources by the local emergency operations center and incident command. The City/County EOC will include the CAC when animal issues are a significant element of an emergency.

The CAC will develop a network of government agencies, community animal agencies, organizations, businesses, and volunteers (including Community Animal Response Teams) organized to assist the county in addressing animal issues during emergencies. This network will assist the county through:

# \_\_\_\_\_ City/County Animal Emergency Response Annex

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- Planning assistance
- Acquisition of equipment and supplies
- Training
- Participation in exercises
- Community preparedness outreach
- Response
- Recovery



## **Command and Management**

Incident Command: All animal response resources will be mobilized into the incident command system (ICS) authorized for response to the event. Self-deployment of unauthorized resources will not be allowed as part of this plan.

Multi-Agency Coordination: Community animal resources will be coordinated through the CAC at the City/County EOC in accordance with this plan.

## **Communications**

The CAC will:

- Decide what type of real-time communications would be most appropriate for responders
- Maintain a contact list of all CART coordinators and other responding organizations
- Provide situation reports to the City/County EOC as requested
- Coordinate public information releases through the EOC or joint information center

## **Animal Mission Essential Tasks**

Animal mission essential tasks may include:

1. Rapid needs assessment
  - a. Determining the likely sheltering needs
  - b. Assessing damage at animal facilities and support facilities
2. Animal evacuation and transportation
  - a. Mobilization and staging of animal transportation resources
  - b. Public transportation of service animals
  - c. Coordination with human evacuation and transportation
3. Animal sheltering
  - a. Sheltering of service animals
  - b. Identification of potential animal sheltering locations
  - c. Establishment of emergency animal shelters

4. Animal food and water for animals sheltering-in-place
5. Animal control/stray management
6. Animal search and rescue
  - a. Coordination with human search and rescue teams and law enforcement.
  - b. Technical animal rescue
7. Wildlife management in coordination with the Division of Wildlife Resources
8. Veterinary medical care
  - a. Triage and care of injured or ill animals
  - b. Infection control programs at animal sheltering sites
  - c. Zoonotic and animal disease management
9. Animal decontamination
10. Animal mortality management
  - a. Euthanasia for injured or diseased animals
  - b. Management of animal carcasses due to euthanasia, disease, or disaster
11. Animal/owner reunion and recovery

### **VOLUNTEER, RESOURCE, AND DONATIONS MANAGEMENT**

1. Volunteer Management
  - a. The CAC shall be responsible for managing volunteers in cooperation with the City/County Emergency Manager.
  - b. Volunteers will be mobilized according to the Animal Emergency Response Annex and supporting Standard Operating Procedures in coordination with and in support of the established Incident Command or the City/County EOC.
2. Pre-credentialing and training standards
  - a. Volunteers affiliated with a CART should complete training in accordance with the standards set by the State CART Coordinator.
  - b. Volunteers used by individual organizations for services provided normally by those organizations (e.g. regular volunteers for an animal shelter providing sheltering for that organization) are not subject to Utah CART training standards, but completion of the training standards will be highly encouraged.
  - c. Some response positions may require specialized training and credentialing.
3. Resource management
  - a. The CAC will compile a list of and contact information for city/county animal and agricultural resources. This list will help provide information on available resources as well as an inventory of resources that need to be evaluated during damage assessment operations.

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## City/County Animal Emergency Response Annex

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- b. Any animal or agricultural resources that can be deployed in support of others should be typed using NIMS resource typing standards and should be entered into the state contact database through city/county emergency management.
  - c. Additional resources that are not typed should be listed separately in a manner useful to the CAC at the local EOC.
  - d. During emergencies, requests for additional resources should be routed through Incident Command and the City/County EOC
4. Donations Management
    - a. All requests for donations by the CAC will be made in coordination with the City/County EOC.
    - b. Received donations will be processed in coordination with the City/County EOC.

### **PREPAREDNESS**

#### **Public Outreach**

##### Citizen preparedness

- Citizen preparedness outreach activities should include messages encouraging owners to include pets and other owned animals in their family emergency plan.
- The CAC should coordinate outreach actions with local emergency management, local chapters of the American Red Cross, and messages from other volunteer organizations.

##### Business contingency planning for animal and agricultural facilities

- Affiliated organizations that operate animal facilities should develop basic business emergency contingency plans for those facilities, including evacuation, shelter in place, and basic business continuity elements.
- The CAC should encourage all animal and agricultural facilities within the county to develop basic business emergency plans.
- The CAC should identify high-risk facilities such as zoos, wildlife sanctuaries, research facilities with laboratories, large agricultural production operations

#### **Training and Exercises**

1. CART coordinators and affiliated organizations should provide training for individual volunteers and organizations at least annually.
2. The CAC will be asked by emergency management to participate in all appropriate planning meetings, emergency training, and exercises.



**REVIEW AND MODIFICATION**

This plan will be reviewed by emergency management and the CAC at least annually. The County Animal Coordinator is responsible for developing and maintaining SOPs covering the responsibilities listed in this appendix.