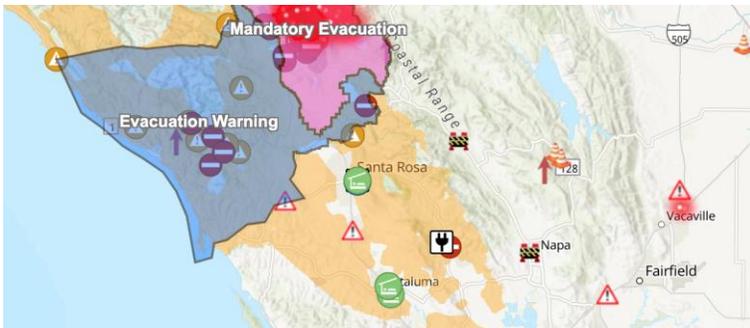

ANIMAL SERVICES ANNEX

MARIN COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP)

MAY 2021



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May 11, 2021

Marin County Board of Supervisors
Marin County Civic Center
Room 329
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Request from the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services ("OES") for approval of the Marin Emergency Operations Plan Animal Services Annex.

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend your Board approve the Marin Emergency Operations Plan Animal Services Annex.

SUMMARY: The Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services and the County of Marin, along with state and local governmental, non-governmental, residential and private sector partners including the California Office of Emergency Services, California Department of Food and Agriculture Marin Humane, the University of California Cooperative Extension / Farm Advisor and subject matter experts including Marin based veterinarians, ranchers, and equestrian facility operators have collaborated to develop this Animal Services Annex to the Marin Emergency Operations Plan. The Marin Disaster Citizen Corps Council, counterpart plan holders and subject matter experts with other operational areas were consulted and approve of annex format and content which follows recommendations by the California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES).

FISCAL IMPACT: None

ALTERNATIVE TO RECOMMENDED ACTION: None

REVIEWED BY: [] County Counsel [X] N/A
[] Human Resources [X] N/A
[] Auditor-Controller [X] N/A
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"In Partnership with our Communities"
www.marinosheriff.org

CA Jordan

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Introduction

Animals, both wild and domestic, are extremely important to the residents and visitors of Marin County. Marin County is responsible to provide its constituents a comprehensive array of animal services during both daily normal conditions and when there is an emergency or disaster. The county delegates authority and contracts its animal services to Marin Humane headquartered in Novato, California.

Marin Humane offers refuge, rehabilitation, and support services to more than 4,000 domestic animals and wildlife each year through a myriad of community services, including adoptions, foster care, behavior and training, humane education, pet assistance for people in need, lost-and-found pet services, low-cost vaccination and microchipping clinics, and more. In addition to its role as non-profit animal shelter, Marin Humane is responsible for upholding county and municipal animal services ordinances through a Joint Powers Agreement contract with the County of Marin.

This plan provides a collaborative framework for preparedness, response and recovery efforts related to management of all animals during emergency events. In accordance with the State Emergency Services Act, it describes methods for carrying out emergency operations using the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). This plan is organized based on a template that was developed in accordance with the California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES).

The California Emergency Services Act 8585(e) designates The California Office of Emergency Services as being responsible for the state's emergency and disaster response services for natural, technological, or manmade disasters and emergencies, including responsibility for activities necessary to prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of emergencies and disasters to people and property. The California Department of Food and Agriculture has statutory authority related to animal health and the supervision of branded livestock identification, movement and guardianship issues. Under the joint supervision of these state agencies, CARES is being integrated into the standardized emergency management system established pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 8607.

Planning Principles

Definition of “Animal”

For the general purpose of responding to animal issues during disasters, the County of Marin accepts the CARES Committee definition of “animals” as, “affected commercial livestock, companion animals, exhibition animals, captive wildlife, and exotic pets.”¹

This is the definition that will be used for state level response activities. This definition excludes non-captive wildlife and includes service animals in the “companion animals” term, while a distinction between companion and service animals is made and explained in this plan. This definition does not separate horses from livestock, while that distinction is made and explained in this plan.

Primary Planning Principals:

- Marin Humane is the County of Marin, California contracted provider of animal services in both daily operations and in emergencies and/or disasters.
- It is the responsibility and authority of the County to ensure that the governmental response to an event requiring emergency animal services is appropriate.
- The County may initiate specified actions independently with Marin Humane, but will communicate to and coordinate those actions with local government.
- The County actions identified in the annex will assist local government (cities, towns and special districts).
- Local governments may have programs to address emergency animal services and those programs may vary in organization and operation but are consistent with SEMS and NIMS. Local governments are also encouraged to work directly with Marin Humane to identify their emergency animal response needs.
- Nothing in this annex serves to restrict local government operations as long as they are consistent with SEMS and NIMS.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of animal guardians

¹ CARES Draft Plan, 1998. pp. 1.

- To provide an appropriate standard of care for their animals at all times, including during emergencies, disasters and evacuations.
- To ensure that their animals are not a threat to public health and safety.
- To ensure that their animals do not harm other persons' property, including animals, and limit the spread of contagious disease to other animals.
- Most animal guardians affected by disasters or having to evacuate take their animals and stay with friends or family. This self-reliant behavior should be encouraged at all times.
- To ensure that their animals are properly identified with a microchip, collar and identification tag, and that dogs are currently licensed and displaying their tag.
- To prepare a pet disaster kit as well as at least a two-week supply of animal food and essentials (To learn more, go to marinhumane.org/disaster).
- To ensure their animals are able to be transported and able to be housed in temporary confinement such as a crate or carrier for extended periods.
- To prepare arrangements for private accommodations for themselves and their household pets and service animals prior to a disaster or emergency situation.

Responsibilities of the Marin County Sheriff Office of Emergency Services (Emergency Management) with respect to the care of animals in disasters and evacuations:

- To endorse the need for and support a Disaster Animal Services Planning Committee as a resource for the care of animals in emergencies, disasters and evacuations.
- To advise members of the Disaster Animal Services Planning Committee of required and desired training, such as Emergency Operations Planning, Incident Management, Volunteer Resource Management , and Handling Animals in Disasters.
- To work with the Disaster Animal Services Planning Committee to solve problems which arise out of the need to provide care for animals in emergencies, disasters and evacuations.
- To develop with the Disaster Animal Services Planning Committee methods for liability protection and cost reimbursement for the Animal Care Committee after it has been activated by the state Office of Emergency Services.

- To facilitate emergency alerts and notification utilizing the AlertMarin system.
- To coordinate activation of the Operational Area Emergency Operations Center
- To support public policy that aligns with best practices in community animal disaster response and management.

Responsibilities of Marin Humane (in addition to Primary Planning Principals)

- To ensure that public health and safety is not endangered by animals.
- To provide response tactics for impacted animals and community needs.
- To provide temporary housing of animals.
- To determine appropriate statutory holding periods and proper dispositions of animals held.
- To coordinate appropriate care, including veterinary services, to impacted animals.
- To provide a robust disaster response consistent with community needs and available resources.

Marin Humane will perform its disaster animal services in four phases:

Phase 1: Readiness

Phase 2: Warning and Preparation

Phase 3: Disaster Response

Phase 4: Disaster Recovery

Phase I: Readiness

Phase I readiness is primarily focused on raising public awareness of the risks associated with animals during emergencies and disasters focused upon steps animal guardians and caregivers can undertake to prepare.

Phase II: Warning and Preparation

Phase II is initiated when an emergency or disaster occurs and it affects Marin animals. It is characterized by public warnings and preparations by Marin Humane to respond and recover to such an emergency.

Phase III: Emergency Response

Phase III is initiated when an emergency or disaster is occurring. It is characterized by a coordinated government response to the emergency, animal welfare is at risk, and Marin Humane must perform by implementing its Marin County Animal Services Emergency Operations Plan (MCASEOP).

Phase IV: Emergency Recovery

Phase IV is initiated during response and continues through the recovery phase of disaster. Marin Humane will continue helping the community with animal needs by implementing its Marin County Animal Services Emergency Operations Plan (MCASEOP).

Responsibilities of the Disaster Animal Services Planning Committee with respect to the care of animals in disasters and evacuations:

- To familiarize its members with the local emergency operations procedures.
- To identify legislated and/or qualified groups or persons who will care for animals in emergencies, disasters and evacuations.
- To identify resources in the community that are needed to adequately plan and respond to the needs of animals in emergencies, disasters and evacuations, such as animal housing.
- To coordinate legislated and/or qualified groups and persons to plan for and respond to the care of animals in emergencies, disasters and evacuations.
- To maintain a current list of committee members and community resources that support planning and operations for the care of animals in emergencies, disasters and evacuations.
- To develop with Marin OES methods for liability protection and resource funding.
- To attend the Marin County Disaster and Citizen Corps Council (DC3) and other appropriate meetings.

Responsibilities of animal care professionals:

Examples of animal care professionals include: veterinarians, veterinary technicians, breeders, boarding facilities. The following are responsibilities established as best practices.

- To provide care for injured and diseased animals in a capacity with which the animal care professional is qualified.
- To enter into service contracts with animal guardians for the care of animals. These contractual agreements are usually based on a fee for service.
- Often, in disasters, animal care professionals will provide pro bono service, but it should never be assumed that this will be the case.
- To provide support, whenever possible, by working with response organizations and individuals in animal reunification efforts.

Responsibilities of USDA and the California Department of Food and Agriculture:

- To enforce the animal welfare act.
- To ensure that certain reportable diseases are contained and/or eradicated.
- Cooperative Extension Service is part of USDA and Extension educators provide information on animal husbandry, health care, and nutrition.

Responsibilities of the California State Veterinarian

- To monitor animal health in the state.
- To ensure that certain reportable diseases are contained and/or eradicated.
- To define the types of livestock for California. (See Section VII: Definitions and Acronyms).
- To fulfill other state functions related to animal health.
- The Office of the California State Veterinarian is located in the State Department of Agriculture.

Responsibilities of Department of Health

- To ensure that public facilities meet local and state health codes. Public facilities include shelters, hotels, restaurants, and community centers. These public facilities must meet specific guidelines set forth by the Department of Health and Human Services. These Public Health guidelines describe the conditions under which animals are permitted into public facilities.
- Depending on the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Human Services may enforce state, county or municipal ordinances.
- Most State Departments of Health employ a veterinarian to deal with Veterinary Public Health issues. This responsibility should include public health aspects of animal care in disasters.
- Marin Humane works in partnership with the Marin County Department of Health to ensure compliance with certain regulations (rabies control, quarantines, etc.).

Responsibilities of the Department of Natural Resources

- To license and inspect wildlife rehabilitation facilities.

Responsibilities of “other” groups and persons that provide animal care:

- Examples of “other” animal care groups include: humane societies, animal control agencies, rescue groups (usually for companion animals and horses), producer (livestock, poultry) associations, state animal welfare associations, and (national) emergency animal response organizations.
- Many of these “other” groups provide charitable services for animals (some are classified as 501(c)(3) and some aren’t).
- Because many “other” groups do not have legal jurisdiction over stray animals, in most cases “other” groups deal with owned animals. Any care provided to stray animals must be provided with prior agreement of Animal Services or the group/person who has the mandate to deal with stray animals.

Federal Government Agencies

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):
 - www.fema.gov
 - Provides general information about FEMA and emergency management activities
 - www.fema.gov/fema/anemer.htm
 - Provides information specifically on preparedness and planning for animals in emergencies and links to other related sites.
- www.fema.gov/EMI/is10.htm and www.fema.gov/EMI/is11.htm
 - Provides information and course materials for the independent study *Animals in Disasters Training Courses*. There are two modules of this course; 1.) Awareness and Preparedness; and, 2.) Community Planning. Course materials can be downloaded, a final exam may be completed online and a certificate of completion issued if passed.
- National Weather Service (NWS):
 - www.nws.noaa.gov
 - Provides weather information and warnings for the United States.

State Government Agencies

- State of California-- Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES):
 - www.oes.ca.gov
 - Provides information about OES activities, state disaster planning, and types of emergencies. Includes links to mapping resources, related agencies, and weather reports. The California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) can also be accessed through this site. CSTI provides training in SEMS and other emergency response activities.

- California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA):
 - www.cdfa.ca.gov
 - Provides information about CDFA programs, the Animal Health and Food Safety Services, disaster preparedness materials for animal guardians, and includes a directory of the County Agricultural Commissioners. This guide and appendices can also be downloaded from this site.

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):
 - www.dfw.ca.gov
 - Provides information on CDFW programs. Includes information about oil spill response activities.
 - Provides information on living with native wildlife
 - Oversees permits for captive wildlife

Non-profit Organizations

- California Animal Welfare Association
 - <https://calanimals.org>
- California Animal Response Emergency System
 - <https://calcares.com/>
- Central California Animal Disaster Team
 - <http://www.ccadts.org/>
- Contra Costa County Animal Response Team
 - <http://contracostacart.org/index.html>
- Napa Community Animal Response Team
 - <http://napacart.org>

- North Valley Animal Disaster Group (Butte County)
 - <http://nvadg.org/>
- San Diego Humane Society's Animal Rescue Reserve
 - <https://sdhumane.org/what-we-do/programs/humane-lawenforcement/humane-law-volunteer-programs/>
- SoCal Animal Response Team
 - <http://www.scart.us/>
- Sonoma Community Animal Response Team
 - <http://www.sonomacart.org>
- South County Large Animal Rescue (El Dorado)
 - <http://www.sclar.org/>
- UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT)
 - http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/iawti/emergency_preparedness/vert.cfm
- Yuba Sutter Domestic Animal Disaster Assistance
 - <http://ysdada.org/>
- American Humane Association
 - www.americanhumane.org
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
 - www.avma.org
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
 - www.aspca.org
- California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)
 - www.cvma.org (California Medical Reserve Corp)
- Cat Fanciers Association
 - www.cfainc.org/disasters.html

- Disaster Relief
 - www.disasterrelief.org
- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
 - www.hsus.org
- The Horse Review
 - www.horsereview.com
- Red Rover
 - www.redrover.org

Why Plan for Animal Issues During a Disaster?

Throughout the past two decades, there have been at least two dozen major disasters in the State of California, including floods, fires, winter storms, earthquakes, oil spills and other man-made disasters. In disasters, priority response activities are related to the protection of life, property, and the environment.

Although the protection of human life is the highest priority in emergency response, recent disasters and follow-up research have shown that proper preparation and effective coordination of animal issues enhances the ability of emergency personnel to protect both human and animal health and safety. It is much more efficient, effective, and inexpensive to develop plans to address animal issues prior to an incident than during one.

The following issues highlight why animal preparedness is necessary:

Refusal to Evacuate and Early Return to Unsafe Areas

Since most human evacuation shelters do not allow pets in facilities, pet guardians requiring sheltering must choose between deserting their animals, refusing to evacuate, or evacuating their animals to a pre-determined site. Without advanced planning, this can be a difficult decision. Farmers and ranchers who depend upon animals for their livelihood are often unwilling to leave their animals unsupervised in the event of a disaster. Some key facts to consider are:

Up to 25% of pet guardians will fail to evacuate because of their animals; this represents 5-10% of the total population directed to evacuate.⁴

30-50% of pet guardians will leave pets behind, even with advance notice of evacuation.⁴

Approximately 50-70% of people leaving animals behind will attempt to reenter a secure site to rescue their animals; this represents 5-15% of the total population directed to evacuate.²

The 10-25% of individuals who refuse to evacuate, or attempt to return to the evacuated areas because of their animals, risk injury, exposure to hazardous materials, and their own lives, as well as those of emergency response personnel who must rescue them. The most effective and efficient way to minimize human and animal health and safety risks is for individuals and responding agencies to be properly prepared to address animal issues well in advance of a disaster.

Public Health and Safety Risks Caused by Animals at Large

Animals that are not cared for by their guardians during a disaster may become a public health and safety risk. Loose and displaced animals are possible carriers of disease (such as rabies and plague) and can become a nuisance or danger to people. Animals “at large” are the responsibility of local animal services officials.

Public Health and Safety Risks Caused by Animal Carcasses

Another public health and safety risk is the presence of animal carcasses. Decaying carcasses can contaminate water sources or lead to outbreaks of diseases such as cholera or anthrax. Timely carcass removal is critical. The methods for environmentally acceptable disposal of animal carcasses are limited, and become particularly difficult and expensive when there are many large animal carcasses.

Economic Considerations

California has the largest agricultural economy of any state in the nation, valued at over \$50 billion in 2019. Some of the state’s largest agricultural products are of animal origin. California’s total livestock and livestock product’s cash receipts for 2019 totaled billion⁶. Dairy products are the top agricultural commodity in the state valued, at billion in 2019; cattle and calves are the fourth largest, valued at billion in 2019. The loss of

² Numbers quoted are from personal communication with Sebastian Health, DVM; Purdue University. These numbers reflect studies of three incidents: Oakland, CA firestorm (1991, 1273 pets), Weyauwega, WI train derailment (1996, 241 surveys), and Marysville, CA floods (1997, 397 surveys).

production animals due to a disaster can result in major economic loss to individual farmers and ranchers as well as local and state economies. For specific information about animal based agricultural production in your county, talk to your County Agricultural Commissioner, or see the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) [California Agricultural Resource Directory](#). Copies can be ordered through the CDFA website at www.cdfa.ca.gov.

Public Relations Considerations

Society views domestic animals as dependent upon human care and support. Many pets and service animals are considered integral parts of families. Animals and animal issues attract media attention. The failure to deal with animal issues in disasters not only results in utilizing more resources and placing additional human lives at risk, but can result in significant public outcry and negative media coverage.

Control of Self-Responders

Experience has shown that when animals are impacted by disasters, a large number of self-responders will arrive to address the situation. These well-meaning, but untrained and emotionally driven individuals can be very disruptive and create many law enforcement and other response challenges. Additionally, these situations may encourage the arrival of "rescue groups." Some of these groups are well-trained and helpful, and some are not. Effective control of self-responding individuals and rescue groups is critical. This can occur only when a well-coordinated official response is in place.

Guiding Principles

The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)

Title 19, Section 2400 establishes the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) based upon the Incident Command System (ICS).

SEMS is intended to standardize response to emergencies involving multiple jurisdictions or multiple agencies. SEMS is intended to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of all emergency responders in California. SEMS requires emergency response

agencies use basic principles and components of emergency management including ICS, multi-agency or inter-agency coordination, the operational area concept, and established mutual aid systems. State agencies must use SEMS. Local government must use SEMS by December 1, 1996 in order to be eligible for state funding of response-related personnel costs pursuant to activities identified in California Code of Regulations, Title 19, §2920, §2925, and §2930. Individual agencies' roles and responsibilities contained in existing laws or the state emergency plan are not superseded by these regulations.

The Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) is the cornerstone of California's emergency response system and the fundamental structure for the response phase of emergency management. SEMS is required by the California Emergency Services Act (ESA) ¹¹ for managing multiagency and multijurisdictional responses to emergencies in California. The system unifies all elements of California's emergency management community into a single integrated system and standardizes key elements. SEMS incorporates the use of the Incident Command System (ICS), California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement (MMAA), the Operational Area (OA) concept and multiagency or inter-agency coordination. State agencies are required to use SEMS and local government entities must use SEMS in order to be eligible for any reimbursement of response-related costs under the state's disaster assistance programs.

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

In addition to the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), the state and its political subdivisions are responsible for compliance with the requirements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as defined in the Homeland Security Presidential Directives. The state promotes and encourages NIMS adoption by associations, utilities, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), private sector emergency management and incident response organizations to enhance emergency management effectiveness. SEMS and NIMS are designed to be compatible and are based on similar organizational principles.

Cal OES is designated as the principal coordinator for NIMS implementation statewide. Annually, Cal OES administers the process to communicate, monitor and implement NIMS requirements in cooperation with affected state agencies and departments, local governments and other critical stakeholders. Cal OES utilizes the National Incident Management System Compliance Assistance Support Tool (NIMSCAST) for measuring progress and facilitating reporting.

The National Response Framework

The NRF is a guide to how the Nation conducts all-hazards incident response. The NRF states that each Federal department or agency must also plan for its role in incident response. Virtually every Federal department and agency possesses resources that a jurisdiction may need when responding to an incident. Some Federal departments and agencies have primary responsibility for specific aspects of incident response, such as HAZMAT remediation. Others may have supporting roles in providing different types of resources, such as communications personnel and equipment. Regardless of their roles, all Federal departments and agencies must develop policies, plans, and procedures governing how they will effectively locate resources and provide them as part of a coordinated Federal response. The planning considerations described for response can also guide prevention and protection planning.

The Role of the Counties in the California Animal Response in Emergency System (CARES)

California Animal Response in Emergency System (CARES) organizes state resources, in support of local government responding to animal issues, during a state level emergency in accordance with SEMS. During a disaster, if local resources are insufficient to meet existing needs, local government may request state assistance. When this assistance is requested; the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) will activate CARES, with CDFA as the lead agency. The ability to respond effectively at the state level largely depends upon planning accomplished within each OA prior to a disaster. Since the majority of volunteers, resources, and organization during a disaster originate in the local area, it is essential that counties and local agencies have animal response plans in place in order for CARES to function effectively. The CARES Plan is intended to facilitate mutual aid between counties.

The County's Role

Animal issues, like all other disaster response activities, are a part of the Marin Operational Area (OA) Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). For the county to be eligible for State disaster aid, it's staff must use (SEMS) to respond; this is the same for animal issues.

This document is designed as a countywide document and an annex of the Marin County/Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan. This Annex will provide an overview and guidance for the care and sheltering of animals following a major disaster.

The planning for this Annex was done by review of statewide and national Animals in Disaster Committees, and groups representing public, private and non-profit animal care agencies throughout California and the United States. The various committees and templates have provided guidance and resources for the development of this plan. Guidance from the California Animal Response in Emergency System (CARES) project was closely followed in development of this plan.

Disaster Animal Services Planning Committee and Stakeholders

To develop a comprehensive and effective plan for the Marin OA, many stakeholders were involved in the process. A wide range of groups concerned about animal issues in the planning process is intended to foster cooperation, understanding, and commitment to work within the plan in the OA. The following is a list of planning committee member organizations and stakeholders

Disaster Animal Services Planning Committee:

- Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services
- Marin Humane
- Marin County Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures
- UC Cooperative Extension, Marin County

Disaster Animal Services Plan Stakeholders:

Local Government Agencies

- County Department of Health and Human Services
- County and City/Town Law Enforcement
- County and City/Town Fire/Rescue
- County and City/Town Parks and Recreation

- County and City/Town Public Works

State Government Agencies

- California Office of Emergency Services
- California Emergency Medical Services Authority
- California Department of Food and Agriculture
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Federal Government Agencies

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- United States Department of Agriculture (APHIS)
- United States Department of Homeland Security

Volunteer Organizations

- Marin Humane
- Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership (CVNL)
- Marin Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (Marin VOAD)

Industry Groups

- Marin County Farm Bureau
- Marin Veterinary Medical Association
- Equine Support
- Animal Service Providers (day care, in-home services, grooming, etc.)
- Animal Transporters

- Pet Food and Supply Businesses
- Commercial Animal Industries (breeders, stables, kennels, beef, dairy, and poultry producers, etc.)
- Wildlife Rehabilitation (WildCare, Marine Mammal Center)

Local Issues Considered in Developing This Plan

Types of Disasters

In general, disasters are classified as Natural, Technological, or Adversarial / Human-caused. The disasters identified in this plan are described in more detail in the County Emergency Operation Plan and the Marin County Multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Natural Disasters are those occurring in nature, they cannot be avoided or controlled and often times are interrelated. Examples include:

- Earthquake
- Fire
- Land / Mudslide / Debris flow
- Avalanche
- Flood
- Drought
- Severe storm
- Freeze
- Lightning strike
- Epidemic / Pandemic

Technological disasters are ones that involve materials created by humans and pose a unique hazard to the general public. Examples include:

- Telephone and internet service failure
- Utility failure (water, sewer, electricity, gas)
- Commodities lapse (gasoline, coal, food, water)
- Infrastructure breakdown
- Dam/ levee break
- Building/ structure collapse
- HAZMAT incident
- Oil spill

Adversarial / human caused disasters are ones that are created by humans either intentionally or by accident. They include:

- Acts of terrorism
- Civil unrest / disturbance
- War / invasion

Animal Population in Marin County

Knowing the population of animals in Marin County helps in planning the scope and type of disaster response needed. There are several ways to estimate the animal population in any area. Information received from the most recent census is currently the best source to determine accurate household animal information (See Appendix). Remove this section and possibly add to appendices.

Location of Animal Populations

It is important to identify the types of animals that live in Marin County, especially those in identified high-risk disaster areas. Encouraging local communities and neighborhoods to plan for their animals during an emergency is key to saving lives. Efforts are

underway to implement GIS mapping technology for identifying animals, especially those in potentially vulnerable situations.

Liability Issues

Animal response agencies and those officially designated to respond to disasters are aware of potential liability. Agencies are required to ensure they are sufficiently insured to cover potential losses and claims.

1. *Releases*

Agencies may consider the use of release statements for certain response activities.

2. *Volunteer Workers*

All volunteers involved in county animal disaster response should be affiliated with a sponsoring agency and registered as Disaster Service Worker Volunteers through the Marin County Disaster and Citizen Corps Council, Marin's Accredited Disaster Council pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act (Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code), and the California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 2, Chapter 2, Subchapter 3, §2571.

Preparation

County Animal Coordinator

The County Animal Coordinator is the individual who will act as the single point of contact on animal issues in the OA. This person will staff the EOC for the OA during a disaster. This individual should be trained in SEMS and the Emergency Management Mutual Aid (EMMA) system, should be knowledgeable in local animal issues and in the local animal response plan. In Marin County, the County Animal Coordinator is the local animal services official or their designee.

Identification of Resources

The preparation stage of disaster response allows local groups to plan response activities before a disaster occurs. The most important part of this is identifying local resources available. Following are lists of resources that were identified in the development of this plan (details are available in the pertinent Appendices and Maps):

Animal Confinement and Shelter Facilities

Small Animal

- Marin Humane Shelter
- Pre-designated foster homes
- Kennels / commercial boarding facilities
- Wildlife rehabilitation centers
- Local fairgrounds
- Veterinary clinics
- Rescue organizations

Large Animal

- Local fairgrounds
- Equestrian arenas and stables
- Producers / ranchers / private individuals

Animal Food Sources

Small Animal

- Marin Humane

- Pet supply stores
- Food banks
- Grocery stores
- Commercial animal establishments

Large Animal

- Feed stores
- Hay brokers
- Local commercial boarding and breeding facilities
- Producers /ranchers/private individuals

Supplies

Supply lists are valuable not only because they help to have supplies predetermined prior to a disaster, but also because they provide emergency managers and volunteers with common terminology when communicating about supply needs and availability. In general, supply lists may be grouped into the following categories:

Search, Rescue and Evacuation supplies

- Animal identification tools
- Handling and restraint equipment
- Personal protective equipment
- Search and rescue equipment
- Communication equipment

Transportation supplies

- Vehicles

- Trailers
- Animal handling and restraint equipment
- Safety equipment for animals
- Personal protective gear for volunteers
- Boats

Sheltering supplies

- Housing (cages/kennels/ portable fencing)
- Food/ water
- Cleaning/ sanitation
- Records management
- Animal identification
- Animal handling and restraint
- Personal protective equipment

Veterinary supplies

- Medications
- Bandaging/ wraps
- Equipment/ instruments
- Veterinary supplies

*A complete list of resources can be accessed at the CARES website: <http://www.cal-cares.com>

Transportation

Small Animal

- Animal services vehicles
- Mobile Response units
- Private vans, trucks, and trailers

Large Animal

- Local horsemen's associations /riding clubs
- Private horse trailers
- Horse transport companies (commercial haulers)
- Marin-Sonoma Cattlemen's Association
- Rancher livestock transport
- Feedlot transport
- Animal services vehicles and trailers
- University, state, and community college animal transport

Volunteer Resources

Volunteers are an important part of a response plan that will work. When animals are in danger, you will find many willing volunteers. It is important that volunteers understand the response system, are trained, and are registered Disaster Service Workers. To become a registered Disaster Service Worker (DSW), volunteers must register with the Marin County Disaster Council I and the lead response organization prior to deployment. Being a registered DSW will allow volunteers to receive workers compensation should they be injured while volunteering. It will also ensure that volunteers are trained in SEMS and are aware of where they fit within response operations. The following is a list of groups that could supply volunteers and help gather other needed resources:

- Marin Humane

- Marin County Agricultural Commissioner
- California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)
- College or school groups (4-H, FFA, etc.)
- Cal Volunteers
- Local philanthropy groups (Elks, Lions, Masons, Rotary)
- Marin Medical Reserve Corps
- UC Cooperative Extension, Marin
- Marin CERT volunteers
- Marin Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

Volunteer Training

Dealing with animals, particularly in stressful or chaotic situations such as disasters, requires special skill. Volunteers who handle animals need to have experience and specific training in this area. Several national, state, and local groups offer training programs. This plan recommends just-in-time training on use of ICS in the OA, as well as OA resources, for out-of-county responders

The use of spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers is not recommended.

Confirmation of Resource Availability

In addition to the identification of local resources, it is important that the availability of resources be periodically confirmed with the guardians or suppliers of these resources. In some cases, it may be necessary for the OA to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with resource providers to ensure resource availability in the event of a disaster. It is important that plans be made for gathering needed resources during a disaster. Multiple routes to shelters and areas where resources are kept should be planned.

Memorandums of Understanding and Mutual Aid Agreements

For any agreements made with organizations that provide resources, a written and signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) should be implemented and routinely confirmed. If a jurisdiction makes agreements with neighboring cities or counties to share resources, a Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) stating the terms of the arrangement should be implemented and routinely confirmed. Marin OES shall receive copies of all known MOUs and MAAs that apply to animal disaster response activities.

Organization of Response Activities

Disaster response and management is addressed at all levels of SEMS planning using the Incident Command System (ICS) as described in the Introduction. An outline of key ICS positions related to a response in the Marin Operational Area is part of the base Emergency Operations Plan to which this document is an annex.

Response

Response is putting all this planning to work. To ensure a smooth response, three animal caregiver actions to consider are:

- Shelter in Place
- Evacuation to Temporary Evacuation Point or Shelter
- Evacuation from region

Service Animals

Service animals are required to remain with the human they support at all times. Service animals are legally defined as a dog or miniature horse and are required to be allowed inside all congregate care shelters. As with caretakers of any other animal, it is critical that individuals responsible for the care of service animals have adequately prepared for the need to shelter in place, evacuate to a Temporary Evacuation Point, or Shelter or to evacuate out of the region. Service animals in Marin County are required to be registered and licensed by the Animal Services provider (Marin Humane)

Companion Animals

Companion animals – also referred to as pets - should remain with their guardians for as long as reasonable accommodations may be made. Dependent of response variables, the preferred approach is to allow pets inside designated areas within congregate care shelters. It is critical that individuals responsible for the care of companion animals have adequately prepared for the need to shelter in place evacuate to a Temporary Evacuation Point or Shelter or to evacuate out of the region. Marin Humane provides all individuals with information on emergency preparedness.

Horses

Per California Civil Code Section 3080 horses are considered livestock. Due to significant differences in the circumstances of care, potential for evacuation, and practical use, this plan separates horses from other livestock. In the instance of a threat from wildfire or other potentially rapid incident it is critical that caretakers of horses are prepared for early evacuation. Some horse caretakers are aware of specific challenges to their ability to evacuate early, or at all. Challenges include loose horses, horses which are not trained to load onto a transport trailer, and the inability to mix certain horses based on their behavior, age, or gender. Due to the complexities involved in horse evacuation, and the limited number of destinations outside of the potential hazard area, horse caretakers should consider destinations outside of the region or develop plans for properly sheltering in place.

Livestock

Livestock in Marin County are generally in the care of ranchers who have extensive, often multi-generational experience in ranch operations and livestock husbandry. Due to the nature and frequency of off-site livestock transportation, most operations have many more heads of livestock than transportation carrier space. Additionally, the loading of livestock onto trailers may be a protracted task which may expose humans to undue risk during an emergency. Due to these considerations, shelter in place of livestock is likely preferable to attempted evacuation. In this circumstance, re-entry to a disaster zone in which there are livestock ranches should be considered as a priority over resident and other re-entry. Study and consideration of AgPass and Right of Entry programs is underway in the County and led by the members of this plan's Disaster Animal Services Planning Committee. For more information, see Appendix B: Proposed AgPass and Right of Entry Program Outlines.

Recovery

During the recovery stage of a disaster, the following activities must be coordinated:

Animal Reunification, Shelter Closures and Redistribution of Supplies

It is important that guidelines be developed to decide when closure is appropriate and how it will be done. This is often coordinated with the closure of human shelters. Animal shelters can usually be closed 48 hours following the closure of human shelters. Guardians who need to make special arrangements can do so on a case-by-case basis. Guidelines on distribution of remaining supplies should be agreed upon by all responding groups. Also, a plan for the demobilization of volunteers should be developed.

Removal and Disposal of Animal Carcasses

Guidelines should be developed for disposal of animal carcasses in a safe and timely manner. Some disposal methods have negative environmental impacts. Proper disposal methods will be implemented for both small and large animals depending on the nature of the emergency and available resources. Rendering and cremation services for small animals are available in Marin and can be easily expanded during an emergency. Rendering and cremation services for large animals are not available in Marin and will require transport of carcasses outside of the county.

Animal Disposition Procedures

Procedures for determining the proper final disposition of abandoned or unclaimed animals following a disaster are in place pursuant to existing local animal services ordinances and state statutes. During a disaster, sometimes holding periods are adjusted and lengthened to facilitate every opportunity for reunification

Collection of Data

In the recovery stage, data should be collected on the response activities. This data should include financial information about the response effort as well as damage assessment information. Aside from financial data, animal services response partners will be expected to participate in an After Action Review – Improvement Process led by the County OES. Animal Services will provide data on services done for people including the number of animals served either through rescue or sheltering. All activities will also be documented on the required forms for potential reimbursement.

Appendix A: Terms and Acronyms

Access Control Point: The point of entry and exit which regulates access to and from the control zones.

Ambient Air Quality: Quality of the surrounding atmosphere or circulating air.

Assessment: To determine the nature and degree of a hazardous material or a hazardous materials incident from a safe vantage point by any means possible.

California Fire Mutual Aid Plan: An established agreement made up of all fire jurisdictions in the state to respond and assist in the event of any incident which has been determined to be outside the local fire jurisdictions capabilities.

California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan: Establishes the state policy for law enforcement mutual aid and outlines the procedures from coordination of alerting, dispatching and utilization of law enforcement personnel and equipment resources.

California State Emergency Plan: The plan established pursuant to Section 8568 of the California Government Code that addresses the State's response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incident and war emergency operations.

CalOES: California Office of Emergency Services.

Catastrophic Incident: An event that significantly exceeds the resources of a jurisdiction.

COMM CTR: The Marin Consolidated Communication Center / Public Safety Access Point – The primary dispatch center for coordinating response to emergencies.

Command Post: The location from which all incident operations are directed and planning functions are performed.

CUPA: Certified Unified Program Agency

Decontamination: The physical and/or chemical process of reducing and preventing the spread of contamination from persons and equipment used at a hazardous materials incident.

DFW: California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

DHS: California Department of Health Services.

DPR: California Department of Parks and Recreation.

EBS: Emergency Broadcast System.

EMS: Emergency Medical Services.

EOC: Emergency Operations Center.

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency.

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Hazardous Material: A substance which by its nature, containment and reactivity has the capability of inflicting harm during an accidental occurrence; characterized as being toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive, an irritant or a strong sensitizer and thereby posing a threat to health and the environment when improperly managed.

HAZMAT: Hazardous Materials.

HAZWOPER: Hazardous Waste Operation and Emergency Response.

IC: Incident Commander.

ICS: Incident Command System.

IDLH: Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health.

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding.

Mutual Aid: An agreement to supply specifically agreed upon aid or support in an emergency situation between two or more agencies, jurisdictions or political subdivisions.

OA: Operational Area

OES: Office of Emergency Services.

PIO: Public Information Officer.

SEMS: Standardized Emergency Management System.

SOP: Standard Operating Procedures.

Appendix B: Proposed AgPass and Right of Entry Program Outlines

Agricultural operator pass permit (“Ag Pass”) programs provide commercial farm and ranch operators and their staff with a mechanism to legally pass enforced road and area closures associated with disasters such as wildfires and floods. Government officials seeking to exclude the general public from an area that may still be involved in incident repose could allow for select individuals or groups to enter the area for the purpose of reducing the harm caused by the incident. In California these programs are currently operating at the County level and have the potential to be more widely adopted by government structures. This appendix to the Marin Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan Animal Service Annex is designed to identify specifics about a potential Ag Pass program in Marin and to provide a placeholder in the plan for inclusion of an Ag Pass program description in the event such program is adopted.

The intent of Ag Pass access to closed areas is similar to that of Right of Entry (ROE) in that exceptions are made for certain individuals or groups to access an area closed by public safety officials. An important distinction between Ag Pass and ROE is that Ag Pass allows access for individuals or groups associated with a given location, while ROE is traditionally applicable to government agencies, government contractors, or affiliated volunteer groups. Individuals or groups associated with a given location are much better suited to conduct activities to support animals than individuals or groups unfamiliar with the property and animals on it. For this reason an Ag Pass program is an important supplement to ROE programs and agreements.

Ag Pass programs require partnership from a variety of governmental and non-governmental entities. The following is a partial list of jurisdictions, agencies, and other groups who would be instrumental in the development and successful functioning of an Ag Pass program in Marin County:

- Marin County Fire Department
- Marin County Sheriff’s Office
- Marin Farm Bureau
- Marin County Department of Agricultural Weights and Measures
- Marin County Board of Supervisors

- Marin Humane
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- California Highway Patrol
- California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- Public Safety Mutual Aid resource agencies and jurisdictions

Roles and responsibilities of these jurisdictions, agencies, and other groups would align with their day-to-day roles and their roles in disaster response.

This element of the Marin Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan Animal Service Annex is based on the work of University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Preparing for Disaster: Establishing an Ag Pass Program in Your Community document (UC ANR Publication 8685, December 2020)