

Support Annex 5. Animals in Disaster

1. Purpose

This support annex provides guidance and assignment of responsibility for animal protection issues before, during, and after an actual or potential emergency situation; and is designed to facilitate overall coordination of animal issues during emergency operations. The goal of this annex is to protect domesticated and non-domesticated animals (including pets, livestock, and wild animals), the public health, the public food supply, the environment, and to ensure the humane care, and treatment of animals in the event of an emergency or disaster situation that causes animals suffering.

2. Situation and Assumptions

2.1 Situation

2.1.1 Natural, technological, or manmade disasters could affect the well-being of both domestic and wild animals.

2.1.2 Coos County and the surrounding municipalities, recognizes the need for a pro-active pre-disaster approach to planning for animal protection during emergency situations.

2.1.3 Coos County, the municipalities, and non-government organizations and volunteer groups have partnered together and planned emergency operations to mitigate, or minimize suffering of animals during an emergency situation. This operational planning has included, where feasible, any animal in the county needing protection during an emergency situation, whether domestic or wild.

2.2 Assumptions

2.2.1 Animal protection planning includes care and rescue of animals adversely affected by an emergency situation.

2.2.2 Pet and livestock owners, when notified of an impending emergency will take reasonable steps to protect and care for animals in their care, and if evacuated will normally take their domestic animals with them, or place them in prearranged private boarding kennels, or similar facilities.

2.2.3 Evacuation of large animals, such as livestock, should be conducted well in advance (6-8 hours prior to) of an emergency situation such as a flood.

2.2.4 There will be circumstances when pet and livestock owners will not be able to protect their animals during an emergency situation, or will abandon their pets during disaster. This includes unscheduled drop-offs at animal facilities.

2.2.5 Many people may not evacuate without their animals, or will delay, to their own detriment, their evacuation in attempting to prepare for leaving their animals behind.

2.2.6 Some people. If unable to take their pets will prefer to weather the storm in an unsafe structure, or vehicle rather than leave their pets. This is particularly true of the elderly.

2.2.7 If not properly planned for during an emergency situation, animal issues could escalate to the point of detracting from other higher priority emergency operations.

2.2.8 Animal disaster relief efforts will be more efficient and effective, if proactive animal protection planning and coordination is carried out at all levels of government and within the community.

2.2.9 Pre-disaster education is of utmost importance to ensure the public has ample time to implement arrangements for both small and large animals.

2.2.10 Individuals and groups may volunteer assistance to provide animal services to supplement established organizations. Such services include collection, boarding, and owner reunification.

2.2.11 The county and surrounding municipalities may require outside assistance to carry out animal protection operations during an emergency situation.

2.2.12 An emergency situation in the county may warrant an immediate response from local and state response and support personnel and organizations to effectively carry out animal protection operations.

2.2.13 In most emergency situations outside animal protection and rescue assistance will likely be available; however, a major emergency situation may compound animal protection operations due to the magnitude of the event and may require activation of additional specialized through mutual aid as listed in paragraphs below.

2.2.14 Post-disaster planning should address animal protection operations for a seven-day period. After seven days, augmentation from mutual aid will probably be needed to supplement county resources.

3. Organization and Concept of Operations

3.1 Organization

Animal Control in the county is organized in the Sheriff's Office. Animal protection in the county is a combined and coordinated effort of several county, state, and non-government organizations to include the Health Department, the OSU Extension Office, Emergency Management Office, Animal Control-

Sheriff's Office, Department of Agriculture, and other organizations, on an as needed basis, as listed in paragraphs below.

3.2 Concept of Operations

3.2.1 Animal owners have the basic responsibility for care and protection of their animals, including during an emergency situation. (Refer to Appendix A, Coos County Disaster Planning Tips for Pets, Livestock, and Wild Animals.)

3.2.2 Domestic animals that are not being cared for by their owners; or have become a danger to the public or themselves, will be the responsibility of the county. The Sheriff with the cooperation of other identified protection organizations listed in this annex will have the responsibility of providing animal protection for domestic animals other than poultry or livestock not otherwise being cared for. Poultry and livestock protection issues are the responsibility of the OSU Extension Office. If required, these animals will be sheltered, fed, and, if possible, returned to their owners. If the animals cannot be returned to their owners, they will be disposed of in accordance with established animal control procedures.

3.2.3 Wild animals will normally be left to their own survival instincts. Wild animals that have strayed out of their natural habitat and are in danger to either themselves or the public will be the responsibility of the **OSP Fish and Wildlife in cooperation with the Sheriff**. If possible, these animals will be returned to their natural habitat.

3.2.4 Public information regarding animal protection will be issued through various media outlets, as required.

3.3 Response

3.3.1 Domestic Animals

3.3.1.1 County and Support Agency Animal Evacuation Shelters

- If the need arises, the Emergency Management Office, Coos County Animal Shelter, or other animal support agencies may also sponsor and/or open emergency animal evacuation shelters.
- If animals are placed under the care of the county, or one of the animal support agencies, the owner will be required to sign a release form and provide proof of vaccinations. In the absence of the records, veterinarians will screen the animals to determine whether the animal may enter the shelter or should be transported to an animal medical facility.
- In the event that local animal shelters are destroyed or incapable of operating due to the emergency situation, animals may be moved outside the county for care and protection.

3.3.1.2 Pets of Evacuated Special Needs Citizens

- Special Needs Citizens (individuals with mental or physical handicaps who require evacuation assistance) may also require assistance in evacuating their pets.
- In the event that the individual and the animal cannot be separated due to the individual's handicap, the assistance animal will be sheltered in the same facility in a separate room or area.

3.3.1.3 Stray/Lost Domestic Pets

- All stray/lost domestic pets recovered during an emergency situation by the county will be sheltered, as circumstances dictate, at the County Animal Shelter or appropriate animal boarding/medical facility.
- Any pets whose owners cannot care for their pets, or pets found by citizens will also be sheltered at the above locations.
- Unclaimed animals will be managed in accordance with established county procedures; i.e., livestock and poultry by the OSU Extension Office, and pet animals (cats, dogs, etc.) by the Sheriff's Office Animal Control unit.

3.3.1.4 Evacuated and Stray/Lost Livestock

- Due to the size of most livestock and the inability to transport large numbers of livestock, owners are expected to develop their own animal shelter and/or evacuation plans.
- County farms and stables may be used as livestock shelter facilities. In an emergency situation, the OSU Extension Office will contact prearranged farms and stables to request their assistance in the sheltering operation.

3.3.2 Wild Animals

3.3.2.1 The OSP Fish and Wildlife will normally transport those wild animals endangering themselves or the public back to their natural habitat. If the animal cannot be transported back to its natural habitat due to the emergency, or to sustained injuries, it will be transported to an appropriate animal boarding/medical facility, if possible. *Note: the county animal shelter will not accept wild animals for boarding.*

3.3.2.2 If the animal presents an immediate danger to the public, has sustained untreatable injuries, or it appears inflicted with an incurable disease, it will be disposed of in accordance with established animal control procedures.

3.3.3 Animal Medical Facilities

3.3.3.1 Domestic Pets – Sheriff’s Office Animal Control Unit will be responsible for and coordinate the rescue of stray domestic pets, or those animals needing assistance due to the emergency, or the owner’s death or evacuation of their owners.

3.3.3.2 Livestock – The OSU Extension Office or the US Department of Agriculture will be responsible for and coordinate the rescue of stray livestock, or livestock needing assistance due to the emergency, the owner’s death or evacuation.

3.3.3.3 Wild Animals – The OSP Fish and Wildlife in cooperation with Animal Control will be responsible for and coordinate the search and rescue of any wild animals out of their natural habitat that are endangering either themselves or the human population.

3.3.3.4 Stranded Animals – If an emergency situation prevents domestic animals from being rescued, food and medical assistance for the animals will be coordinated with an animal support agency by the Animal Control or the OSU Extension Office, as appropriate.

3.3.3.5 Additional Aid – If county resources cannot meet animal search and rescue requirements, the Sheriff’s Office Animal Control unit will request outside assistance through the County EOC from the State Animal Response Team (SART), or other available animal rescue groups.

3.3.4 Animal Bites/Disease Control

3.3.4.1 A rabies/disease outbreak is a serious threat during an emergency situation and the county Sheriff’s Office Animal Control unit in corporation with the Public Health Department will take appropriate steps to control any rabies/disease outbreak.

3.3.4.2 The Department of Agriculture will be notified on any suspicion of Foreign Animal disease (FAD) in livestock or poultry.

3.3.5 Recovery

3.3.5.1 Release/Destruction

- Domestic Pets/Livestock -- Sheriff’s Office Animal Control unit will support efforts to identify owners of stray/lost animals. If owners cannot be found, Sheriff’s Office Animal Control or other animal support agency

personnel will attempt to put the animal up for adoption according to their individually established procedures.

Animals whose owners cannot be located and which cannot be adopted will be managed in accordance with established Sheriff's Office Animal Control unit procedures.

- Wild Animals -- The OSP Fish and Wildlife will support efforts to reintroduce wild animals back to their natural habitats.

3.3.5.2 Disposal of Animal Carcasses

- The Sheriff's Office Animal Control unit will be responsible for the disposal of those animals (cats and dogs) killed or euthanized during the emergency situation.
- The OSU Extension Office and the US Department of Agriculture will be responsible for the disposal of dead livestock and poultry.
- If there are more animals to be disposed of than what either the Sheriff's Office Animal Control unit or the OSU Extension Office and the US Department of Agriculture is able to handle it may be possible to activate the Disaster Debris Management Annex also located in the County EOP.

4. Assignment of Responsibilities

4.1 General Organization Responsibilities

4.1.1 All organizations that support this annex are responsible for developing their respective SOG/Ps for conducting emergency operations in support of the county or the surrounding municipalities' infrastructure.

4.1.2 All organizations that support this annex in the county or surrounding municipalities are responsible for coordinating with other organizations from which they require local support to develop letters of understanding or mutual aid agreements for that support.

4.1.3 All organizations supporting this annex in the county or the surrounding municipalities will coordinate their plans and operations with the Sheriff's Office Animal Control unit.

4.1.4 Any organization supporting this annex that requires additional resources or outside assistance is required to forward their request to the County EOC Support Group Chief located in the County EOC, when activated, for processing and prioritization.

4.1.5 Private boarding kennels and private animal medical facilities will be responsible for their own staffing. They will be compensated by the citizens who use their facilities based on established policies of the facility.

4.1.6 Pets with significant injuries or illnesses will be transported to an animal medical facility for treatment.

4.2 Specific Key Position Responsibilities

4.2.1 Primary Agency

4.2.1.1 Sheriff's Office Animal Control Unit

- Be the primary coordinating agency on this annex.
- Coordinate support agencies to manage animal protection and care prior to and during an emergency situation in the county.
- Provide for and coordinate personnel, equipment, and shelter, as required, to protect domestic animals.
- Coordinate the disposal of deceased (domesticated) pet animals that may impact the public health.
- Provide services to control injuries, bites, and diseases related to the protection of animals.
- Become familiar with the capabilities and resources of local and outside animal support personnel and agencies where possible, prearrange for support to the county in the event of an emergency situation.
- Develop and maintain an appropriate emergency notification system of animal control support personnel and agencies for that can support the county in the protection and care of animals during an emergency situation.
- Notify appropriate primary, support, and mutual aid agencies, when this annex is activated.

4.2.2 Support Agencies

4.2.2.1 OSU Extension Office

- Advise the Animal Control Unit on issues involving livestock and poultry during an emergency situation.

- Assist the county in the protection of livestock and poultry during an emergency situation.
- Assist in the disposal of dead livestock and poultry.

4.2.2.2 County Emergency Management Program Manager and Coordinator

- Activate the County Emergency Operations Center, when necessary.
- Provide for the overall direction and coordination of emergency situations impacting on the county.

4.2.2.3 County Public Information Officer

- In coordination with the Animal Control Unit develop a process to expeditiously deliver instructions to the general public on how to protect their pets and livestock during an impending emergency. (Refer to Appendix A, Coos County Disaster Planning Tips for Pets, Livestock, and Wild Animals.)
- Assist in notifying the public of available animal shelters and where they may seek further assistance for their pets and livestock.
- In coordination with the Animal Control unit develop pre-scripted press releases concerning animal care and shelter to be released prior to, during, and in the aftermath of an emergency situation.

4.2.2.4 Superintendents of Coos County Schools

- In coordination with the Animal Control unit consider designating a public school facility as a pet friendly shelter to be used during an emergency situation.

4.2.3 Outside Animal Support Agencies

4.2.3.1 American Humane Association

- Provides personnel and equipment, as required, to rescue and care for domestic and wild animals.

4.2.3.2 American Veterinary Medical Association

- Manages Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams and provides animal medical care assistance during an emergency situation.

4.2.3.3 Humane Society of the United States

- Provides personnel and equipment, as required, to rescue and care for domestic and wild animals.

4.2.3.4 International Fund for Animal Welfare

- Assists animals in crisis and distress.

4.2.3.5 Department of Agriculture

- Enforces state regulations concerning livestock health and the movements of animals affected by those regulations.

4.2.3.6 Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Division

- Provides veterinary, animal, and meat inspections in the state.

4.2.3.7 State Animal Response Team

- Provides specialized personnel and equipment to rescue and care for domestic and wild animals.

4.2.3.8 Veterinary Medical Association

- Provides personnel and equipment to aid in the medical treatment of animals.
- Activates the regional Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams when assistance is requested and warranted.

4.2.3.9 Wildlife Resource Commission

- Provides personnel and equipment, as required, to protect wildlife.

4.2.3.10 Private Boarding Kennels, Stables, Dog Clubs, and Horse Clubs

- Provides personnel, equipment, and shelter as required to protect and care for pets from evacuated citizens and in cases when established animal shelters are filled, or destroyed.

4.2.3.11 Progressive Animal Welfare Society

- Assists the Sheriff's Office Animal Control Unit in coordinating personnel, equipment, and shelter to care for animals in emergency situations, as required.

4.2.3.12 Free Flight

- Provide personnel and equipment, as required, to protect wildlife.

4.2.3.13 US Dept of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

- Provides assistance during major animal health events.
- Assists in the disposal of fowl and livestock.

5. Direction and Control

The Sheriff's Office Animal Control Unit in coordination with the Emergency Management Office has overall direction and control of Animal Protection and the procedures implemented in this annex when activated.

6. Continuity of Government**6.1 Line of Succession****6.1.1 County Sheriff's Office – Animal Control Unit****6.1.2 County Emergency Management Office****6.1.3 County Sheriff's Office****6.2 Line of Succession – Other Organizations Supporting this Annex**

Lines of succession for other organizations that support this annex are in accordance with the organization's established policy.

7. Administration and Logistics**7.1 Administration**

7.1.1 All organizations providing animal protection services during an emergency situation should maintain adequate and accurate records of domestic animals under their care so as to be able to return the animals to their owners after the emergency and provide the owners a record of any problems encountered with the animal.

7.1.2 Also, refer to the Basic Plan for other administration guides in this EOP.

7.2 Logistics

7.2.1 Animal evacuation shelters and medical facilities will separately arrange for sources of potable water, animal feeds, medical, cleaning, shelter supplies, and communications equipment.

7.2.2 Consideration should be given to pre-coordinating with animal feed mills and companies, veterinary medical suppliers, water suppliers, and cleaning products suppliers to prepare for possible shipment of supplies to an established delivery point in the county as soon as the shelters are activated, if required. The delivery point will serve as a storage center and a distribution center for the various shelters and hospitals. If the need arises, resource agencies (e.g. kennel clubs) may be requested to donate cages and other various shelter supplies.

7.2.3 Also, refer to the Basic Plan under Logistics section in the EOP.

8. Annex Development, Maintenance, Support, and Training

8.1 Development and Maintenance

8.1.1 The primary responsibility for coordinating the development and maintenance of this Support Annex rests with the Emergency Management office.

8.1.2 The support agencies to this annex will assist the EM office in developing and maintaining this annex.

8.1.3 A periodic review will be conducted of this annex for revalidation and necessary changes. Appropriate signatures and approval dates will identify revisions to this plan. The revision process will include incorporation of changes based upon periodic tests, drills, and exercises as appropriate.

8.2 Annex Support – Organization SOG/SOPs

All organizations that support this annex will develop and maintain their own organization's updated Standard Operating Guides (SOG)/Stand Operating Procedures (SOP), and mutual aid agreements, as appropriate, that are supportive of this annex. This information will be coordinated with and provided to the County Sheriff's Office – Animal Control Unit and the Emergency Management office as necessary.

8.3 Annex and SOG/SOP Training and Exercises

8.3.1 The County Sheriff's Office – Animal Control Unit and the Emergency Management office will train for and exercise this annex periodically, as necessary.

8.3.2 The County Sheriff's Office – Animal Control Unit and the Emergency Management office in coordination with other county emergency organizations will schedule and conduct required training activities to ensure understanding of this annex.

8.3.3 Training to and exercise of individual organization's SOG/SOPs that support this annex are the responsibility of each respective organization.

9. Authorities and References

Need assistance in obtaining the authorities and possible references for this annex.

10. Appendices

A. Coos County Disaster Planning Tips for Pets, Livestock, and Wild Animals

Appendix A. Coos County Disaster Planning Tips for Pets, Livestock, and Wild Animals

Domestic Pets

- If you evacuate your home, DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND. Pets most likely cannot survive on their own and if by chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return.
- For public health reasons, many citizen emergency evacuation shelters cannot accept pets.
- Arrange ahead of a major disaster or emergency, to shelter your pet at a local animal shelter or out of the area.
- Include local animal shelter's numbers in your list of emergency numbers; they will be able to provide information concerning pets during a disaster.
- Find out which motels and hotels in your area allow pets.
- Make sure identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site. Make sure you have a current photo of your pet for identification purposes.
- Make sure you have a secure pet carrier and leash or harness for your pet so that if the animal panics, it cannot escape.
- Take pet food, bottled water, medications, veterinary records, cat litter/pan, can opener, food dishes, first aid kit and other supplies with you in case they are not available later.
- Make sure you have a copy of your pet's medical records. If you are unable to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet. Most boarding kennels, veterinary shelters, and animal shelters require that your pet's vaccinations are current.
- If it is impossible to take your pet with you to temporary shelter, contact friends, family, veterinarians, or boarding kennels to arrange for care. Make sure medical and feeding information, food, medicine and other supplies accompany your pet to its foster home.

Livestock

- ❖ Evacuate livestock whenever possible. The evacuation sites should have or be able to readily obtain food, water, veterinary care, handling equipment and facilities.
- ❖ If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made whether to move large animals to available shelter or turn them outside. This decision should be determined based on the type of disaster and the soundness and location of the shelter.
- ❖ All animals should have some form of identification that will help facilitate their return.

Wild Animals

- ✚ Wild animals often seek higher ground, which, during floods, eventually become submerged (i.e. island), and the animals become stranded. If the island is large enough and provides suitable shelter, you can leave food appropriate to the species. Animals have a flight response and will flee from anyone approaching too closely. If the animal threatens to rush into the water, back away from the island.
- ✚ Wild animals often seek refuge from floodwater on upper levels of a home and may remain inside even after the water recedes. If you meet a rat or snake face to face, be careful but don't panic. Open a window or other escape route and the animal will probably leave on its own. Never attempt to capture a wild animal unless you have the training, protective clothing, restraint equipment, and caging necessary to perform the job.
- ✚ Beware of an increased number of snakes and other predators who will try to feed on the carcasses of reptiles, amphibians and small mammals that have been drowned or crushed in their burrows or under rocks.
- ✚ Often, during natural disasters, mosquitoes and dead animal carcasses may present disease problems. Outbreaks of anthrax, encephalitis and other diseases may occur.

Further Assistance

- If you see any injured or stranded animal in need of assistance during a major emergency situation, contact the Coos County Emergency Management Office at _____ OR Coos County Dispatch at _____. If you have questions or concerns about animal protection or issues involving animals during non-emergencies or in the aftermath of a major disaster or emergency, contact the number listed above. You may also get a list of local animal shelters, motels, and hotels that accept pets from the Emergency Management Office.