

ANNEX S – ANIMALS
ESF #11

I. MNWALK REQUIREMENTS

Item #: 1, 4, 71, 72, 73

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to outline the concept of operations for coordinating the effective use of public and private partnerships for the care and proper disposition of companion animals, livestock and wildlife following a natural or technological disaster. This includes coordinating with governmental authorities in matters of animal rescue, evacuation, sheltering, use of equipment, provision of transportation and security, destroying sick or diseased animals, as well as facilitating a system for companion animal/owner reunification.

III. SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Situations

A. In the event of a major disaster in our area, it is likely that the number of companion animals coming to Tri-County Humane Society (and other facilities) will increase. That increase may come from:

1. Abandoned animals – owner fleeing without their pets
2. Lost animals – displaced by storms, fires, etc.
3. Rescued animals – whose owners are unable to take them in after rescue
4. Short term displacement care-for animals requiring only short term care due to the event
5. Permanent surrenders – for animals who have permanently lost their home due to surrender or lack of owner response (i.e. death with no next of kin contact info)
6. Emergency sheltering related to other animal care site evacuations and/or overflow of shelter care facilities

B. In a major disaster, livestock and wildlife are likely to be injured or dead, or need special attention. These conditions may exist because of:

1. Natural Disasters
2. Power failures impacting confined animals such as poultry, swine and milking operations at dairy or goat farms
3. Several highly contagious diseases may attack livestock or wildlife
4. An accidental release of radiation or a hazardous material/chemical incident

Assumptions

- A. Disasters have reflected the human-animal bond that affects large segments of the human populations and their behaviors in disasters.
 - 1. People with companion animals frequently will choose not to evacuate rather than leave animals behind
 - 2. People will try to re-enter an area to retrieve animals left behind, putting themselves as well as emergency personnel at risk
 - 3. People will live in their cars or stay on the streets rather than abandon animals. Many emergency shelters do not allow animals.
 - 4. The majority of pet owners will evacuate with some supplies for their pets
 - 5. Animal Population Estimates – U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook

Companion Animals: Number of households X .589 = # of households with pets

Dogs: Number of households X .534 = # of households with dogs

Cats: Number of households X .598 = # of households with cats

Birds: Number of households X .126 = # of households with birds

- 6. The American Veterinary Medical Association estimates the number of households and pets for a population of 145,000 to be:

Types of Animal	# of Households	Pet Population
Dogs	22,146	38,802
Cats	19,523	42,963
Birds	2,350	5,950
Horses	1,085	3,796

Therefore, it is essential that Stearns County/City of St. Cloud and Tri-County Humane Society, as lead agency for companion animal care, develop policies and procedures for responding to and managing small and mid-sized events that could become disasters.

- B. According to the United States Department of Agriculture during the 2007 Census of Agriculture, Stearns County had 3,368 farms, with an average size of 210 acres.

Stearns County Environmental Services reports the following registrations for livestock in 2011:

Cattle – Dairy	168,172
Cattle – Beef	87,912
Swine	116,529
Horse	3,030
Sheep	6,355
Chicken	4,703,826
Turkey	2,701,808
Other	164,662

* Other includes buffalo, goats, mink, other poultry and animals not listed above
When livestock is impacted as a result of a disaster, there may be a massive response from multiple levels of government that require close coordination. Some assumptions are:

1. Livestock will need to be sheltered and fed in place during a release of radiological materials
2. Livestock will need to be quarantined during a release of radiological materials or a highly contagious disease outbreak
3. In the event of an evacuation, livestock may temporarily be sheltered at the Stearns County Fairgrounds, or possibly at abandoned feedlots
4. The State of Minnesota will provide identification of highly contagious diseases
5. Bio-security will need to be established to prevent the movement of animals and cross-contamination from personnel and equipment
6. Depopulation of livestock and wildlife may need to occur in order to eliminate the diseased or injured animals
7. The Department of Natural Resources in collaboration with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Department of Agriculture, and the Board of Animal Health will determine the best manner of depopulating and disposing of livestock and wildlife potential methods for disposal may include: composting, air curtain incineration, controlled open burning, rendering, on-site burial and permitted lined landfill
8. Destroying and disposing of animals requires proper disposal methods to avoid soil and water contamination. Stearns County has a high water table that may hinder burial of animals.
9. Loss of domestic animals may have major financial impacts on Stearns County/City of St. Cloud producers

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The Emergency Operations Plan has been designed based on the NIMS model utilizing the Incident Command System. The Command Staff includes a Legal Advisor, Public Information Officer, Liaison, and Safety Officer. The General Staff includes the Operations Section Chief, Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief and Finance and Administration Section Chief. The Command and General Staff all report to the Emergency Operations Center Director. The Emergency Operations Center Director is the Stearns County/City of St. Cloud Emergency Management Director. In the event where the primary impacts are health related, a unified command structure will be utilized in collaboration with Stearns County Public Health. In addition to these staff positions there are Branch Directors and Unit Leaders that represent the 21 annexes of this emergency operations plan. Branch Directors and Unit Leaders report to Section Chiefs, as outlined in the flow chart in the Basic Plan.

A. General

The sheltering of companion animals and livestock is the responsibility of their owners. Animals that are lost, abandoned, permanently surrendered or are a danger to the public will be the responsibility of the local animal control authority.

Animal operations will be coordinated by the Tri-County Humane Society and Stearns County Environmental Services, in cooperation with the City of St. Cloud Health Department and other private resources from the area. During large scale emergency situations, requests for animal protection assistance and resources such as food, shelter, rescue, veterinary care, etc. will be managed at the Stearns County/City of St. Cloud Emergency Operations Center.

Public health concerns will take precedence over all other animal care operations and will be coordinated by the local health authority.

Wild animals should be left alone unless they are creating a public safety issue. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be contacted for animal protection requirements involving wild animals. References to licensed wildlife rehabilitators will be made for hurt/sick animals.

B. Sheltering

Congregate Care shelters that have been established for people may not be equipped to support the requirements of sheltering animals. The Tri-County Humane Society and Stearns County Environmental Services will provide an assessment of community need to best determine an appropriate course of action. The following guidance will be used to determine the requirements for providing animal protection in the community:

Companion Animals

Level one:

Coordinate with local animal shelter service providers to place animals in kennels and boarding facilities while owners are displaced from their homes.

Level two:

Collaborate with animal shelter service providers in surrounding communities to accept companion animals for boarding while owners are displaced from their homes.

Level three:

Establish animal shelters to house and provide care for companion animals while homeowners are displaced from their homes. The Minnesota Animal Disaster Coalition can assist with this process and can be contact through MNVOAD and the MN Duty Officer.

Livestock

Level one:

The first option for livestock requiring shelter would be to re-locate animals on the same property/farm.

Level two:

An alternative to moving animals from one location on the farm to another might be to coordinate with a neighboring farm to shelter displaced animals .

Level three:

The third option would be to establish a shelter for livestock who must be moved from the property/farm and have no other means for care. A memorandum of understanding with the Stearns County Fairgrounds is in place with Stearns County Emergency Management. Other potential options temporary housing/shelter sites may include abandoned feedlots (sales barns might be an option) (this information would be available through Stearns County Environmental Services).

C. Transportation

Overall responsibility for transporting animals is that of the owner for all companion animals and livestock. Stearns County/City of St. Cloud may assist in coordination of transportation resources for companion animal and livestock owners, but does not assume responsibility for transporting animals from one location to another. For disposal of dead animals that were contaminated, sick or diseased Stearns County/City of St. Cloud will coordinate with the Board of Animal Health for any environmental health and public health concerns relating the transport and disposal of the dead animals. Additional information about transportation plans and resources are outlined in Annex M of the Emergency Operations Plan.

D. Veterinary Care

Veterinary care may be required for animals that are in a shelter setting. Veterinarians would be consulted for physical checks on sheltered animals, examining and treating injured animals, sick animals, and to vaccinate and provide medications. This care would be coordinated by Stearns County/City of St. Cloud when shelters are established to meet the needs of the community regarding companion animals and livestock.

E. Rescue

Animal control and rescue is the responsibility of each political jurisdiction. All companion animals that are located or rescued following a large scale emergency should be reported to the Tri-County Humane Society, as they are the lead for coordinating companion animal care in Stearns County/City of St. Cloud. Protocols established for animal control and lost animal disposition within each jurisdiction should still be utilized.

V. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

1. Our emergency organization is described in Section IV of the Basic Plan.
2. Incident Command System – Emergency Operations Center – Interface
 - a. The Incident Command is in charge of all on-scene operations. This coordination takes place at an Incident Command Post. On-scene logistics personnel will order supplies, resources and personnel to manage the scene in accordance with Incident Action Plan.
 - b. Not all emergencies require on-scene operations or the establishment of an Incident Command Post. For those emergencies that may be over a wide area (flooding, ice storm, winter storm) or are health based, the Command Post and Emergency Operations Center may be co-located.
 - c. A division of responsibility should be agreed upon between the Incident Commander and the EOC. The Incident Commander will manage operations on-scene, while the EOC coordinates operations beyond the incident site, taking into consideration the community at large, while supporting the Incident Action Plan developed by Incident Command.

B. Lines of Succession

1. Lines of succession for the Mayor, County Board Chair and Emergency Management Director are outlined in the Basic Plan.
2. Lines of succession for each department and agency director shall be done in accordance with operating guidelines and delegations of authority within each department.

C. Responsibilities

Stearns County Emergency Management Director

The Stearns County Emergency Management Director (or designee) is responsible for carrying out the emergency management program for Stearns County/City of St. Cloud. The Emergency Management Director (or designee) will activate the Emergency Operations Center as required or requested to coordinate/support the activities of all departments/organizations assisting with response and recovery efforts. The Emergency Management Director (or designee) will establish response and recovery priorities through the Emergency Operations Center and will coordinate the resources needed to support emergency operations.

Animal Unit Leader

The Animal Unit Leader (Tri-County Humane Society Director and/or Stearns County Environmental Services) is responsible for the overall coordination of services regarding animal rescue, evacuation, sheltering, use of equipment, provisions for transportation and security, destroying of sick and diseased animals, as well as facilitating a system for companion animal/owner reunification. The Animal Unit Leader is responsible for coordinating efforts that apply to companion animals, livestock, poultry, and wildlife. The Unit Leader will work with support agencies and animal organizations to coordinate response efforts as well as donations of animal supplies and equipment, in cooperation with the Donations Management Unit Leader. Other coordination will be required surrounding the transportation and disposal of carcasses and the coordination of quarantines for diseased poultry and livestock.

Local Animal Authority

The local animal authority will assist with rescue operations within the impacted jurisdiction. This coordination will include development and deployment of animal rescue teams as well as arranging for transportation of rescued animals to shelter areas. The local animal authority will assist the Tri-County Humane Society with the sheltering and care of displaced, rescued, or sheltered animals. Prior to a disaster the local animal authority will work with the Tri-County Humane Society to develop a training program and protocol for animal rescue teams.

Tri-County Humane Society

The Tri-County Humane Society will develop and maintain a current list of animal care facilities, food supplies, cage supplies, and hotels/motels willing to accept pets. They will also develop a list of volunteers willing to assist in setting up and maintaining an emergency animal shelter and identify those people, who are willing to accept animals into their homes for the duration of the disaster, and/or transport them to temporary shelters.

Stearns County Environmental Services

Stearns County Environmental Services will assist with services for animals, especially livestock, when preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters. Some of these services include providing preparedness education and training to producers, maintaining current databases of information such as agricultural property owners, feedlot operators, farms, and agricultural businesses. Some of the responsibilities may include locating emergency shelters, arranging for food and other emergency supplies, coordinating transportation resources for dead animals, both from natural causes as well as disease, and coordinating with large agricultural businesses such as Goldn' Plump and Jenny-O that may have been impacted by the incident.

Minnesota Animal Disaster Coalition

The Minnesota Animal Disaster Coalition provides assistance in preparedness activities including animal guideline development, exercises, and improvement efforts, at the local and state levels. They also can assist with efforts to identify facilities, locate resources, and recruit personnel that may be able to provide assistance working with animals during a disaster. The Minnesota Animal Disaster Coalition will also participate in training and exercises that build capacity to respond to animal-related emergencies. Some of the emergency response functions provided by the Minnesota Animal Disaster Coalition include gathering information on the status of animals during a disaster, assisting with screening, decontamination, sheltering and care of animals impacted by the disaster. The Coalition will also advise and assist the State Animal Coordinator, as required, in the development of strategies to deal with issues that arise during disaster situation that involve animals.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross will utilize a resource list for animal welfare, boarding sites, and/or local veterinarians to provide information or referrals to pet owners who contact the Red Cross for assistance. Shelter residents/disaster victims, who may need temporary care for their pets while staying at shelters, will have referral information provided to them. The Red Cross shelter information/intake desk will provide pet sheltering information and assistance with making food available to animal shelter workers through on-going mass feeding efforts that are supporting human shelters. They will coordinate with the Tri-County Humane Society, animal control and the EOC in disseminating information to the media regarding the availability and location of emergency animal sheltering. The Red Cross will offer pet first aid courses to the community to support preparedness of pet owners to care for their animals in emergencies and to augment training of potential volunteers.

VI. ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

A. Records

Records will be maintained on the use of all equipment, whether owned, leased, rented or borrowed. These records/contracts will be used as basis for possible recovery of emergency operations expenses from a responsible party or for potential reimbursement from State or Federal Government. All records/contracts generated by the Animals Unit Leader should be provided to the Finance and Administration Section Chief for cost recovery and reimbursement documentation.

Each department, agency or service of government will provide for the maintenance of records during an emergency. These records include work hours, equipment hours, supplies and materials consumed, injuries to personnel, and damage to public facilities and equipment. All records generated during an emergency will be collected and maintained in an orderly manner so a record of actions taken is preserved for use in determining response costs, settling claims and updating emergency plans and procedures.

B. Resources

Local resources can be found on file in the resource database. Resources will retain confidentiality within the Emergency Management Department and sensitive information will not be released without prior approval.

C. Post Incident Review

Following activations of the Emergency Operations Center or use of the Emergency Operations Plan, Emergency Management will coordinate a review of each annex of the Emergency Operations Plan to identify needed improvements, procedure changes, personnel and facility changes or resource needs.

D. Training and Exercises

1. Personnel identified in the Emergency Operations Plan and those who staff the Emergency Operations Center will receive National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) training. Although some personnel may receive more advanced training, everyone will receive IS-100, IS-200, and IS-700. A full list of personnel and required training can be found on file in the Emergency Management office. Personnel who staff the Emergency Operations Center shall also receive appropriate training on their role in the Emergency Operations Center and on the operations of the facility. This training should be arranged by the Tri-County Humane Society, City of St. Cloud Health Department, Stearns County Environmental Services or the Emergency Management Department.
2. Emergency Management follows the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) exercise requirements to exercise and evaluate the Emergency Operations Plan. Once every three years a functional exercise including all components of the Emergency Operations Plan is conducted. In the remaining two years of the cycle tabletop exercises and community wide exercises will include additional opportunities to exercise components of the Emergency Operations Plan. A more detailed explanation of the County/City exercise plan can be found as Attachment 2 of the Basic Plan.

VII. ANNEX DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The Stearns County/City of St. Cloud Emergency Operations Plan, including Basic Plan and Annexes, is updated on an annual basis. Each annex representative is responsible for participating in the full review process every other year and for independently reviewing the annex on an annual basis. The

overall responsibility for maintaining the Emergency Operations Plan is that of the Stearns County Emergency Management department.

Any standard operating guidelines, personnel directories, maps or other tools needed to support emergency operations should be developed and maintained by the responsible department. It is the department's responsibility to ensure access to this information during times of large scale emergency or disaster, to coordinate training for personnel in regard to these procedures and to inform Emergency Management of any changes that directly impact the Emergency Operations Plan.

VIII. REFERENCES

- [MN Board of Animal Health – Highly Infectious Disease Plan](#)
- [Minnesota Pollution Control](#)
- [Minnesota Department of Agriculture](#)
- Tri-County Humane Society Internal Disaster Plan
- Jennie-O and Goldn' Plump have Emergency Operations Plans
- Livestock organizations in Minnesota can be found on file with Environmental Services and in the Emergency Operations Center
- City of St. Cloud dog license database
- Agreement with Stearns County Fair Board on file in Emergency Management Office

IX. AUTHENTICATION



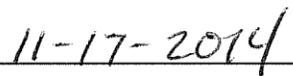
Vicki Davis, Executive Director
Tri-County Humane Society



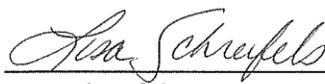
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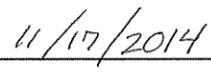
Chelle Benson, Director
Stearns County Environmental Services



Date



Lisa Schreifels, Director
City of St. Cloud Health Department



Date