

# Massachusetts Emergency Support Function-11

## ***AGRICULTURE, ANIMALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES***

### **Responsible Agencies**

#### **State Agencies**

##### *Primary State Agency*

Department of Agricultural Resources

##### *Supporting State Agencies*

Department of Public Health

Department of Fish and Game

- Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Massachusetts Environmental Police

Department of Environmental Protection

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Massachusetts Gaming Commission

#### **Supporting Federal Agencies**

United States Department of Agriculture/ Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Animal Care

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Veterinary Services

Wildlife Services

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

United States Department of Health and Human Services, National Veterinary Response Team

## **Supporting Organizations**

International Fund for Animal Welfare

Animal Rescue League of Boston

Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation

Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association

National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition

Zoo New England

New England Aquarium

Farm Service Agency

UMass Extension

# 1.0. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Purpose

The Massachusetts Emergency Support Function 11 (MAESF-11) *Agriculture, Animals and Natural Resources* provides a framework for coordination and cooperation across state agencies and other organizations regarding the control and support of animal sheltering, search, rescue, recovery, and reunification needs and activities before, during, and after a disaster, or emergency.

In addition, this Annex provides guidance to address issues concerning agriculture and natural resources to include: the impacts of livestock, crops, plant disease, pest control, foreign animal disease or animal disease and other related incidents affecting the health, safety, and welfare of humans and animals before, during and after a disaster or emergency.

## 1.2. Scope

This annex is applicable to agencies and departments in the Commonwealth, as well as Federal agencies and supporting organizations that may have a role in supporting animal or agriculture related disaster activities.

The objectives of MAESF-11 are to coordinate resources to:

- Address human health risks associated with animals.
- Assist in capture/rescue of animals that have escaped confinement or have been displaced from their natural habitat.
- Provide emergency care to animals injured during an emergency.
- Assist with the evacuation of people with household pets and/or service animals without means of evacuation transportation.
- Remove and properly dispose of animal carcasses.
- Assist with long-term maintenance, placement or disposition of animals that cannot be returned to their normal habitat or have been separated from their owners.
- Coordinate assistance for livestock/farm animals.
- Issue and enforce animal quarantines based on disease outbreaks.
- Assess and respond to emergency issues relating to crops.
- Minimize public health and economic impacts to the food chain and crops.
- Conduct surveillance and response of plant pest infestation and plant disease incidents.
- Diagnose, control, and eradicate zoonotic disease to prevent transmission and minimize the threat to human and animal health.
- Assist in clean-up of agricultural waste related to the disaster.

### **1.3. Policies**

- MAESF-11 is an annex of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).
- As an incident requires, or at the direction of the MEMA Director, MAESF-11 will be activated to coordinate resources to support animal and agriculture response.
- MAESF-11 will operate from the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). MEMA and the SEOC provide overall direction and control for the incident as it develops.
- MAESF-11 will coordinate assistance to cities and towns including personnel, equipment, facilities, materials, supplies, and/or technical support/subject matter expertise.
- MAESF-11 will serve as the lead for animal sheltering and coordination.
- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) coordinates with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) to develop and maintain this annex.
- All local and state laws pertaining to animal licensing, prevention of rabies and disease, vaccination, sheltering, and mass care services apply to this annex.
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) is responsible for responding to and preventing communicable disease in humans (including those that are zoonotic) at the state level and coordinates with local public health authorities across municipalities as needed. DAR is responsible for handling infectious animal and plant diseases. DAR will work with local officials and responders to make necessary rules for suppression and prevention of infectious and contagious diseases among animals and to mitigate the spread of plant diseases in the Commonwealth through their existing rules and authorities.

## **2.0 SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

### **2.1. Situation**

Agriculture remains a major contributor to the economy of Massachusetts. A major loss or threat of a loss affecting agriculture could result in significant economic losses if not rapidly and effectively addressed. A large-scale emergency could pose a threat to crops, agricultural waste/discharge, pesticides, animal feeds, zoonotic disease, and other related issues.

In the event of a significant emergency or disaster local government resources may be quickly overwhelmed and unable to provide assistance for residents and their pets, and farms and their livestock and crops. An emergency/disaster of large magnitude could result in injured, displaced and/or deceased animals, and require support for the evacuation, care and shelter of animals. Farmers may need to evacuate their farms leaving large animals or livestock temporarily separated and without necessary continuous care.

Certain incidents, such as hazardous materials releases, may have direct impacts on agricultural resources, and actions may need to be taken for the mitigation of impacts to or embargo of impacted crops and/or livestock/livestock products. In addition, an exotic or emerging disease found in Massachusetts livestock (cattle, horses, poultry, swine, sheep, goats, and deer) will have significant national and international trade implications causing economic disruption.

## **2.2. Planning Assumptions**

- Local governments have emergency management resources, plans, and procedures to support animal and agricultural response.
- Local government emergency plans of operation shall include strategies to support the needs of people with household pets and the needs of household pets under their care, including service animals.
- When an incident occurs, local governments will use all available resources, including those available through mutual aid or private sector assets, before making a request for state or federal resources.
- The sheltering and protection of animals is the primary responsibility of animal owners. Animal owners will take reasonable steps to provide for their animals during an emergency.
- The owners of service animals will take reasonable steps to shelter and provide for their service animals during an emergency.
- Agencies and organizations with roles and responsibilities under MAESF-11 will designate and deploy to the SEOC appropriate representatives as needed to coordinate the functions of MAESF-11.
- In addition, other agencies, departments and organizations may be called upon to assist in emergency operations in support of disaster response consistent with their roles and responsibilities related to animals.
- Coordination with local governments and other MAESFs may be required to successfully meet emergency needs.
- The state has resources and expertise that can be used to supplement local efforts. Federal assistance may be requested to support state and local efforts if an incident exceeds state and local capabilities.
- State, local and federal governments, private sector and volunteer agencies assigned responsibilities involving emergency/disaster animal issues will have established operating procedures specifying their emergency support service actions and will be able to communicate and coordinate these actions in an emergency to best utilize available capabilities.

- Individuals representing agencies that are staffing the State Emergency Operations Center should have extensive knowledge of the resources and capabilities of their respective agency and have access to the appropriate authority for committing such resources.
- Local communities should be as self-sufficient as possible during the initial 72 hours of an emergency. Depending upon the magnitude of the disaster, resources from national organizations, other states and the Federal government may not be readily available.
- Generally when an emergency/disaster is imminent or occurs in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is activated and MAESFs needed to support response are activated.
- Assistance provided to address animal and agriculture issues in an emergency/disaster is a coordinated effort of local, state, federal, private and volunteer organizations.

## **3.0. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

### **3.1. General**

This annex will be activated at the direction of MEMA when there is a potential or actual disaster situation involving animal or agriculture issues in Massachusetts. Depending upon the incident type and resource needs, MEMA will notify the primary agency at the time of SEOC activation to provide overall coordination of MAESF-11. All other agencies with responsibilities under MAESF-11 will serve as support agencies. The primary agency will provide direction to and work in conjunction with the support agencies to cohesively coordinate the activities of MAESF-11.

MAESF-11 reports to the SEOC Operations Section, with an indirect report to the Planning Section. Depending on the size, scope, and complexity of the incident, the SEOC organizational chart may be expanded, to ensure proper Span of Control is maintained. To accommodate this, the ESFs may be aligned in appropriate Branches, with similar MAESF's grouped together. In this scenario, MAESF-11 will be organized under the Health and Welfare Branch, together with MAESF's 6, 7, and 8.

### **3.2. Organization**

- All personnel and activities associated with MAESF-11 will operate under the Incident Command System.
- The Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) has been designated the primary agency for MAESF-11.
- Each agency shall designate a minimum of two persons who can serve as representatives for their agency at the SEOC to support MAESF-11 activities. The designated agency representatives should have the capability and authority to reach back to its own agency

to request resources and obtain necessary information to support the response to the incident.

### **3.3. Notification**

MEMA will notify the MAESF-11 points of contact for each activated organization or agency to report to the State Emergency Operations Center for coordination and implementation of animal and agriculture protection-related requests for assistance. Each MAESF-11 organization and agency is responsible for securing sufficient staff on a continuous basis to support and to carry out the activities tasked to their agency.

### **3.4. Activities**

Responsible agencies for MAESF-11 should conduct the following actions:

#### **a. Preparedness Actions**

- MEMA will convene regular meetings of MAESF-11 stakeholders and/or Emergency Support Function Team to review and update the MAESF-11 annex and standard operating procedures.
- Develop and maintain internal agency operational plans and procedures to support MAESF-11 activities.
- Maintain and update necessary and appropriate contacts with support agencies and those organizations.
- Designate staff that will support SEOC operations.
- Provide for surveillance of emergency issues related to crops, animal feeds, manure pits, fertilizers and pesticides.
- Provide for surveillance of plant pests of unknown or questionable origin, which may pose a potential or substantial threat to agriculture, economy or public health of the state.
- Provide for surveillance of foreign animal disease or an animal disease, syndrome, chemical, poison or toxin that may pose a substantial threat to the animal industries, economy, wildlife or public health of the state.
- Provide for surveillance of plant and animal disease and infestation that may pose a substantial threat to wildlife and other natural resources.
- Ensure that MAESF-11 stakeholders notify MEMA of staff changes.
- Participate in exercises and training in order to test, validate, and provide working experience for MAESF-11 liaisons on this annex and related procedures.

#### **b. Response Actions**

##### **Pre-Impact**

- Upon receiving notification to report to the SEOC in preparation of an incident, MAESF-11 agencies and organizations will complete actions commensurate with emergency priorities within the state and based on the availability of resources.
- MAESF-11 agencies will provide appropriate representative(s) to the SEOC to support MAESF-11, if needed.
- MAESF-11 agencies and organizations will maintain communications with the SEOC, obtain status reports, and keep the SEOC informed of progress of assigned tasks.
- MAESF-11 agencies and organizations will notify appropriate points of contact at each respective MAESF-11 agency and organization to pre-position resources and response personnel as needed.
- MAESF-11 agencies and organizations will review existing plans and procedures.
- MAESF-11 agencies and organizations will ensure respective MAESF-11 agency and organization decision makers are kept informed of the situation and provide ongoing updates to their respective agency/organization.
- MAESF-11 agencies and organizations will test communications and warning systems.
- MAESF-11 agencies and organizations will verify inventories of available resources and provide a summary listing to the SEOC Operations Section Chief.
- MAESF-11 agencies and organizations will anticipate shelter missions and coordinate with MAESF-6 *Mass Care, Emergency Housing, Human Services* to identify emergency animal shelter facilities and to ensure human sheltering and companion animal sheltering are in close proximity.
- MAESF-11 agencies and organizations will mobilize and pre-position resources when it is apparent that MAESF-11 agency or organization/state resources will be required.
- In the event of a disease outbreak, DAR will implement the Annex for Emerging Infectious and/or Contagious Diseases in Non-Human Populations.

### **Initial Response**

- Provide appropriate agency representative(s) to the SEOC to support MAESF-11, as necessary.
- Coordinate personnel and resources for field assessment and response/recovery teams as necessary.
- Gather and provide situational awareness.
- Establish communications with appropriate deployed agency field personnel to coordinate resources to support response efforts.
- Develop information for the SEOC Roster and Situational Awareness Statements and provide to Planning Section.
- Coordinate resources to support animal rescue, evacuation, sheltering, and reunification.
- Coordinate with MAESF-1 *Transportation* on transportation needs for animals.

- Coordinate with MAESF-6 *Mass Care, Emergency Housing, Human Services* on animal sheltering activities. If needed, provide emergency supplies that enable people with disabilities to care for their service animals.
- Coordinate with MAESF-5 *Business and Industry* and MAESF-7 *Volunteers and Donations* concerning protocols for goods donated for animal emergency response assistance.
- Coordinate resources to support response to livestock, large animals and equine-related impacts. Assist with identification and location of housing and other related services.
- Coordinate with SEOC Operations Section regarding staging areas for animal related supplies (i.e., food, medical, farm).
- If not yet completed, pre-position resources at the nearest staging area(s), as needed.
- Coordinate with the Logistics Section on the distribution of supplies to and from the staging areas.
- Coordinate with Federal Emergency Support Function 11 as needed.
- Prepare Resource Request Form (RRF) based on anticipated needs. Example RRF includes: Request technical assistance from USDA/Animal Care at Joint Base Cape Cod and other animal shelter locations as determined by MEMA and MAESF-11.
- Coordinate resources to support the response to animal and plant issues which impact public or animal health (disease outbreak, bioterrorism, waste and carcass disposal).
- As needed, coordinate the implementation of the Emerging Infectious and/or Contagious Diseases in Non-Human Populations Annex.
- As needed, support the activities of field personnel responding to a disease outbreak as follows:
  - Develop task force(s) to evaluate and appraise suspected infected and exposed livestock and provide recommendations (i.e., destroy, disposal). Coordinate deployment of the task force(s) with the Operations Section Chief.
  - Coordinate resources for possible quarantine and/or control of movement of impacted animals in and around infected areas.
  - Coordinate resources to support restricting the movement of animals of susceptible species and vehicles known to transport such animals into the Commonwealth.
  - Coordinate resources to support the tracing of the origin of the disease outbreak and monitor and control its potential spread.
  - Coordinate resources to conduct an evaluation of suspected infected non-domesticated populations (wildlife, non-domesticated captive).
  - Coordinate resources to conduct the cleaning and disinfecting of suspected infected facilities and animal transport vehicles.

- Coordinate with MAESF-15 *Public Information and External Affairs* to provide information to the public, industry, and local government on impacts to animal and public health, movement controls and eradication.
- Ensure appropriate staffing levels at the SEOC for MAESF-11 to support the mission for each shift.
- Implement cost accounting measures for tracking deployed personnel, equipment, materials, and other costs incurred by supporting MAESF-11 response actions during the incident.

### **Continuing Response**

- Coordinate with other MAESFs represented at the SEOC to provide support to address nuisance and public health concerns (rabies and/or zoonotic animal related diseases) involving wildlife that may be deceased, or escaped confinement or displaced from their natural habitat.
- Coordinate with other MAESFs that may have authorities, resources, capabilities, or expertise necessary to support MAESF-11 missions.
- Continue to gather and provide situational awareness.
- Provide information to the Planning Section as needed to update Situational Awareness Statements and EOC Rosters.
- As necessary, coordinate resources to support the following response activities:
  - Capturing of injured and displaced animals.
  - Sheltering of, provision of medical care for, relocation, and reunification of animals with their owners.
  - Acquisition of additional food and supplies to support the relief efforts.
  - Identification and location of housing and other related services for displaced livestock.
  - Tracing the origin of disease outbreak and monitor and control its potential spread.
  - Evaluating and diagnosing animals suspected of having infectious or contagious disease.
  - Issuing and enforcing animal disease quarantines.
  - Timely and proper carcass disposal.
  - Assessing and responding to emergency issues relating to crops and plant pest infestation.
  - Minimizing public health and economic impacts of food and agriculture-related incidents.
  - Coordinating surveillance and eradication of plant pests which may pose a potential threat to agriculture.
  - Clean-up of large agricultural wastes.

- Ensure appropriate staffing levels at the SEOC for MAESF-11 as determined by the SEOC Planning Section Chief and SEOC Operations Section Chief.
- Ensure staff briefings are conducted during shift changes and at designated times throughout the event.
- Continue to coordinate with MAESF-1 *Transportation* on any transportation needs for animals.
- Continue to coordinate with MAESF-6 *Mass Care, Emergency Housing, Human Services* on animal sheltering activities.

### **c. Recovery Actions**

- Coordinate recovery actions with MAESF-14 *Recovery*.
- Coordinate resources to support the consolidation or closing of animal shelters or confinement areas.
- Coordinate resources to support long-term maintenance, placement or disposition of animals that cannot be returned to their normal habitat or those that have been separated from their owners.
- Coordinate with support agencies to ensure financial tracking of all deployed assets and adequate cost accounting measures are being used. Generate summary reports and share with the SEOC.
- Participate in after action meetings and review after action reports as appropriate.

### **d. Mitigation Actions**

- Conduct assessments of MAESF-11 capabilities to identify potential shortfalls.
- Develop plans to mitigate identified shortfalls of resources.

## **4.0. RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **4.1. MAESF-11 Primary Agency Responsibilities**

- Regularly meet and coordinate with MAESF-11 supporting agencies, to:
  - Maintain a list of critical contacts, noting any changes to MEMA
  - Maintain a list of ESF-specific assets which could be deployed during an emergency
  - Maintain the ESF-11 Toolkit
  - Report any unmet needs to MEMA
- Staff the MAESF-11 work station at the SEOC.

- Identify support agencies that may be needed to support mission requests and take the necessary steps to ensure that support agencies are activated or placed on standby, as needed.
- Ensure agencies assigned to MAESF-11, in coordination with MEMA, are responding to assigned requests for assistance.
- Assist the SEOC Operations Section in identifying, prioritizing and coordinating resource needs related to animal and agriculture protection.
- Coordinate actions with appropriate partner organizations when performing animal related missions.
- Serve as a liaison between the SEOC and support agencies that have been activated to support animal and agricultural missions.
- Ensure the overall coordination and provision of situational awareness by MAESF-11.
- Provide documentation, tracking and updates on requests for assistance.
- Coordinate with other MAESFs on resource needs and to obtain information regarding organizations that may be able to supplement local and state resources for animal and agricultural protection.
- Ensure that necessary cost accounting measures are being used by all MAESF-11 agencies and that summary reports are generated as needed and shared with Finance Section Chief.
- Coordinate with other volunteer groups, and organizations that may be able to supplement local and state animal and agriculture response resources.
- Coordinate demobilization of MAESF-11 when directed by MEMA.
- Coordinate with MAESF-11 support agencies to identify resources to assist in the impact assessment process as needed or required.
- While Primary Agencies are designated in advance, this may be subject to change during an SEOC Activation, dependent on the specific circumstances and needs of the incident, and therefore the agency most appropriate to take the primary assignment.

#### **a. Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources**

- Serve as the lead agency for animal sheltering and coordination.
- Assess stability of impacted area and determine animal related response needs.
- Coordinate veterinary resources to monitor the health of rescued animals, those in emergency shelters and livestock.
- Coordinate information on facilities that could serve as emergency animal shelters for all species.
- Provide information on status of agricultural crops both for humans and animals, producers and resources.

- DAR, along with USDA/APHIS will minimize the impacts of pests and diseases entering the state via imported produce and plants.
- Coordinate resources to enforce state animal control statutes.
- Coordinate resources to support diagnostic laboratory support.
- Communicate and coordinate with counterparts in other states.
- Coordinate with USDA/APHIS to support disease control efforts.
- Provide technical assistance along with USDA/Farm Service Agency and UMass Extension to help define the limits of agricultural areas that have been impacted by infectious and/or contagious disease for both human food and animal crops.
- Coordinate and provide information on decisions to be made about quarantining impacted human food and animal crops.
- Coordinate with USDA/FSA and MA Farm Bureau and provide information for Massachusetts farmers whose crops and/or livestock may be impacted by the emergency.
- Coordinate the mission of veterinary teams that have been deployed.
- Distribute scientific, procedural and diagnostic information on animal disease and/or disaster impacts to animals to veterinarians practicing in Massachusetts.
- Coordinate with MAESF-8 *Public Health and Medical Services* to determine needs to shelter impacted or potentially impacted animals and/or place them on stored feed and water.
- Coordinate resources to evaluate and diagnose animals suspected of having infectious or contagious disease; impose quarantines and movement restrictions as necessary to prevent spread of disease and ensure eradication of disease.
- Coordinate resources to assist with vector control when vectors are involved in a disease outbreak.
- Coordinate the appraisal and compensation of diseased or susceptible animals and/or property prior to destruction.
- Identify and document information on dead animals and support the removal and proper disposal of carcasses.
- Prepare official notices to the farming community relative to disease outbreak and efforts to control it.
- Coordinate development of public information statements with MDPH and the MEMA Public Information Officer.

## **4.2. MAESF-11 Supporting Agency Responsibilities**

All agencies who have not been designated as the primary agency at the time MAESF-11 is activated will assume a support agency role. The depth and breadth of the support agency

responsibilities will be dependent upon the nature of the emergency, but a full range of responsibilities for each responsible/support agency is detailed below.

### **a. Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

- Confirm information that determines if an animal-related disease is or could become zoonotic.
- Identify human health risks associated with animal and zoonotic diseases.
- Coordinate with DAR to evaluate the risks and impacts of an animal or zoonotic disease on public health.
- For zoonotic disease, assess stability of impacted area and determine prevention-related animal response needs.
- Coordinate information on preventative measures.
- Assist local medical facilities in gaining access to not readily available medications for treating and/or preventing zoonotic disease, if necessary.
- Provide advice regarding health effects of the disease outbreak and its management and prevention to the public and health care providers.
- Provide technical assistance to Department of Environmental Protection in identifying animal carcass disposal sites within local jurisdictions.
- Provide technical assistance on eradication operations to ensure that the health and safety of workers is being protected.
- Provide technical assistance regarding the removal and proper disposal of animal carcasses classified as contaminated animal waste according to 105 CMR 480.010.
- Collaborate with DAR and the MEMA Public Information Officer regarding the development and release of information to the general public on impacts of the ongoing emergency to public health and recommended preventative measures the public should take.
- Communicate and coordinate with counterparts in other states.

### **b. Department of Fish and Game/Division of Fisheries and Wildlife**

- Coordinate resources to assist in the capture of animals that have escaped confinement or have been displaced from their natural habitat as a result of an emergency.
- Coordinate resources to provide for the capture, management and care of wild animals, including protected and endangered species that may have become displaced as a result of an emergency. Coordinate resources to return captured wild animals to their natural environment.
- Coordinate resources to enforce state wildlife laws, Massachusetts General Law Chapters 131 and 131A, as amended.

- Coordinate resources to assist in the diagnosis of animal disease.
- Facilitate the establishment of prohibitions on game, bird, and fish products in controlled areas.
- Coordinate resources to support the surveillance on susceptible wild animal species as required.
- Coordinate with agencies and organizations that may be involved when wildlife disease eradication activities are required during in an outbreak.

**c. Massachusetts Environmental Police**

- Coordinate resources to provide a statewide uniformed, fully armed law enforcement presence when dealing with disaster.
- Coordinate resources to provide security, law enforcement, and traffic control as required.
- Coordinate resources to assist in the capture of animals that have escaped confinement or have been displaced from their natural habitat as a result of an emergency.

- Coordinate resources to provide for the capture, management and care of wild animals, including protected and endangered species that may have become displaced as a result of an emergency. Coordinate resources to return captured wild animals to their natural environment.
- Coordinate resources to enforce Massachusetts General Law Chapter 21A (entering on and passing through private property, keeping or disposing of sick, dead, injured or helpless wildlife).
- Coordinate resources to enforce state wildlife laws, Massachusetts General Law Chapters 131 and 131A, as amended.
- Coordinate resources to assist in animal health movement control.
- Coordinate resources to conduct security patrols of forestry areas.
- Coordinate resources to provide support in reducing infected and exposed wildlife populations, as required.
- Identify locations of cleaning and disinfecting stations.
- Coordinate resources to enforce prohibitions on game, bird, and fish products in controlled areas.
- Coordinate resources to support eradication activities under the supervision of the DAR and/or USDA/APHIS.
- Communicate and coordinate with other environmental law enforcement agencies in the northeastern United States.

#### **d. Department of Environmental Protection**

- Coordinate resources to assess stability of impacted area and determine animal related response needs.
- Provide technical advice on identification of and closure of cleaning and disinfecting stations.
- Provide technical assistance on the environmental impacts of animal carcass disposal options.
- Provide technical assistance to disposal teams regarding environmental protection precautions and environmental regulations.
- Identify requirements for and assist in gaining approval for regulated disposal and treatment activities.
- Coordinate resources to support the removal and proper disposal of animal carcasses.
- Coordinate resources to document information on all deceased animals for later identification.

- Assist monitoring environmental impacts of outbreak activities during and following the recovery phase.
- Coordinate with DAR, MDPH and the MEMA Public Information Officer to develop and release information to general public regarding quarantine areas, rabies alert, public service information, etc.

#### **e. Department of Conservation and Recreation**

- Assess stability of impacted area and determine animal-related response needs.
- Coordinate resources to provide temporary accommodations for field operation teams.
- Coordinate resources to assist in the patrolling of forests.

#### **f. Massachusetts Gaming Commission**

- Coordinate resources to provide emergency animal shelter facilities.
- Coordinate with local racetracks on the use of their resources.

#### **g. United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

- Provide technical assistance to MAESF-11 as requested.
- Coordinate resources to assist in the capture of animals that have escaped confinement or have been displaced from their natural habitat as a result of an emergency.
- Coordinate resources with DAR to direct eradication activities including evaluation, epidemiology, trace back, vector control, transportation permit systems, quarantine, depopulation, disposal, cleaning and disinfecting.
- Coordinate with DAR to facilitate the allocation of funding to compensate owners of destroyed animals.
- Coordinate development of public information statements with DAR, MDPH and the MEMA Public Information Officer.
- Provide DAR updated information on donated pet foods and supplies through Non-Governmental Organizations.

#### **h. United States Fish and Wildlife Service**

- Coordinate resources to support the transportation, rehabilitation and sheltering of injured and displaced wildlife.
- Coordinate resources to support the capturing and returning wildlife to original environment.
- Provide medical care to animals exposed to/contaminated by any material threat.

#### **i. United States Department of Health and Human Services, National Veterinary Response Team**

- Perform veterinary infrastructure assessment.
- Provide acute care and stabilization of ill and injured companion and service animals, horses and other large animals.
- Provide veterinary medical care to sheltered companion and service animals.
- Provide veterinary medical support to working animals (search & rescue, law enforcement agencies, including horses).
- Perform veterinary health screening of evacuated animals.
- Consult on issues of public health concern including zoonotic disease prevention and environmental assessment.
- Provide supplemental veterinary support for an emergency response to disasters that may affect exotic animals, wildlife and zoo animals.
- Provide veterinary medical care to laboratory animals in research facilities.
- Provide medical care to animals exposed to/contaminated by any material threat.

#### **j. International Fund for Animal Welfare**

- Coordinate resources to assist in the capture of animals that have escaped confinement or have been displaced from their natural habitat as a result of an emergency.
- Coordinate resources to support pre-and post-emergency/disaster shelters.
- Coordinate resources to set up shelters to house and care for rescued and displaced animals with their owners when possible.
- Coordinate resources to provide humane care and handling of animals by opening treatment/euthanasia assistance stations.
- Coordinate resources to provide emergency care to injured animals.
- Marine Mammal Rescue and Research Team will provide medical care to marine mammals.

## **k. Animal Rescue League of Boston**

- Coordinate resources to assist in the capture of animals that have escaped confinement or have been displaced from their natural habitat as a result of an emergency.
- Coordinate resources to facilitate the transportation of injured, stray, or nuisance animals to animal care facilities.
- Coordinate resources to support the impounding of animals that are free, unrestrained or not under control.
- Coordinate resources to provide emergency care to injured animals.
- Coordinate resources to support pre- and post-emergency/disaster animal shelters.
- Coordinate provision of emergency animal shelter staffing assistance.
- Coordinate resources to support treatment/euthanasia assistance stations.
- Coordinate resources to assist emergency response teams with animal related problems.
- Coordinate resources to enforce state animal control statues (Massachusetts General Law, Chapters 140 and Chapter 272, as amended).
- Coordinate resources to investigate animal bites.
- Coordinate resources to assist with quarantining animals for observation.
- Coordinate resources to investigate animal cruelty and neglect complaints.
- Provide technical assistance and guidance on euthanizing domestic animals to ensure that such practices are carried out humanely.
- Coordinate the provision of trained personnel and appropriate equipment to assist in the handling and disposal of animals involved in the disease outbreak.

## **l. Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**

- Coordinate resources to assist in the capture of animals that have escaped confinement or have been displaced from their natural habitat as a result of an emergency.
- Coordinate resources to facilitate the transportation of injured, stray, or nuisance animals to animal care facilities.
- Coordinate resources to support the impounding of animals that are free, unrestrained or not under control.
- Coordinate resources to provide emergency care to injured animals.
- Coordinate resources to support pre- and post-emergency/disaster animal shelters.
- Coordinate provision of emergency animal shelter staffing assistance.
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- Coordinate resources to enforce state animal control statues (Massachusetts General Law, Chapters 140 and Chapter 272, as amended).
- Coordinate resources to investigate animal cruelty and neglect complaints.
- Provide technical assistance and guidance on euthanizing domestic animals to ensure that such practices are carried out humanely.
- Coordinate the provision of trained personnel and appropriate equipment to assist in the handling and disposal of animals involved in the disease outbreak.

#### **m. Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts**

- Coordinate resources to assist in the capture of animals that have escaped confinement or have been displaced from their natural habitat as a result of an emergency.
- Coordinate resources to facilitate the transportation of injured, stray, or nuisance animals to animal care facilities.
- Coordinate resources to support the impounding of animals that are free, unrestrained or not under control.
- Coordinate resources to support pre- and post-emergency/disaster animal shelters.
- Coordinate provision of emergency animal shelter staffing assistance.
- Coordinate resources to assist emergency response teams with animal related problems.
- Coordinate resources to enforce state animal control statues (Massachusetts General Law, Chapters 140 and Chapter 272, as amended).
- Coordinate resources to investigate animal bites.
- Coordinate resources to identify properties where susceptible animals may be kept.
- Assist with identifying resources to assist with quarantining animals for observation.
- Coordinate resources to investigate animal cruelty and neglect complaints.
- Coordinate the provision of trained personnel and appropriate equipment to assist in the handling and disposal of animals involved in the disease outbreak.
- Coordinate resources to support treatment/euthanasia assistance stations.

#### **n. Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation**

- Provide assistance in defining, locating, contacting, and gaining access to properties with livestock in areas affected or potentially affected by a disease outbreak.
- Provide information as to the movement and sale of livestock.
- In coordination with DAR, develop and disseminate emergency information to agricultural entities.

### **o. Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association**

- Coordinate resources to provide emergency care to injured animals.
- Coordinate resources to establish triage units for the care of injured animals.
- Obtain emergency medical equipment, supplies and personnel for animals, as needed.
- Coordinate resources to administer rabies or other vaccinations and provide other medical support for animals in shelters.
- Coordinate resources to provide additional animal shelter support.
- Identify and coordinate resources to address human health risks associated with animal and/or zoonotic disease.
- Coordinate resources to provide humane care and handling of animals by opening emergency animal shelters as well as treatment/euthanasia assistance stations.
- In coordination with DAR, develop and provide technical information to veterinarians in Massachusetts concerning the nature of the infectious and/or contagious disease involved in a disease outbreak.
- Maintain and provide contact information on professionally active and retired veterinarians who may be enlisted in the effort to control the disease outbreak.

### **p. National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition**

Assist with the following activities when requested by either the MAESF-11 primary agency or MEMA:

- Coordinate resources to provide humane care and handling of animals by opening emergency animal shelters as well as treatment/euthanasia assistance stations.
- Coordinate the provision of trained volunteers, staff, vehicles, trailers, boats and rescue equipment to support requested missions.
- Coordinate the provision of small and large animal strike teams, as needed.
- Coordinate resources to support situational and rapid assessment.
- Coordinate resources to assist in the capture of animals that have escaped confinement or have been displaced from their natural habitat as a result of an emergency.
- Coordinate resources to provide emergency care to injured animals.

### **q. Zoo New England**

- When requested by either the MAESF-11 primary agency or MEMA, provide expertise and assistance in the capture, control and care of wild and exotic animals.

## **r. New England Aquarium**

- Provide expertise and assistance for mass stranding, rescue, care, capture and rehabilitation of aquatic animals.

## **4.3. Other Agencies**

Other agencies not explicitly covered in this annex may have authorities, resources, capabilities, or expertise required to support MAESF-11 activities. These agencies may be requested to support MAESF-11 activities as needed basis.

# **5.0. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

## **5.1. Staffing**

As required by Massachusetts Executive Order 144, all MAESF-11 responsible agencies and organizations must designate at least two personnel to act as SEOC liaisons. These liaisons should be knowledgeable about the resources and capabilities of their respective agencies and have access to the appropriate authorities for committing said resources and capabilities.

## **5.2. Mutual Aid**

The process for requesting mutual aid from entities either within or outside of Massachusetts is described in the "Mutual Aid" section of the State CEMP Base Plan.

## **5.3. Annex Review and Maintenance**

This annex will be updated every two years at a minimum, in accordance with the Emergency Management Program Administrative Policy, and will ensure that appropriate stakeholder input is incorporated into updates. Additionally, the annex will be reviewed following any exercise or activation of the plan that identifies potential improvements. Revisions to this annex will supersede all previous editions and will be effective immediately.

# **6.0. AUTHORITIES, RESOURCES, AND REFERENCES**

## **6.1. Authorities**

### **a. State**

- Massachusetts Executive Order 144
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 33: Militia and Executive Order 144
- Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 4J: Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement

- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 94: Inspection and Sale of Food, Drugs and Various Articles
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 128: Agriculture and Conservation
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 129: Livestock Disease Control
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 140: Licenses
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 272, Section 77: Cruelty to Animals; prohibition from work involving contact with animals
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131: Inland Fisheries and Game and Other Natural Resources
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131A: Massachusetts Endangered Species Act
- Solid waste disposal
- 105 CMR 300 : Reportable Diseases, Surveillance, and Isolation and Quarantine Requirements; Section 300.140: Reporting of Animal Diseases with Zoonotic Potential by Veterinarians
- 105 CMR 480: Minimum Requirements for the Management of Medical or Biological Waste
  - Section 480.010: Definitions
  - Section 200(A): Disposal; Blood and Blood Products
  - Section 200(C): Disposal; Blood Saturated Materials, Cultures and Stocks of Infectious Agents and their Associated Biologicals Dialysis Waste
- Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 4J: Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 94: Inspection and Sale of Food, Drugs and Various Articles
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 128: Agriculture and Conservation
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 129: Livestock Disease Control
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131: Inland Fisheries and Game and Other Natural Resources
- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 131A: Massachusetts Endangered Species Act
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts legal authorities for responding to infectious animal disease are listed in the Annex for Emerging Infectious and/or Contagious Diseases in Non-Human Populations
- Chapter 54 of the Acts of 2014

## **b. Federal**

- The Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288, as amended
- Public Law 100-707, (Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act)
- Pets Evacuation and Transportations Act of 2006
- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended

## **6.2. Resources**

- Association of Zoos and Aquariums

See Resources section of State CEMP Base Plan.

## **6.3. References**

- Massachusetts Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Massachusetts Radiological Emergency Response Plan
- Cape Cod Emergency Traffic Plan
- Massachusetts Debris Management Plan
- Annex for Emerging Infectious and/or Contagious Diseases in Non-Human Populations
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Operations Coordination Plan
- SEOC ESF SOP Guidance Document
- Threat Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)
- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)
- State Hazard Mitigation Plan

## **6.4. Terms**

**Agriculture** - "Farming" or "agriculture" shall include farming in all of its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil, dairying, the production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural, aqua cultural, floricultural or horticultural commodities, the growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land, the raising of livestock including horses, the keeping of horses as a commercial enterprise, the keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle and other domesticated animals used for food purposes, bees, fur-bearing animals, and any forestry or lumbering operations, performed by a farmer, who is hereby defined as one engaged in agriculture or farming as herein defined, or on a farm as an incident to or in conjunction with such farming operations, including preparations for market, delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transportation to market.

**Contagious disease** – Such diseases as is recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture to be contagious or infectious.

**Contaminated Animal Waste** - Contaminated carcasses, body parts, body fluids, blood or bedding from animals known to be:

- a. Infected with agents of the following specific zoonotic diseases that are reportable to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Bureau of Animal Health pursuant to 105 CMR 300.140: African swine fever, Anthrax, Avian influenza – H5 and H7 strains and any highly pathogenic strain, Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), Brucellosis, Chronic wasting disease of cervids, Foot and mouth disease, Glanders, Exotic Newcastle disease, Plague (*Yersinia pestis*), Q Fever (*Coxiella burnetii*), Scrapie, Tuberculosis, Tularemia (*Francisella tularensis*); or
- b. Infected with diseases designated by the State Epidemiologist and the State Public Health Veterinarian as presenting a risk to human health; or
- c. Inoculated with infectious agents including, but not limited to, the production of biologicals or pharmaceutical testing.

Contaminated animal wastes shall be disposed of at an approved incineration facility, by proper burial, by interment or by an alternative method approved in writing by the Department. Unprocessed liquid pathological waste may also be disposed of in accordance with 105 CMR 480.200(A) and tissue may also be disposed of in accordance with 105 CMR 480.200(C).

**Domestic animals** – All animals including poultry that are kept or harbored as domesticated animals. Poultry includes chickens, roosters, capons, hens, turkeys, pigeons, guinea fowl, ducks and geese other than wild species. For the purposes of Massachusetts law, a list of domestic species is found in 321CMR 9.02.

**Farming** – See “Agriculture”.

**Federal disaster declaration** - A determination by the President of the United States that a disaster is of such magnitude and severity to warrant major emergency/disaster assistance to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

**Euthanization** - The act of humanely ending the life of an animal.

**Household Pet** – An animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent, or turtle that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers, and be housed in temporary facilities. Household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses), and animals kept for racing purposes. (On October 6, 2006, the PETS Act was signed into law, amending Section 403 of the Stafford Act. Section 403, as amended by the PETS Act, authorizes FEMA to provide rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs for individuals with household pets and service animals, and to the household pets and animals themselves following a major disaster or emergency.) NOTE: Each municipality remains responsible to determine what animals they are able to shelter.

**Rehabilitation** - To restore to a former state or condition.

**Service animal** - Only dogs meet the definition of service animal under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with the exception of miniature horses. A service animal is a dog or miniature horse that has been individually trained to perform a task or service to assist a person with a disability. Examples of services: Guiding a person who is blind, alerting a person who is deaf, interrupting a compulsive behavior, retrieving objects, etc. Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support are not service animals but may have to be allowed in the housing context.

**Support agency** – An organization or agency identified in an Emergency Support Function annex designated to assist with available resources, capabilities or expertise to accomplish the mission of the MAESF.

**Triage** - A system designed to produce the greatest benefit from limited treatment facilities by degree of injury/stress.

**Quarantine** - A period of time during which an animal suspected of carrying a contagious disease is detained/observed under enforced isolation to prevent disease from entering into the general population or natural habitat.

**Zoonotic disease** - A disease that can be transmitted between animals and people.