

Massachusetts Emergency Animal Annex

I. PURPOSE. The purpose of this plan is to provide for the coordination of various federal, state, local, private and voluntary resources in response to the needs of both privately owned and wild animal care needs before, during, and following a significant natural emergency/disaster or man-made event or animal health emergency.

II. SITUATION.

DISASTER CONDITION. The animal population in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts surpasses the population of humans. Owners are ultimately responsible for their animals' care and housing in an emergency. All personal family or business emergency plans should include taking care of pets or animals in case of a disaster.

Should a significant natural or man-made emergency/disaster occur, it could quickly overwhelm local government resources and their capability to provide necessary services. An emergency/disaster of this magnitude will pose certain public health and nuisance threats such as injured and displaced animals, dead animals, rabies and other animal related diseases, care and shelter of animals and other issues. Such an emergency/disaster necessitates the need for a plan to mitigate the situation utilizing State and/or Federal assistance.

1. Generally when an emergency/disaster is imminent or occurs without warning in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated and representatives from selected state agencies gather for decision-making. The Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Office of Law Enforcement (Environmental Police) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will be the conduits for information and assistance for animal related needs as delineated in this appendix. MDPH is the primary agency for public health issues. DAR is the primary agency with regard to animal health/control issues.
2. Assistance provided to address disaster animal issues, in a declared emergency/disaster, is a coordinated effort of local, state, federal, private and volunteer organizations.

B. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS.

1. All appropriate Massachusetts State agencies and departments will be involved in emergency operations, consistent with their functions and responsibilities, with respect to emergency/disaster animal issues.
2. 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.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS.

- A. GENERAL. Historically, emergency/disaster animal issues have been overlooked in the emergency/disaster planning process. This lack of planning, caused by the belief that animals can fend for themselves, leads to serious problems, i.e., when they are forced from their habitats due to abandonment, injury or hunger. In addition, human safety may be at risk when animal owners refuse to leave a disaster area without their animals. By developing operational procedures to care for these animals, prior to such an event, this plan may reduce the health and safety risk, as well as the resource drain on other state agencies.
- B. PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. The State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) depicts the potential hazards to which Massachusetts could be exposed. The four (4) phases of emergency management are *Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery*.
- C. DIRECTION AND CONTROL.
1. General. This plan shall be placed into effect when there is a potential and/or actual emergency/disaster which affects animal issues in Massachusetts. The decision to implement the plan shall be coordinated with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). It is assumed (but not required) that the following activities have occurred prior to initiating the actions outlined in this document:
 - a) The local government has taken all necessary actions to respond to the emergency prior to requesting assistance from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
 - b) Local government has called upon its local resources, implementing mutual aid and cooperative agreements for additional services and personnel.
 2. Response Requirements.
 - a) The primary and support agencies (listed below) indicated must plan to be as self sufficient as possible during the first 72 hours following an event, as there may be only limited assistance.
 - b) With the advice and consent of the MEMA Director, the State Veterinarian/designee will implement this plan at the State EOC.
 - c) The State Veterinarian/designee will coordinate animal assistance resources using primary, support and adjunct agency authorities (see below) and capabilities to each mission.
 3. Scope. The scope of this plan is the overall management, coordination and prioritization of statewide resources to support owned or wild animal needs in the event of an emergency/disaster.
 4. Animal related services under this appendix are categorized in the

following functional areas with agencies that could potentially provide resources:

- a) Address human health risks associated with animals.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Department of Agricultural Resources
Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
Local Animal Inspectors
Local Public Health Offices
Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (Team-1)

- b) Assist in the capture of animals that have escaped confinement or have been displaced from their natural habitat.

Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Animal Rescue League of Boston
Local Animal Inspectors
United States Fisheries and Wildlife Service
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Department of Fish and Game
Office of Law Enforcement (Environmental Police)
Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association of Massachusetts
Zoo New England (Franklin Park Zoo and Stone Zoo)
Southwick Zoo
Forest Park Zoo
New England Aquarium
Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine
Becker College
Mount Ida College
University of Massachusetts Amherst
United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health
Inspection Service
International Fund for Animal Welfare
Humane Society of the United States
American Humane Association
United Animal Nations/Emergency Animal Rescue Service
Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (Team-1)

- c) Provide humane care and handling of animals before, during, and after emergency/disasters by opening emergency animal shelters as well as treatment/euthanasia assistance stations.

Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Rescue League of Boston
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Local Animal Shelters
Local Animal Inspectors
Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Department of Conservation and Recreation
Department of Fish and Game
Office of Law Enforcement (Environmental Police)
New England Aquarium
International Fund for Animal Welfare
Humane Society of the United States
American Humane Association
United Animal Nations/Emergency Animal Rescue Service
Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (Team-1)

- d) Appropriate equipment and resources for pre and post emergency/disaster sheltering and rescue of horses and farm animals.

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Rescue League of Boston
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Local Fairgrounds and Racetracks
University of Massachusetts (Hadley Farm and South Deerfield)
Tufts University of Veterinary Medicine
Department of Agricultural Resources

- e) Provide emergency care to injured animals.

Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Rescue League of Boston
Massachusetts Veterinary Technicians Association
Tufts University of Veterinary Medicine
Becker College (specify dept. within college)
Mount Ida College (same as above)
New England Aquarium
Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators
Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (Team-1)

- f) Removal and proper disposal of animal carcasses
 - Local Animal Inspectors
 - Department of Environmental Protection
 - United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
 - Department of Agricultural Resources
 - Massachusetts Department of Public Health

- g) Release of information by responsible spokesperson from the indicated agencies, to the general public, regarding such issues as quarantine areas, rabies alert, public service information announcements, etc.
 - Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
 - Department of Agricultural Resources
 - Massachusetts Department of Public Health
 - Department of Environmental Protection
 - Department of Fish and Game
 - United States Department of Agriculture

- h) Animal disease quarantine and enforcement
 - Department of Agricultural Resources
 - Local animal inspectors

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES.

A. PRIMARY AGENCY

Department of Agricultural Resources

B. DESIGNATED TEAM LEADER

The State Veterinarian/designee of the Department of Agricultural Resources is designated as the Team Leader for this plan. The State Veterinarian/designee is responsible for the following:

- a) Notifying, activating and mobilizing all agencies involved in emergency/disaster animal related issues.
- b) Coordinating all support agency actions in performance of missions assigned.
- c) Quarantining domestic animals for observation.
- d) Enforcing state animal control statutes (reference Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapters 140 and 272 as amended).
- e) Coordinating requests for assistance and additional resources

necessary during performance of the mission with the appropriate agencies.

- f) Serving as representative/liaison to the State EOC to help coordinate the activities and responsibilities assigned to the primary and support agencies in this plan.
- g) Making arrangements for the removal and disposal of dead animals.
- h) Coordinating with the MDPH for the release of public information regarding animals and health issues.

C. SUPPORT AGENCIES

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection
Service
Department of Fish and Game
Office of Law Enforcement (Environmental Police)
Department of Environmental Protection
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Animal Rescue League of Boston
Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts
Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (Team-1)

1. Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
 - a) Providing initial notification to the primary agency involved that the State EOC is open and operational and that there is a need to implement all or portions of this plan.
 - b) Coordinating requests for support between other agencies if deemed necessary.
 - c) Coordinating public information with the MEMA Public Information Officer.
 - d) Maintaining this plan.
2. The Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts (ACOAM), with support from the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARLB), the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA), and local animal inspectors, are responsible for the following:
 - a) Investigating animal bites.

- b) Facilitating the transportation of injured, stray, or nuisance animals to animal care facilities.
- c) Assisting emergency response teams with animal related problems.
- d) Making arrangements for the removal and disposal of dead animals.
- e) Enforcing state animal control statutes (reference MGL, Chapters 140 and Chapter 272 as amended).
- f) Assisting with quarantining animals for observation.
- g) Impounding animals at large.
- h) Euthanizing sick and/or injured animals through assigned and authorized persons.
- i) Investigating animal cruelty and neglect complaints (reference MGL, Chapter 272 as amended).
- j) Facilitating the capture of nuisance domestic animals.
- k) Providing emergency animal shelter staffing assistance.

3. Department of Agricultural Resources

Providing for management of farm animals.

4. Department of Fish and Game

- a) Providing for the capture, management and care of wild displaced animals, including protected and endangered species.
- a) Returning captured wild animals to their natural environment.
- b) Enforcing state wildlife laws, MGL Chapters 131 and 131A as amended.
- c) Issuing quarantine for captive non-domestic animals.

5. Office of Law Enforcement (Environmental Police)
 - (a) MGL Chapter 21, Section D – Entering on and passing through private property, keeping or disposing of sick, dead, injured or helpless wildlife.
 - (b) Returning captured wild animals to their natural environment.
 - (c) Providing a statewide uniformed, fully armed law enforcement presence when dealing with disaster.
 - (d) Enforcement of all laws on a statewide basis, including MGL Chapter 131 and Chapter 130.

6. Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
 - a) Assisting in the establishment of triage units for the care of injured animals.
 - b) Assisting with the procurement of emergency medical equipment, supplies and personnel for animals.
 - c) Administering rabies or other vaccinations and providing other medical support for animals in shelters.
 - d) Providing additional animal shelter support.
 - e) Euthanizing sick and injured wildlife.
 - f) Assisting with the temporary placement of animals in response to emergency situations.

7. Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (Team-1)
 - a) Assist with medical care for pets, search and rescue dogs, livestock, wildlife, and zoo animals as the need arises.
 - b) Assist with food safety concerns, zoonotic diseases, terrorist events, toxicological problems, and decontamination procedures for animals.
 - c) Establish a fully functional field hospital to assist with veterinary medical care until the local veterinary community is able to resume its normal functioning.

D. ADJUNCT AGENCIES. The following agencies have been identified as having supplemental roles within this planning effort:

Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Animal Rescue League of Boston
Zoo New England

Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
New England Aquarium
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Massachusetts
Massachusetts State Racing Commission
International Fund for Animal Welfare
Humane Society of the United States
American Humane Association
United Animal Nations/Emergency Animal Rescue Service
Nevins Farm & Equine Center

1. Adjunct Agencies (General). All adjunct agencies identified in this plan are responsible for the following:
 - a) Identifying, in advance, personnel and resources needed to perform various anticipated emergency functions.
 - b) Notifying, activating, and mobilizing all personnel and equipment to perform or support assigned functions as designated within this plan.
 - c) Designating and assigning personnel for staffing of all facilities required and providing a liaison as necessary.
 - d) Coordinating all actions of the support agency with the appropriate primary agencies when performing assigned missions.

2. Adjunct Agencies (Specific).
 - a) Animal Rescue League of Boston; Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
 - (1) Assisting in the emergency transportation and temporary placement of animals.
 - (2) Providing emergency animal shelter staffing assistance.
 - (3) Providing other emergency animal assistance.
 - (4) Supporting the efforts of the local Animal Control Officers.
 - (5) Investigating animal bites.
 - b) Zoo New England. Providing expertise and assistance in the capture, control and care of wild and exotic animals.
 - c) Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Nevins Farm and Equine Centre; Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation.
 - (1) Assisting in the transportation of livestock in the aftermath of an emergency/disaster.
 - (2) Assisting in the establishment of housing and care for livestock and displaced animals.
 - (3) Facilitating and optimizing the work of large animal veterinarians.
 - (4) Providing expertise and assistance in the capture and control of injured and displaced livestock.

- d) Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Massachusetts, United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - (1) Providing transportation, rehabilitation and shelter for injured and displaced wildlife.
 - (2) Capturing and returning wildlife to original environment.
- e) Massachusetts State Racing Commission.
 - (1) Providing emergency animal shelter facilities.
 - (2) Coordinating with the local racetracks on the use of their resources.
- f) International Fund for Animal Welfare; Humane Society of the United States; American Humane Association; United Animal Nations/Emergency Animal Rescue Service. Providing staff and coordinating resources when requested.
- g) New England Aquarium. Providing responsibility, expertise, and assistance for mass strandings, rescue, care, capture, and rehabilitation of aquatic animals.

E. OTHER RESOURCE GROUPS

Local Riding Clubs
 Essex Agricultural and Technical High School
 Norfolk County Agricultural High School
 Bristol County Agricultural High School
 Breed rescue groups
 Rodeo associations

V. PHASES OF OPERATIONS

A. MITIGATION

1. The State Veterinarian/designee in consultation with support and adjunct agencies reviews this Annex annually and updates as needed.
2. The State Veterinarian/designee will coordinate information on human shelters and animal care facilities.
3. A copy of this annex is maintained at MEMA.
4. MEMA Public Information Officer will coordinate public education of animal issues emergency/disaster preparedness.

B. PREPAREDNESS

1. MEMA alerts the State Veterinarian/designee or designee of impending emergency/disaster impact on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
2. The State Veterinarian/designee notifies support agency representatives of the alert. Appropriate adjunct agencies would be notified by the State Veterinarian/designee or representatives of the support agencies.
3. Public information will be coordinated with the MEMA Public Information Officer.

C. RESPONSE

1. The State Veterinarian/designee will notify the appropriate support agencies to begin mobilization of resources and personnel and to commence operations.
2. Immediately following notification to activate the response phase of this plan, the State Veterinarian/designee will complete the following actions commensurate with emergency priorities within the state and based on the availability of resources.
 - a) Ensure necessary emergency operating facilities and reporting systems continue to operate.
 - b) Provide appropriate representation to the State EOC.
 - c) Maintain communications with the State EOC, obtain status reports, and keep the State EOC informed of progress.
3. Immediately following notification by the State Veterinarian/designee to commence response actions, each support agency will complete the following actions:
 - a) Staff facilities in accordance with each agency's disaster recovery plan.
 - b) Provide for replacements of each agency's staff.
 - c) Provide for on-going needs relative to each agency's designated area of responsibility.
 - d) Provide personnel and resources for field assessment and response/recovery teams as necessary.
4. The State EOC will be staffed on a 24-hour schedule to interface and communicate with other agencies and prioritize response/recovery assistance requests.
5. Local agencies which may or may not perform similar functions must

coordinate with the State and will be briefed by the State.

6. All volunteer disaster animal issue agencies will coordinate directly with the State Veterinarian/designee (MA Emergency Support Function 17) as necessary.
7. Companion Animals.
 - a) All animals need to be appropriately identified.
 - b) Volunteers will be mobilized to transfer pets of owners who cannot drive.
 - c) Owner drops pet off at assigned animal care facility, completes appropriate forms, and goes to human shelter or makes other arrangements for themselves.
 - d) If the owner arrives at a human shelter with pets, the shelter manager can refer to animal care facility listing and direct the owner to closest participating animal care facility. If owner is unable to provide transportation, the shelter manager can assist in arranging transportation to the nearest animal care facility.
 - e) Exotic or dangerous pets shall be dealt with on a case by case basis to ensure that they are handled, transported and cared for by trained personnel at appropriate facilities.
8. Livestock.
 - a) In an emergency, livestock will need to be placed in a safe location. The type of emergency and other factors will determine the type of location that is appropriate, such as a secured pasture or an enclosed shelter. Owners should provide adequate water for animals and apply at least one form of identification on each animal.
 - b) If evacuation of livestock becomes necessary, owner arranges for transportation to a prearranged animal care facility. If owner is unable to provide transportation, the owner should contact their local emergency management services.

D. RECOVERY

1. The State Veterinarian/designee will identify, mobilize, and deploy assessment team(s) to the emergency/disaster areas(s) to determine the specific health and safety needs and priorities. The State Veterinarian/designee will coordinate with support and adjunct agencies represented at the State EOC to provide support to aid in the relief of nuisance and health related problems involving animals and their impact on human relief efforts.
2. Support and adjunct agencies will continue to provide assistance in the following areas:
 - a) Capture injured and displaced animals.
 - b) Provide shelter, medical care, animal husbandry, relocation and/or reunification of animals with owners.
 - c) Acquire additional food and supplies from vendors to support the relief efforts.
 - d) Continue coordination for timely and proper carcass disposal.
 - e) Develop a network for the adoption of unclaimed animals and the relocation of sick and injured animals.
3. The Director of MEMA or the State Veterinarian/designee is responsible for all animal related activity at the State EOC.
4. The animal owner/keepers are responsible for retrieving their pet from the animal care facility.
5. If unable to retrieve the animal, owner/keepers must maintain contact with the facility every seven days to avoid initiation of abandonment procedures.
6. Local animal control officers and other appropriate agencies will assist in locating any unreachable pet owners.
7. All requests for animal control assistance that cannot be met at the local level will be channeled through the State EOC.

VI. AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

A. AUTHORITY

Federal

- a) The Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288, as amended.
- b) Public Law 100-707, (Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergence Assistance Act).

State

- a) MGL, Chapter 94, Chapter 140, Chapter 128, Chapter 129, Chapter 272.
- b) MGL, Chapter 33 and Executive Order 144.
- c) Solid waste disposal

B. ATTACHMENTS

VII. DEFINITIONS

A. ACRONYMS

ACOAM	Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts
AHA	American Humane Association
ARC	American Red Cross
ARLB	Animal Rescue League of Boston
APHIS	Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
CEMP	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation
DAR	Department of Agricultural Resources
DFG	Department of Fish and Game
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
HSUS	Humane Society of the United States

IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
MDPH	Massachusetts Department of Public Health
MEART	Massachusetts Emergency Animal Response Team
MEMA	Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
MGL	Massachusetts General Law
MSPCA	Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
MVMA	Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
OLE	Environmental Law Enforcement
UAN/EARS	United Animal Nations/Emergency Animal Rescue Service
VMAT	Veterinary Medical Assistance Team

B. TERMS

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

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.

Rehabilitation - To restore to a former state or condition.

State of Emergency - Declaration by a Governor or the Chief Elected Official of a local community (i.e. Mayor, Council President, Town Manager) when an emergency is beyond the scope of State or local government ability to respond/protect local population and property.

State Veterinarian/designee – Staff member of the Department of Agricultural Resources.

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.

VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- A. This plan was developed with input from representatives of the primary, support, and adjunct agencies, formerly known as the Massachusetts Emergency Animal Response Team (MEART). Maintenance of the plan is assigned to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.
- B. The State Veterinarian/designee will review this appendix to ensure that necessary updates and revisions needed are prepared and coordinated, based on deficiencies identified in emergencies and/or exercises.
- C. Changes to this appendix will be coordinated by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and distributed to all holders of the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.