Pets & Disasters: Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations

SART Training Media

Pets & Disasters: Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations
Lesson Plan

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About Florida SART

SART is a multiagency coordination group consisting of governmental and private entities dedicated to all-hazard disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery for the animal and agriculture sectors in the state of Florida.

SART operates at the local level through county SART organizations.

SART utilizes the skills and resources of many agencies, organizations and individuals with its multiagency coordination group structure.

SART supports the county, regional, and state emergency management efforts and incident management teams.

SART Mission

Empower Floridians through training and resource coordination to enhance all-hazard disaster planning and response for animals and agriculture.

SART Goals

- Promote the active engagement of each county coordinator who is responsible for animal and agricultural issues
- Provide assistance in the development and writing of county ESF-17 plans
- Promote the establishment of a county SART to work as a multiagency coordination group to support emergency management and incident management teams
- Provide training for all SART and animal and agriculture personnel
- Identify county resources available for an emergency or disaster
- Work to comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) document

> Subject: Introduce participants to sheltering options for pets in mass evacuations
>
> Mission: Engage participants in initial planning for a community-based approach to sheltering pets in disasters

Introduction

This lesson plan and workbook is designed to be part of the *Pets & Disasters* SART training module. This lesson plan gives the instructor direction for the educational portion of the workshop. The mechanics of planning, organizing and publicizing the entire training event are covered in the companion piece, *Toolkit for Implementing a County Agricultural Response Team Training Event.* For information on obtaining this publication, please refer to the Resources section at the end of this publication.

This lesson plan is structured to provide an overview of sheltering options and to assist in the initial planning for a community-based approach to sheltering pets in disasters.

A PowerPoint presentation has been created to accompany this lesson. Throughout the lesson plan, box-like symbols have been placed in the margins to indicate that a PowerPoint slide is available for that section.

Approximately one hour and 35 minutes should be allocated for this program.

Session Outline

Part 1 - Beginning the Lesson   (10 minutes)
Part 2 - Overview   (10 minutes)
Part 3 - Shelter Types   (10 minutes)
Part 4 - Shelter Locations   (10 minutes)
Part 5 - Marion County Case Study   (10 minutes)
Part 6 - Other Options   (10 minutes)
Part 7 - Expanding Involvement   (15 minutes)
Part 8 - Organizing a Planning Meeting   (15 minutes)
Part 9 - Resources and Adjournment   (5 minutes)
Total   (1 hour, 35 minutes)
Appendix (optional -- time as needed)

Options for Community Planning for Pets & Disasters

Various options exist for organizing community planning for animals in disasters. The participants' community may be like many others in that it has some organized effort to address animal concerns during disasters, but perhaps those efforts could be better organized and better coordinated.

The *Pets & Disasters* module is designed in the following sequence:

- Identifying Community Needs and Resources
- Preparing an Action Plan
- Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations
- Personal Planning

This sequence progresses from the starting point of identifying a community's needs and resources through reaching out to help members of the public develop their own plans for their pets in disasters.

SART community leaders may choose to follow this sequence or adapt it to their community's needs.

Specific Learning Objectives

During this meeting, participants will:

- Consider sheltering in previous disasters
- Review options for emergency shelters
- Explore other options such as foster care
- View the operation of a model shelter
- Join in planning for shelter improvements

Learning Environment/Aids

To complete this lesson plan, you will need the PowerPoint and workbooks for *Pets & Disasters: Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations.*

(See the Resources section at the end of this publication to find out more about any of these materials listed above.)

To conduct this training module, you will need:

- A means to show the PowerPoint presentation: a computer with a projector. (Note: Master black and white copies of the slides are included at the end of this manual if you prefer to use an overhead projector.)
- Sufficient seating for all participants.

Each participant will need:

- A pen or pencil
- A participant workbook *Pets & Disasters: Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations* or paper for notes

Before the Lesson

On the day of the unit, check that all equipment needed is in place. Double-check that electronic media works on the equipment you have. Also, make certain that any materials such as paper, workbooks and pens/pencils for participants are available in sufficient numbers to cover all participants.

Part 1:   Beginning the Workshop

Time: 10 minutes

Focus: Help participants plan for community sheltering options in mass evacuations

SLIDES

1-4

Once all participants have taken their seats and have settled down, welcome them to the *Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations* unit. Thank them for attending and congratulate them on taking the time to learn about this important topic.

Remind participants that the reason they are attending the workshop is because they realize the value of being prepared by forming relationships and making plans for sheltering options for pets in mass evacuations. Take a minute to review the specific learning objectives for this training unit.

SLIDES

5-6

Emphasize the importance of making the connection between the housing for people and housing of animals as follows.

- Assisting animals in disasters is not a question of putting animals above people.
- Supporting people by taking care of what's important to them.

Note that some pet owners won't evacuate or will delay evacuation if they can't take their pets with them. They may return home to retrieve pets, or they won't seek shelter if animal care isn't available.

This introduction should not extend past 10 minutes. This is a time when participants are getting comfortable with the workshop, the surroundings and you, the presenter. At the same time, you are getting comfortable with the audience and being a presenter. Pay close attention to time; you may find yourself a bit nervous getting started. These "nerves" can make people ramble or talk faster or slower than normal. And others forget the time and forget to move on. Even if participants are enjoying what they are doing, they will appreciate your discipline when the workshop ends on time.

Part 2:   Overview

Time: 10 minutes

Focus: Describe what has happened regarding sheltering in previous disasters and discuss the importance of shelters for animals

Tell the story of sheltering in past disasters as follows.

SLIDE
7

Animal issues that arose during Hurricane Andrew included:
- People were told to leave pets behind when evacuating
- Homes were blown apart
- Pets escaped
- No system for animals was in place

SLIDES
8-9

A MASH animal compound was created by the Humane Society of the United States and Citizens Against Pet Overpopulation. It operated for six weeks, mostly with a volunteer work force. The Army provided support, including supplies, full-time veterinarians, tents and security.

The compound took in 600 animals that were lost, in foster care or given up by their owners. Emergency veterinarians saw approximately 2,000 animals. Most lost pets and owners never reconnected. Pets were held for 30 days before they were eligible for adoption.

SLIDE
10

During the hurricanes of 2004, shelters with people and pets in the same building were used in many Florida counties. The Red Cross or another group ran the human part of the shelters, and groups involved with animals ran the pet part of the shelters. Animal-only shelters also were used, and some pets were flown out of the state for adoption.

Part 3:   Shelter Types

Time: 10 minutes

Focus: Review the options for shelters

SLIDES
11-14

Explain that the options for emergency pet shelters are: 1. people and pets in the same room, 2. people and pets in the same building but in separate areas and 3. animal-only shelters.

Let participants know that having pets and people in the same room is the least labor-intensive option since owners are responsible for feeding, exercising and cleaning up after their animals. Shelters develop rules outlining their policies such as removal of animals from crates and waste disposal.

Tell participants that this approach avoids separating people and pets. It has the advantage that many pets do better with their owners taking care of them. Note that it is important to inform the public that the evacuation shelter allows pets. People who are uncomfortable around animals or have allergies that could present a health problem should be directed to a non-pet facility.

SLIDES
15-18

Explain that the option of having people and pets in separate parts of the same building is as follows:

- It allows the owners to help care for their own pets.
- This option is somewhat more labor-intensive because the owners are not continually available to care for their animals.
- Such shelters were used in many Florida counties during the hurricanes of 2004.

Show the picture of the shelter at Vanguard High School in Marion County, Fla., in use during the hurricanes of 2004.

State that animal-only shelters often are based at an existing animal shelter. These shelters are quite labor intensive and in many cases, the regular staff members provide most of the animal care as an expansion of

their normal work.

Note that animal-only shelters house not only owned animals but also may include rescued and found pets, pets that owners have given up and pets whose owners have requested foster care. Animal-only animal shelters may include animals that are receiving emergency veterinary care and large animals and livestock. These shelters were used in Hurricane Andrew and in the 2004 hurricanes.

SLIDE

19

[Get participants involved by asking them to discuss the current options for types of shelters and what options should be explored in their community.]

Part 4:   Shelter Locations

Time: 10 minutes

Focus: Outline what to consider in choosing shelter locations and discuss local options.

SLIDE

20

Suggest that people doing planning should consider the following in selecting facilities for shelters:

1. The shelters should meet standards of safety set by emergency management.
2. Shelters will be more conducive to housing animals if they have solid, nonporous floors and proper ventilation.
3. Shelters should be free of other obligations during declared emergencies. A clause in the contract should allow for cancellation in times of emergency.

SLIDES

21-23

Note that potential shelter locations may include fairgrounds, ball fields, vacant stores, pastures, school gyms, warehouses and parking lots.

Emphasize the importance of making sure that the shelter is accessible and that the public and volunteers can find it easily.

[Ask participants to discuss what locations should be discussed and what challenges exist for using these locations. Make this a short brainstorming activity to stimulate involvement. Keep in mind that decisions on locations will have to be made at future meetings.]

Part 5:   Marion County Case Study

Time: 10 minutes

Focus: Review the operation of a model shelter

SLIDES 24-27

Introduce the section on the Marion County, Fla., shelter by noting that this example illustrates how a model shelter can work.

Begin by going over the type of animals that were accepted, including dogs under 80 lbs., cats and domestic breeds of pets and birds. Note that exotic pets, reptiles and aggressive animals were excluded.

Note the number of pets that were housed at the shelter during the hurricanes of 2004. This includes 48 cats during Hurricane Charley, 87 during Frances and 64 during Jeanne; 140 dogs during Hurricane Charley, 211 during Frances and 138 during Jeanne; and five other pets during Hurricane Charley, 39 during Frances and 45 during Jeanne.

SLIDES 28-32

Emphasize that Marion County was well-organized for setting up the shelter. Explain the steps involved as follows.

- Equipment and supplies, including cages, pet food, and some cleaning supplies, were housed near the shelter.
- County staff and volunteers loaded the equipment and supplies and moved them to the shelter at Vanguard High School.
- A key step in preparing the building in which dogs and cats were to be housed was to line the hallway with plastic.
- Rubber mats were placed over the plastic to ensure that people wouldn't slip.
- Other arrangements that were completed before the shelter opened included assembling cages, setting up the registration area, lining garbage cans, filling litter bins and filling the dog food barrel.

SLIDES 33-34

Outline the registration process, which included completing forms with information about the pets and their owners and informing owners of the shelter's policies. Also during registration, armbands were attached to owners and identification was placed on the animals, e.g., neckbands were placed on dogs.

SLIDE
35

Point to Slide 35, which shows an example of an identification sheet, complete with the photo that the shelter staff took of the dog and its owner. Remind participants that many pets can match the same description but that photos show individual differences clearly.

SLIDES
36-40

Let the slides showing owners caring for their pets and socializing speak for themselves. Add that these slides illustrate the advantage of having owners available to care for their pets.

Tell about the power going out on the third day of Hurricane Frances and point out that people joined together to repair the generator and get it back into operation.

SLIDES
41-42

Conclude the illustration of the shelter by showing how easy the clean-up was because the floors had been lined and noting that the floor retained its shine.

Review what was learned from the Marion County experience:

SLIDES
43-45

In terms of what's needed, comfortable bedding is essential. It's important to provide large industrial fans, and people enjoyed having some comforts from home with them.

Regarding staffing, maintaining a shelter is hard work involving long hours. Note that the Marion County shelter needed more volunteers to help relieve the staff and volunteers who did work. Conclude the discussion of staffing by relating that Marion County had great volunteer cooks and that everyone enjoyed the food. Point out the young volunteers shown in Slide 44.

Marion County staff learned a great deal about policies and procedures. First, they learned from the experience that they needed to restock supplies quickly because they didn't know when the next hurricane was coming.

Second, they learned that posting rules was important so that no one could have an excuse for not following them.

Third, they learned that it was important to post opening and closing times so that owners' would be clear on when they could visit their pets. Fourth, the Marion County staff learned that an in and out sheet for recording staff and volunteer hours was essential for tracking the time that people spent.

Part 6:   Other Options

Time: 10 minutes

Focus: Outline what needs to be considered in choosing shelter locations and discuss local options.

Let participants know that in addition to shelters for animals, their community should consider other options for handling pets in disasters.

Note that temporary day-care facilities for pets may be needed in some circumstances. For example, the pets' owners may be returning to the disaster area to retrieve belongs, make repairs or apply for assistance.

Add that foster care is another option. Stress that it's important to screen foster homes thoroughly to ensure the safety of animals and the foster families. Suggest that animals in foster care should be matched with foster families like they are in regular pet adoptions. Emphasize the importance of keeping excellent records to ease reuniting pets and owners.

Suggest that the community set up plans for specialized care. This would involve recruiting organizations familiar with large animals and ones with special needs. These animals can be cared for on the shelter site or moved to another area that is more appropriate.

Part 7:   Expanding Involvement

Time: 15 minutes

Focus: Encourage participants to recruit additional members

SLIDES

49-53

Encourage participants to expand involvement in planning for shelters as widely as possible because a high level of cooperation is the key to success in responding to disasters affecting animals and agriculture.

[Complete *Worksheet 1: Contact List.* Try to have three names for each type of group. In other words, you attempt to list at least three names in the category Social Service Organizations. After going through all the categories, ask about who has been missed. This interaction will help participants realize that they know many of the key contacts, and it will show areas in which additional contacts need to be identified.]

Worksheet 1
County SART Organizational Meeting

Contact List		
Planning for animals and agriculture in disasters is more effective when community involvement and support are strong. Below is a list of categories of groups to involve in a community plan for animals in disasters. Use this worksheet as you identify people to involve in a county SART.		
	Organizations	Key contacts
High priority contacts • Animal services • Humane Society • Emergency management • Other animal groups and organizations		
Social service organizations		
Government & educational institutions		
Key communicators		
Civic groups		
Businesses and health care providers		

Part 8:   Organizing a Planning Meeting

Time: 15 minutes

Focus: Preview planning considerations for shelters and begin organizing a planning meeting.

SLIDES
54-55

Follow up on the Marion County case study by listing the topics that need to be considered in planning for shelters, including:

- Security
- Staffing
- Funding
- Owner preparation
- Pet owners' responsibilities
- Problems with owners
- Supplies
- Does building have separate spaces for various shelter activities

Note that these considerations are discussed in the appendix to this unit. In working with community members to plan this meeting, they may decide that they would like to have a longer meeting that moves into actual planning. In this case, be sure that the length of the meeting and its purpose are explained to everyone who is invited.

Another option is to use the appendix and the accompanying slides to help with the planning meeting.

Conclude this meeting with Worksheet 2: Organizing a Planning Meeting. The questions are designed as a basis of reflection on the meeting. Keep the discussion moving by focusing on general reflections.

Suggest that members of the group use the Resources section to obtain more information about dealing with animals and agriculture in disasters.

Thank the group for participating. Congratulate them on their commitment to the SART endeavor and on their desire to be part of the solution.

Make sure that everyone receives a list with contact information for the people who are coordinating the planning for pet shelters. Encourage participants to contact these leaders if they have questions or want to become more involved.

Worksheet 2
Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations

Organizing a Planning Meeting
When should a planning meeting be held?
How can attendance be promoted?
What other preparation is needed for the meeting?
What opportunities should be pursued immediately?

Part 9:   Resources and Adjournment

Time: 5 minutes

Focus: Review the lesson's learning objectives and encourage a commitment to SART

SLIDE

56-58

This publication and other materials for SART training programs are available at the Florida SART Web site, <www.flsart.org>. The material includes:

Make It Happen! Toolkit for Planning a Community-Based SART Training Event

Training units available:

- *Introducing SART*
- *Introducing Florida Aquaculture*
- *Aquaculture: Aquatic Animal Diseases*
- *Aquaculture: Emergency Management of Aquaculture Facilities*
- *Pets and Disaster: Personal Planning*
- *Using Climate Forecasts in Agriculture*

Note: As new units become available, they will be posted on the Web site.

The following is a source of additional information about the subjects and agencies mentioned in this module.

Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management Emergency Response Team <http:/www.floridadisaster.org>

Resources directly related to animals and disasters include:

American Red Cross
<http://www.redcross.org/services/>
Topics include *Pets and Disaster — Be Prepared, First Aid for Pets* and *Barnyard Animal Rescue Plan.*

Animal Management in Disasters, Sebastian E. Heath, Mosby, 11830 Westline Industrial Drive, St. Louis, MO 64164. Available through many Internet booksellers.

Missing Pet Network
<http://www.missingpet.net>

Triumph Over Tragedy, Disaster Handbook Video Series: Helping Four-Legged Friends Survive the Storm (18 minutes).
The video can be viewed in its entirety at the National Ag Safety Database Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/>.

Humane Society of the United States Disaster Center
<http://www.hsus.org/ace/18730>
Links include *Disaster Preparedness Brochures, Disaster Preparedness for Pets, Disaster Preparedness for Horses and HSUS Disaster Planning Manual for Animals.*

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The National Ag Safety Database has articles on handling horses and livestock safely. Go to "animals" under "Locate by Topics" at <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/>.

Hawkins Guide on Equine Emergencies and Horse *Trailering on the Road*
Blue Green Publishing Co., PO Box 1255, Southern Pines, NC 28388

Equine Trailer Rescue video, Horse Park of New Jersey,
PO Box 548, Allentown, N.J. 08501

Animals in Disasters: Module A, Awareness And Preparedness, *IS 10*. Access this course at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is10.asp>.

Animals in Disaster: Module B, Community Planning, IS 11.
Access this course at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is11.asp>.

The following are sources of information on emergency management in general.

Federal Emergency Management Agency
<http://www.fema.gov>

IFAS Disaster Handbook, prepared by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.
<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu>

Other parts of *Triumph Over Tragedy, Disaster Handbook Video Series* are:
Surviving the Storm—Coordination, Communication and Cooperation (30 minutes)
A Community Response to Managing Post-Disaster Stress (45 minutes)
The entire three-part video series is available at the *IFAS Disaster Handbook* Web site, <http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu>. Go to the *Other Disaster Products* link. The series also is available at IFAS Publications, PO Box 110011, Gainesville, FL 32611, (800) 226-1764.

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)
<http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden/>

Occupational Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) Emergency Preparedness and Response Page
<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/index.html>

Other resources related to agricultural safety are listed below.

National Agricultural Safety Database (NASD)
<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd>

Florida AgSafe network
<http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu/>

Online training courses from FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) are available at no cost at http://training.fema.gov. CEU certificates are available.

Introduction to CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), IS-317. It provides background information on the concept of community members being able to work together during a disaster.
Access this course at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is317.asp>.

Basic Incident Command System, IS-195. Access this course at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is195.asp>.

Livestock in Disasters, IS-111. Access this course at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is111.asp>.

Other courses that might be useful with this module include:

Emergency Preparedness, IS-2. Access this course at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is2.asp>.

State Disaster Management (IS-208). Access this course at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is208.asp>.

The EOC's Role in Community Preparedness, Response and Recovery Activities (IS-275). Access this course at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is275.asp>.

The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management (IS-288). Access this course at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is288.asp>.

Disaster Basics (IS-292). Access this course at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is292.asp>.

A listing of all the IS courses offered by FEMA can be found at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/crslist.asp>.

Appendix: Shelter Considerations

Additional material for planning for shelters

SLIDES

A1

Note: Making decisions about which types of shelters to establish and developing a committee on shelters is just the first step towards operating effective shelters. Next is planning and organizing shelters. Below is an overview of considerations for this step.

Security

SLIDES

A2

Shelters should provide security 24 hours a day, seven days a week to protect staff, volunteers, pet owners, animals and equipment. Restrict people entering shelters by requiring owners to show identification to visit animals unless staff knows them. Don't leave just one person alone in the facility. You should pre-screen volunteers and control medications that are brought on-site.

Staffing

SLIDES

A3

Shelter staff should include qualified animal care staff with animal handling experience; a veterinarian, if possible; and a vet tech or an animal health technician.

Staffing roles include setting up, cleaning up daily, registering animals, scheduling animal visits, enforcing shelter rules, managing feeding areas and closing down.

In pet friendly shelters, owners are encouraged to participate. Trained staff can be minimal with volunteers supplementing efforts.

In temporary shelters, staffing needs are uncertain. The shelters should have some trained animal handlers, but volunteers may be used extensively. If a shelter houses large animals and livestock, it will depend heavily on staff and volunteers with specific handling experience.

Funding and Donations

SLIDES
A4-5

Shelter leaders should consider the following funding issues: Will they need to pay overtime to staff? Do they have volunteers who can help provide housing, equipment and supplies? It's best to seek donations before a disaster, both donations of money as well as in-kind contributions. Soliciting donations during an emergency event is difficult because both the potential donors and people involved in sheltering will be busy. Some government reimbursement from the local government as well as the state and federal government may be possible. It's important to keep track of volunteer and staff hours and expenses in order to obtain reimbursement and pay the bills.

Pet Owners' Responsibilities

SLIDES
A6-8

Be prepared to help animal owners meet their responsibilities. This includes educating them about animal supplies they will need. It also includes letting them know that they will need crates or cages that are large enough for their pets to stand in, sit in and turn around in. Encourage owners to have a supply of food, water and medications.

It's a good idea to educate pet owners in advance about their responsibilities in disasters, including going to shelters. Shelter leaders may want to make presentations of the *Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning* unit to pet owners.

Encourage pet owners to come to shelters prepared with documentation of their pets' medical history and needs. They should also bring cat litter or newspapers and chew toys or other comfort items. They should have collars, tags, leashes, harnesses and muzzles.

Problems with Owners

SLIDES
A9-10

In preparing for a shelter, it's important to plan for unprepared animal owners. Some may arrive without necessary supplies, may not have been aware of requirements, may not be able to afford to comply or may choose not to comply. If an emergency event developed quickly, they may not have had time to obtain supplies. Emergency animal shelter plans should include stockpiling basic animal supplies.

Shelter owners should make plans for handling potential problems with animal owners. Some owners won't comply with rules or provide food and water for their animals. Some won't keep their animals confined or under their control at all times. Others will not clean cages or litter boxes or do general clean-up of the area. Pet owners also may not provide dogs with the opportunity to relieve themselves at designated sites. Some may verbally or physically abuse their animals. Remember that the pet owners may be under extreme stress.

Shelters should be prepared to deal with rule violations. If an animal owner violates emergency animal shelter rules in a pet friendly shelter, the animal should be removed to another part of the facility or to a temporary animal shelter. In that case, all care should be provided by staff and volunteers, and the owner should be denied access to his or her animal.

Supplies

SLIDES
A11-12

Emergency animal shelters should have the following supplies:

- Crates and cages of all sizes
- Food of different types
- Water for both drinking and cleaning
- Bowls
- Collars, leashes and muzzles
- Cat litter and newspapers
- Plastic sheets
- Paper towels
- First aid kits for both people and pets
- Office supplies
- Paperwork to complete your record-keeping and to inform pet owners of shelter rules and policies
- Identification tags
- Transport carts
- Waste disposal bags
- Blankets, towels and sheets
- Communication devices
- Cleaners and disinfectants

Managing donations is important. If shelter staff doesn't control the intake of supplies, the situation can quickly get out of control. All donation requests should be approved by a donation manager. Locate off-site storage facilities for large shipments.

Shelter Areas

The designated areas that an animal shelter needs include:

- Animal intake and registration
- Animal housing—separated by species
- Isolation of sick, injured, stressed and aggressive animals
- Veterinary care and first aid
- Food preparation
- Food storage by species
- Dog relief area with tile or another hard surface and a drain

A pet-only shelter should have the following additional areas:

- Equipment storage for extra leashes, bowls and crates
- A quiet area for animal visitation
- An animal exercise area, which can be an indoor hall or can be outdoors if weather permits

Procedures

Having procedures on animal intake is important. Shelter leaders need forms for owners to fill out, an identification photo taken of animals that is kept with the owner's paperwork, and IDs attached to cages. Create identification numbers for the animals and give the numbers to their owners.

Procedures for pet-only shelters should include:

- Allow only the animal's owners to visit
- Schedule visits for feeding, cleaning, exercise and relief
- Log when owner provides care
- Limit interaction with animals other than an owner's own
- Monitor the condition of animals and notify the veterinary staff if you notice any problems.

Participant's Evaluation of *Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations*

Please circle the number that best expresses your opinions about the following statements.

		Fully Dis-Agree	Dis-Agree	Neutral	Agree	Fully Agree
1.	The training module's format was appropriate.	1	2	3	4	5
2	The information presented is useful to me.	1	2	3	4	5
3.	The time it took to complete this module was acceptable.	1	2	3	4	5
4.	The reasons why planning for shelters for pets in disasters is important were explained fully.	1	2	3	4	5
5.	The types of shelters were explained fully.	1	2	3	4	5
6.	The considerations in establishing shelters were explained fully.	1	2	3	4	5
7.	The collaborating agencies and their roles in sheltering animals in mass evacuations were explained fully.	1	2	3	4	5
8.	Available up-to-date resources were clearly outlined.	1	2	3	4	5

9.   We welcome your comments about this program:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Please use the back of this sheet for any further comments.

Thank you for your time!

Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations Participant Pre-Test

This pre-test is intended to gauge the level of knowledge that you have **before** participating in the *Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations* training. Please answer all the following questions to the best of your ability.

1.   Why is important to consider the needs of pets during a disaster?

_____

_____

2   People are more likely to follow evacuation orders it they don't have to bother with taking their pets? TRUE or FALSE

3.   The only good shelters for animals are the ones specifically designed for that purpose. TRUE or FALSE

4.   It is helpful to pets to be separated from their owners during stressful times like disasters. TRUE or FALSE

5.   Preparing identification for pets and owners is important in any pet shelter. TRUE or FALSE

6.   List some important considerations for planning animal shelters for disasters:

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

7.   List some information resources that can help you plan animal shelters:

_____   _____

_____   _____

Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations Participant Post-Test

This post-test is intended to gauge the level of knowledge that you have **after** participating in the *Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations* training. Please answer all the following questions to the best of your ability.

1.   Why is important to consider the needs of pets during a disaster?
      _____
      _____

2   People are more likely to follow evacuation orders it they don't have to bother with taking their pets? TRUE or FALSE

3.   The only good shelters for animals are the ones specifically designed for that purpose. TRUE or FALSE

4.   It is helpful to pets to be separated from their owners during stressful times like disasters. TRUE or FALSE

5.   Preparing identification for pets and owners is important in any pet shelter. TRUE or FALSE

6.   List some important considerations for planning animal shelters for disasters:

      _____   _____
      _____   _____
      _____   _____
      _____   _____

7.   List some information resources that can help you plan animal shelters:

      _____   _____
      _____   _____

Answer Key to *Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations* Pre- and Post-Tests

1.   Why is important to consider the needs of pets during a disaster?
      Answers will vary. An important point is that taking care of pets is an important way to support people in disaster situations.

2   People are more likely to follow evacuation orders it they don't have to bother with taking their pets? FALSE. It has been seen in many disasters that people often refuse to leave their homes if they cannot take their pets.

3.   The only good shelters for animals are the ones specifically designed for that purpose. FALSE. Many types of buildings or areas can be utilized for effective pet shelters.

4.   It is helpful to pets to be separated from their owners during stressful times like disasters. FALSE. Separating people and pets increases stress.

5.   Preparing identification for pets and owners is important in any pet shelter. TRUE.

6.   List some important considerations for planning animal shelters for disasters:

      Participants should list some of the following:

      - Security
      - Funding
      - Pet owners' responsibilities
      - Supplies
      - Staffing
      - Owner preparation
      - Problems with owners

7.   List some information resources that can help you plan animal shelters:

      _____   _____
      _____   _____

PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages
Slides 1-6

Pets & Disasters
Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations

State Agricultural Response Team 2

Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations

Prepared by:

Laura Bevan
Director, Humane Society of the United States
Southeast Regional Office, Tallahassee, Florida

Jill Lancon
Director, Marion County Animal Center, Ocala, Florida

Chris Eversole
University of Florida, Gainesville

Carol J. Lehtola, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Florida, Gainesville

State Agricultural Response Team 3

Learning Objectives

- Review sheltering in previous disasters
- Review options for emergency shelters
- Explore other options such as foster care
- View the operation of a model shelter
- Join in planning for shelter improvements

State Agricultural Response Team 4

Making the Connection

Animal issues are people issues

- Supporting people by taking care of what's important to them
- Not putting animals above people

State Agricultural Response Team 5

Pet Owners ...

- Won't evacuate or delay evacuation if can't take animals
- Attempt to go home & retrieve pets
- Won't seek shelter if animal care unavailable

State Agricultural Response Team 6

PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages

Slides 7-12

Hurricane Andrew
- People told to leave pets behind
- Homes blown apart
- Pets escaped

Hurricane Andrew MASH Animal Compound
- Created by Humane Society & Citizens Against Pet Overpopulation
- Operated 6 weeks

MASH Compound Statistics
- 600 animals taken in
- Vets saw 2,000
- Most pets & owners never reconnected
- Held 30 days before adoption

Hurricanes of 2004
- Shelters with people & pets in the same building used in many counties
- Animal-only shelters also used
- Some pets flown out of state for adoption

Options for Emergency Shelters
- People & pets in same room
- People & pets in separate spaces in same building
- Animal-only shelters
- Large animal/livestock facilities

People & Pets in Same Room
- Least labor-intensive
- Owners feed, exercise & clean up after pets
- Rules about keeping pets in crates, waste disposal & so on

PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages

Slides 13-18

People & Pets in Same Room

Benefits
- Avoid separating people & pets
- Many pets do better with owners taking care of them

State Agricultural Response Team   13

People & Pets in Same Room

Recommended procedures
- Tell people pets are allowed
- Direct people who are uncomfortable around animals or have allergy problems around animals to non-pet shelter

State Agricultural Response Team   14

People & Pets in Same Building

- Owners in same building, but separate area
  - Still care for pets
- Somewhat labor-intensive
  - Owners not immediately available
- Used in many Florida counties during 2004 hurricanes

State Agricultural Response Team   15

People & Pets in Same Building

Vanguard High School in Marion County, Fla. in 2004

State Agricultural Response Team   16

Animal-Only Shelter

- Often based at an existing animal shelter
- More labor intensive
  - Staff cares for animals
  - Sometimes expanded role for shelter staff

State Agricultural Response Team   17

Animal-Only Shelter

Not only owned animals
- Rescued pets
- Owner give-ups
- Fostering requests
- Emergency animal hospital
- Large animals & livestock

State Agricultural Response Team   18

PowerPoint Slide -- Summary Pages

Slides 19-24

Discussion of Sheltering Options

- What are the current options?
- Which ones should be explored?

State Agricultural Response Team   19

Shelter Requirements

- Meet safety standards
- Conducive to housing animals
  - Solid, non-porous floors
  - Good ventilation
- Free of other obligations during declared emergencies

State Agricultural Response Team   20

Potential Shelter Locations

- Fairgrounds
- Ball fields
- Vacant stores
- Pastures
- Schools (gyms)
- Warehouses
- Parking lots

State Agricultural Response Team   21

Locations

Make sure shelters are accessible & easy to find

State Agricultural Response Team   22

Discussion of Locations

- What locations should be considered?
- What challenges exist for using these locations?

State Agricultural Response Team   23

Marion County Case Study

State Agricultural Response Team   24

PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages

Slides 25-30

Marion County
Animals Accepted . . .
• Dogs under 80 lbs.
• Cats
• Birds
State Agricultural Response Team   25

Marion County
Animals Excluded
• Exotics
• Reptiles
• Aggressive animals
State Agricultural Response Team   26

Marion County* – Pet Census

Hurricane	Cats	Dogs	Other
Charley	48	140	5
Frances	87	211	39
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*Vanguard School
State Agricultural Response Team   27

Marion County
Setting Up Equipment & Supplies
State Agricultural Response Team   28

Marion County
Setting Up Equipment & Supplies
State Agricultural Response Team   29

Marion County
Preparing Building
Lining hallway with plastic
State Agricultural Response Team   30

PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages

Slides31-36

Marion County Preparing Building

Placing rubber runner

State Agricultural Response Team   31

Marion County Completing Arrangements

- Assembling cages
- Setting up registration area
- Lining garbage cans
- Filling litter bins
- Filling dog food barrel

State Agricultural Response Team   32

Marion County Registration

Completing forms & instructing owners

State Agricultural Response Team   33

Marion County Registration

Fastening armbands on owners & neckbands on dogs

State Agricultural Response Team   34

Marion County Identification

Photos show pets & owners

State Agricultural Response Team   35

Marion County Owners Caring for Pets

State Agricultural Response Team   36

PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages

Slides 37-42

Marion County
Owners Caring for Pets
State Agricultural Response Team   37

Marion County
Socializing
State Agricultural Response Team   38

Marion County
No Power on 3rd Day of Frances
State Agricultural Response Team   39

Marion County
Teamwork Fixed Generator
State Agricultural Response Team   40

Marion County
Tearing Down & Cleaning Up
State Agricultural Response Team   41

Marion County
Floor Still Shiny
State Agricultural Response Team   42

PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages

Slides 43-48

Marion County Lessons Learned

What's needed
- Comfortable bedding is a must!
- Provide large industrial fans
- Comforts from home are important

State Agricultural Response Team · 43

Marion County Lessons Learned

Staffing
- Hard work
- Long hours
- More volunteers needed for relief
- Volunteer cooks are important

State Agricultural Response Team · 44

Marion County Lessons Learned

Policies & procedures
- Be ready to restock fast
  - Don't know when next storm is coming
- Post rules
- Post opening & closing times
- Have in/out sheet for staff & volunteers hours

State Agricultural Response Team · 45

Other Options

- Temporary day-care facilities
  - Owners returning to disaster area or applying for assistance
- Foster care
  - Animal owner may be staying in human evacuation shelter or other housing where animals not allowed

State Agricultural Response Team · 46

Foster Care

- Check homes thoroughly to ensure safety of animals & foster families
- Match pets & families as in pet adoptions
- Keep excellent records so owners & pets can reunite

State Agricultural Response Team · 47

Specialized Care

- Recruit organizations familiar with large animals & animals with special needs
- Provide care on-site or have animals moved

State Agricultural Response Team · 48

PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages

Slides 49-54

Expanding Involvement

- Broad involvement is crucial
- Levels of involvement
  - Core group
  - Support network
  - General public

State Agricultural Response Team 49

Expanding Involvement

High priority contacts
- Animal services
- Humane Society
- Emergency management
- Other animal groups & organizations

State Agricultural Response Team 50

Expanding Involvement

Work with social service agencies
- Experienced with mass care
- May refer pet owners to animal shelters
- May provide supplies such as cots, food & water

State Agricultural Response Team 51

Expanding Involvement

Other contacts
- Government & educational institutions
- Key communicators
- Nonprofit agencies, civic groups & businesses

State Agricultural Response Team 52

Worksheet 1 – Contact List

State Agricultural Response Team 53

Planning Considerations

- Security
- Staffing
- Funding
- Pet owners' responsibilities
- Owner preparation
- Problems with owners
- Supplies
- Areas of shelter

State Agricultural Response Team 54

PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages

Slides 55-60

Worksheet 2
Organizing a Planning Meeting

- When should a planning meeting be held?
- How can attendance be promoted?
- What other preparation is needed for the meeting?
- What opportunities should be pursued immediately?

State Agricultural Response Team   55

Resources

- SART Web site
  - www.flsart.org
- Animal-related resources
- Emergency management resources
- Ag safety resources
- FEMA training

State Agricultural Response Team   56

State Agricultural Response Team   57

Thank You!

State Agricultural Response Team   58

Appendix PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages

The appendix that follows outlines planning considerations for sheltering in mass evacuations.

The appendix may be used in one of two ways:

- In a second part of this meeting
- In a planning meeting that is held later

Appendix PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages

Slides1-6

Appendix: Planning Consideration

The appendix that follows outlines planning considerations for sheltering in mass evacuations.

The appendix may be used in one of two ways:

1. In a second part of this meeting
2. In a planning meeting that is held later

State Agricultural Response Team   59

Sheltering Option in Mass Evacuations
Appendix: Planning Consideration

State Agricultural Response Team   1

Security

• 24/7
• Restrict access

State Agricultural Response Team   2

Staffing

• Experienced with animals
• Vet (*optional, but ideal*)
• Vet tech or animal health tech

State Agricultural Response Team   3

Funding Issues

• Staff overtime
• Volunteers — housing, equipment & supplies
• Government reimbursement — local, state & federal
• Track volunteer & staff hours
• Record expenses

State Agricultural Response Team   4

Donation Management

• Control intake of supplies
• Locate off-site storage facilities for large shipments

State Agricultural Response Team   5

Appendix PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages

Slides 7-12

Pet Owner Responsibilities

- Conduct pre-disaster training
  - *Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning*
- Provide crates or cages large enough to stand, sit & turn around
- Supply medications

State Agricultural Response Team — 6

Owner Prep

- Documented medical history
- Cat litter/newspapers
- Chew toys or other comfort items
- Collars, tags, leashes, harnesses & muzzles

State Agricultural Response Team — 7

Unprepared Owners

- Owners may arrive without necessary supplies
- Emergency shelter should stockpile basic animal supplies

State Agricultural Response Team — 8

Problems with Owners

Plan for owners breaking rules:
- Not providing food & water
- Not confining & controlling pets
- Not cleaning
- Not letting dogs relieve themselves
- Verbally or physically abusing animals

State Agricultural Response Team — 9

Dealing with Violations

If animal owner violates rules:
- In pet-friendly shelter, remove animal to another part of facility or to animal shelter
- Have staff provide all care
- Deny owners access to animals

State Agricultural Response Team — 10

Supplies

- Crates & cages — all sizes
- Food — different types
- Water — drinking & cleaning
- Bowls
- Collars, leashes & muzzles
- Cat litter/newspapers
- Plastic sheets
- Paper towels

State Agricultural Response Team — 11

Appendix PowerPoint Slides -- Summary Pages

Slides 13-15

Supplies Continued

- First aid kits
    - Human & pet
- Office supplies & paperwork
- ID tags
- Transport carts
- Waste disposal bags
- Blankets, towels & sheets
- Communication devices
- Cleaners & disinfectants

State Agricultural Response Team   12

Areas of Shelter

- Animal intake & registration
- Animal housing — separate by species
- Isolation — sick, injured, stressed & aggressive

State Agricultural Response Team   13

Areas of Shelter

- Vet care & first aid
- Food prep
- Food storage by species
- Dog relief area with tile or other hard surface & drain

State Agricultural Response Team   14

Areas of Pet-Only Shelter

- Equipment storage — extra leashes, bowls & crates
- Animal visitation — quiet area
- Animal exercise
    - Hall indoors
    - Outdoors, if weather permits

State Agricultural Response Team   15

PowerPoint Slides — Handout Pages

The *Pets & Disasters: Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations* PowerPoint slides are reproduced on the following pages at reduced size with space for participant notes.
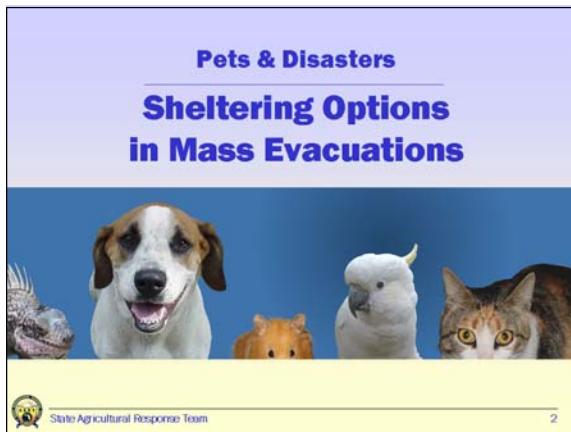
Slides 1-3

Slides 4-6

Learning Objectives

- Review sheltering in previous disasters
- Review options for emergency shelters
- Explore other options such as foster care
- View the operation of a model shelter
- Join in planning for shelter improvements

State Agricultural Response Team   4

Making the Connection

Animal issues
are people issues

- Supporting people by taking care of what's important to them
- Not putting animals above people

State Agricultural Response Team   5

Pet Owners ...

- Won't evacuate or delay evacuation if can't take animals
- Attempt to go home & retrieve pets
- Won't seek shelter if animal care unavailable

State Agricultural Response Team   6

Slides 7-9

Hurricane Andrew

- People told to leave pets behind
- Homes blown apart
- Pets escaped

State Agricultural Response Team 7

Hurricane Andrew MASH Animal Compound

- Created by Humane Society & Citizens Against Pet Overpopulation
- Operated 6 weeks

State Agricultural Response Team 8

MASH Compound Statistics

- 600 animals taken in
- Vets saw 2,000
- Most pets & owners never reconnected
- Held 30 days before adoption

State Agricultural Response Team 9

Slides 10-12

Hurricanes of 2004

- Shelters with people & pets in the same building used in many counties
- Animal-only shelters also used
- Some pets flown out of state for adoption

State Agricultural Response Team   10

Options for Emergency Shelters

- People & pets in same room
- People & pets in separate spaces in same building
- Animal-only shelters
- Large animal/livestock facilities

HUMAN / ANIMAL EVACUATION SHELTER

State Agricultural Response Team   11

People & Pets in Same Room

- Least labor-intensive
- Owners feed, exercise & clean up after pets
- Rules about keeping pets in crates, waste disposal & so on

State Agricultural Response Team   12

Slides 13-15

People & Pets in Same Room

Benefits
- Avoid separating people & pets
- Many pets do better with owners taking care of them

State Agricultural Response Team 13

People & Pets in Same Room

Recommended procedures
- Tell people pets are allowed
- Direct people who are uncomfortable around animals or have allergy problems around animals to non-pet shelter

State Agricultural Response Team 14

People & Pets in Same Building

- Owners in same building, but separate area
  - Still care for pets
- Somewhat labor-intensive
  - Owners not immediately available
- Used in many Florida counties during 2004 hurricanes

State Agricultural Response Team 15

Slides 16-18

People & Pets in Same Building

Vanguard High School in Marion County, Fla. in 2004

State Agricultural Response Team   16

Animal-Only Shelter

- Often based at an existing animal shelter
- More labor intensive
  - Staff cares for animals
  - Sometimes expanded role for shelter staff

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
ANIMAL DISASTER RELIEF CENTER

State Agricultural Response Team   17

Animal-Only Shelter

Not only owned animals
- Rescued pets
- Owner give-ups
- Fostering requests
- Emergency animal hospital
- Large animals & livestock

State Agricultural Response Team   18

Slides 19-21

Discussion of Sheltering Options

- What are the current options?
- Which ones should be explored?

State Agricultural Response Team   19

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Shelter Requirements

- Meet safety standards
- Conducive to housing animals
  - Solid, non-porous floors
  - Good ventilation
- Free of other obligations during declared emergencies

State Agricultural Response Team   20

_____

_____

_____

_____

Potential Shelter Locations

- Fairgrounds
- Ball fields
- Vacant stores
- Pastures
- Schools (gyms)
- Warehouses
- Parking lots

State Agricultural Response Team   21

_____

_____

_____

_____

Slides 22-24

Locations

Make sure shelters
are accessible & easy to find

State Agricultural Response Team   22

Discussion of Locations

• What locations should be considered?
• What challenges exist for using these locations?

State Agricultural Response Team   23

Marion County
Case Study

State Agricultural Response Team   24

Slides 25-27

**Marion County
Animals Accepted . . .**

- Dogs under 80 lbs.
- Cats
- Birds

State Agricultural Response Team 25

**Marion County
Animals Excluded**

- Exotics
- Reptiles
- Aggressive
  animals

State Agricultural Response Team 26

Marion County* – Pet Census

Hurricane	Cats	Dogs	Other
Charley	48	140	5
Frances	87	211	39
Jeanne	64	138	45

*Vanguard School

State Agricultural Response Team 27

Slides 28-30
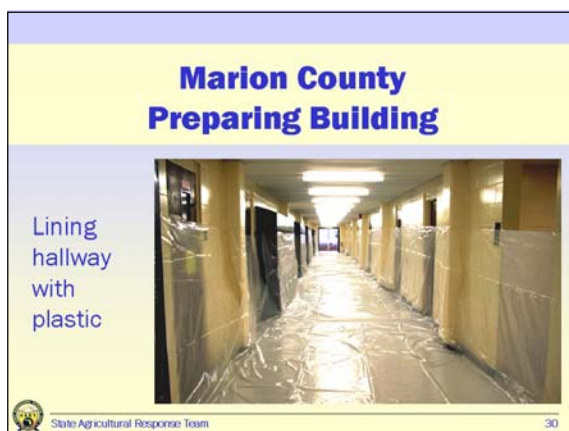
Slides 31-33

Marion County
Preparing Building

Placing rubber runner

State Agricultural Response Team 31

Marion County
Completing Arrangements

• Assembling cages
• Setting up registration area
• Lining garbage cans
• Filling litter bins
• Filling dog food barrel

State Agricultural Response Team 32

Marion County
Registration

Completing forms & instructing owners

State Agricultural Response Team 33

Slides 34-36

Marion County
Registration

Fastening
armbands
on owners &
neckbands
on dogs

State Agricultural Response Team   34

Marion County
Identification

Photos show
pets & owners

State Agricultural Response Team   35

Marion County
Owners Caring for Pets

State Agricultural Response Team   36

Slides 37-39

Marion County
Owners Caring for Pets

State Agricultural Response Team   37

Marion County
Socializing

State Agricultural Response Team   38

Marion County
No Power on 3rd Day of Frances

State Agricultural Response Team   39

Slides 40-42

Slides 43-45

Marion County Lessons Learned

What's needed
- Comfortable bedding is a must!
- Provide large industrial fans
- Comforts from home are important

State Agricultural Response Team   43

Marion County Lessons Learned

Staffing
- Hard work
- Long hours
- More volunteers needed for relief
- Volunteer cooks are important

State Agricultural Response Team   44

Marion County Lessons Learned

Policies & procedures
- Be ready to restock fast
    - Don't know when next storm is coming
- Post rules
- Post opening & closing times
- Have in/out sheet for staff & volunteers hours

State Agricultural Response Team   45

Slides 46-48

Other Options

- Temporary day-care facilities
  - Owners returning to disaster area or applying for assistance
- Foster care
  - Animal owner may be staying in human evacuation shelter or other housing where animals not allowed

State Agricultural Response Team   46

Foster Care

- Check homes thoroughly to ensure safety of animals & foster families
- Match pets & families as in pet adoptions
- Keep excellent records so owners & pets can reunite

State Agricultural Response Team   47

Specialized Care

- Recruit organizations familiar with large animals & animals with special needs
- Provide care on-site or have animals moved

State Agricultural Response Team   48

Slides 49-51

Expanding Involvement

- Broad involvement is crucial
- Levels of involvement
  - Core group
  - Support network
  - General public

State Agricultural Response Team 49

Expanding Involvement

High priority contacts
- Animal services
- Humane Society
- Emergency management
- Other animal groups & organizations

State Agricultural Response Team 50

Expanding Involvement

Work with social service agencies
- Experienced with mass care
- May refer pet owners to animal shelters
- May provide supplies such as cots, food & water

State Agricultural Response Team 51

Slides 52-54

Expanding Involvement

Other contacts

- Government & educational institutions
- Key communicators
- Nonprofit agencies, civic groups & businesses

State Agricultural Response Team   52

Worksheet 1 – Contact List

State Agricultural Response Team   53

Planning Considerations

- Security
- Staffing
- Funding
- Pet owners' responsibilities
- Owner preparation
- Problems with owners
- Supplies
- Areas of shelter

State Agricultural Response Team   54

Slides 55-57

Worksheet 2
Organizing a Planning Meeting

- When should a planning meeting be held?
- How can attendance be promoted?
- What other preparation is needed for the meeting?
- What opportunities should be pursued immediately?

State Agricultural Response Team   55

Resources

- SART Web site
  - www.flsart.org
- Animal-related resources
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- Ag safety resources
- FEMA training

State Agricultural Response Team   56

State Agricultural Response Team   57

Slides 58-59

Thank You!

State Agricultural Response Team   58

Appendix: Planning Consideration

The appendix that follows outlines planning considerations for sheltering in mass evacuations.

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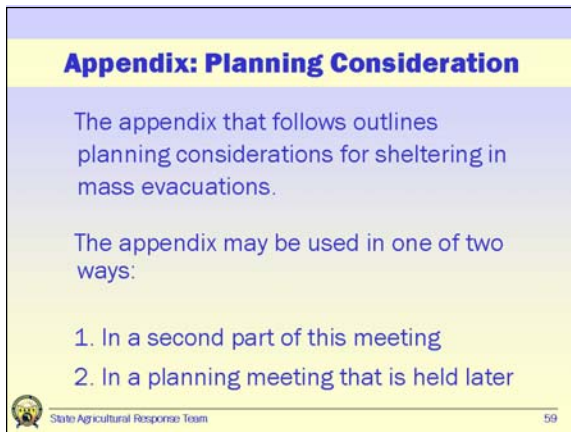
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Slides 1-3

**Sheltering Option in Mass Evacuations
Appendix: Planning Consideration**

State Agricultural Response Team   1

Security

- 24/7
- Restrict access

State Agricultural Response Team   2

Staffing

- Experienced with animals
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State Agricultural Response Team   3

Slides 4-6

Funding Issues

- Staff overtime
- Volunteers — housing, equipment & supplies
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- Record expenses

State Agricultural Response Team   4

Donation Management

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State Agricultural Response Team   5

Pet Owner Responsibilities

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State Agricultural Response Team   6

Slides 7-9

Owner Prep

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State Agricultural Response Team   7

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State Agricultural Response Team   8

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State Agricultural Response Team   9

Slides 10-12

Dealing with Violations

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State Agricultural Response Team   10

Supplies

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State Agricultural Response Team   11

Supplies Continued

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State Agricultural Response Team   12

Slides 13-15

Areas of Shelter
- Animal intake & registration
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State Agricultural Response Team 13

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State Agricultural Response Team 14

Areas of Pet-Only Shelter
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  - Hall indoors
  - Outdoors, if weather permits

State Agricultural Response Team 15

PowerPoint Slides

The *Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations* PowerPoint slides are reproduced full-size on the following pages. You can use these pages as a display or photocopy them onto plastic overhead sheets for use with an overhead projector.

Color versions of these slides can be downloaded at the SART Web site:

<www.flsart.org>.

Pets & Disasters

Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations

State Agricultural Response Team

Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations

Prepared by:

Laura Bevan

Director, Humane Society of the United States
Southeast Regional Office, Tallahassee, Florida

Jill Lancon

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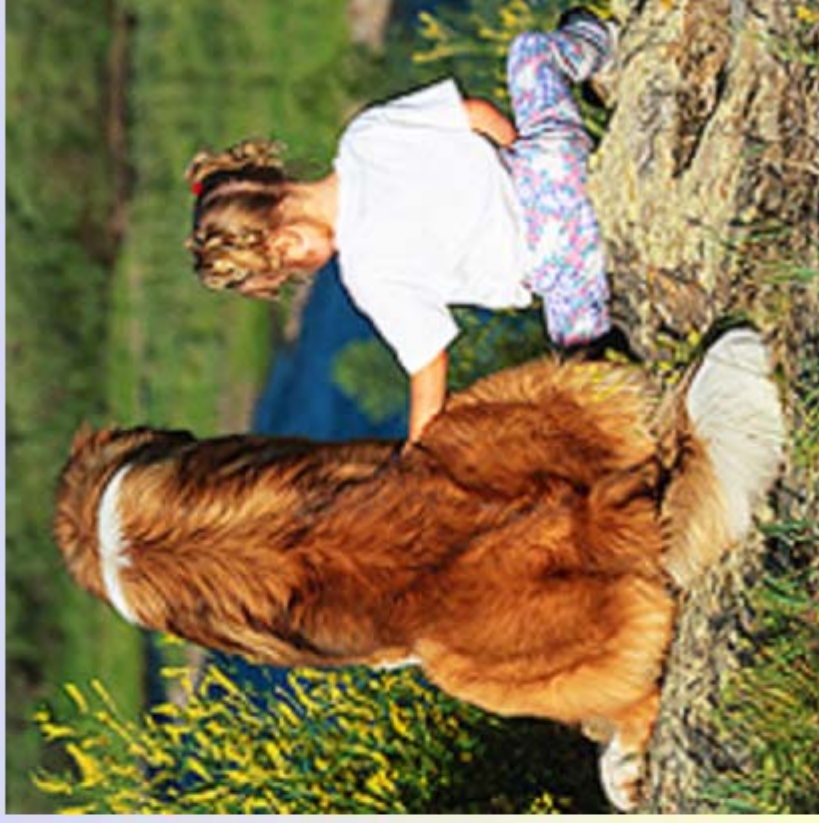
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HUMAN / ANIMAL EVACUATION SHELTER

State Agricultural Response Team

People & Pets in Same Room

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Vanguard High School in Marion County, Fla. in 2004

State Agricultural Response Team

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State Agricultural Response Team

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State Agricultural Response Team

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- Conducive to housing animals

  - Solid, non-porous floors

  - Good ventilation

- Free of other obligations during declared emergencies

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Potential Shelter Locations

- Fairgrounds
- Ball fields
- Vacant stores

- Pastures
- Schools (gyms)
- Warehouses
- Parking lots

Locations

Make sure shelters

are accessible & easy to find

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Discussion of Locations

- What locations should be considered?

- What challenges exist for using these locations?

Marion County Case Study

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Marion County
Animals Accepted . . .

- Dogs under 80 lbs.
- Cats
- Birds

Marion County
Animals Excluded

- Exotics
- Reptiles
- Aggressive animals

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Marion County* – Pet Census

Hurricane	Cats	Dogs	Other
Charley	48	140	5
Frances	87	211	39
Jeanne	64	138	45

*Vanguard School

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Marion County
Setting Up Equipment & Supplies

State Agricultural Response Team

Marion County
Setting Up Equipment & Supplies

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Marion County Preparing Building

Lining hallway with plastic

Marion County
Preparing Building

Placing rubber runner

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Marion County

Completing Arrangements

- Assembling cages
- Setting up registration area
- Lining garbage cans
- Filling litter bins
- Filling dog food barrel

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Marion County Registration

Completing forms & instructing owners

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Marion County Registration

Fastening armbands on owners & neckbands on dogs

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Marion County Identification

Photos show pets & owners

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Marion County

Owners Caring for Pets

Marion County
Owners Caring for Pets

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Marion County Socializing

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Marion County
No Power on 3rd Day of Frances

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Marion County
Teamwork Fixed Generator

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Marion County
Tearing Down & Cleaning Up

Marion County
Floor Still Shiny

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Marion County Lessons Learned

What's needed

- Comfortable bedding is a must!

- Provide large industrial fans

- Comforts from home are important

Marion County Lessons Learned

Staffing

- Hard work
- Long hours
- More volunteers needed for relief
- Volunteer cooks are important

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Marion County Lessons Learned

Policies & procedures

- Be ready to restock fast
  - Don't know when next storm is coming
- Post rules
- Post opening & closing times
- Have in/out sheet for staff & volunteers hours

Other Options

- Temporary day-care facilities
  - Owners returning to disaster area or applying for assistance

- Foster care
  - Animal owner may be staying in human evacuation shelter or other housing where animals not allowed

Foster Care

- Check homes thoroughly to ensure safety of animals & foster families

- Match pets & families as in pet adoptions

- Keep excellent records so owners & pets can reunite

Specialized Care

- Recruit organizations familiar with large animals & animals with special needs

- Provide care on-site or have animals moved

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Expanding Involvement

- Broad involvement is crucial

- Levels of involvement

  - Core group

  - Support network

  - General public

Expanding Involvement

High priority contacts

- Animal services
- Humane Society
- Emergency management
- Other animal groups & organizations

Expanding Involvement

Work with social service agencies

- Experienced with mass care
- May refer pet owners to animal shelters
- May provide supplies such as cots, food & water

Expanding Involvement

Other contacts

- Government & educational institutions
- Key communicators
- Nonprofit agencies, civic groups & businesses

Worksheet 1 – Contact List

Worksheet 1
County SART Organizational Meeting

Contact List

Planning for animals and agriculture in disasters is more effective when community involvement and support are strong. Below is a list of categories of groups to involve in a community plan for animals in disasters. Use this worksheet as you identify people to involve in a county SART.

	Organizations	Key contacts
High priority contacts • Animal services • Humane Society • Emergency management • Other animal groups and organizations		
Social service organizations		
Government & educational institutions		
Key communicators		
Civic groups		
Businesses and health care providers		

Planning Considerations

- Security
- Staffing
- Funding
- Pet owners' responsibilities

- Owner preparation
- Problems with owners
- Supplies
- Areas of shelter

Worksheet 2

Organizing a Planning Meeting

- When should a planning meeting be held?

- How can attendance be promoted?

- What other preparation is needed for the meeting?

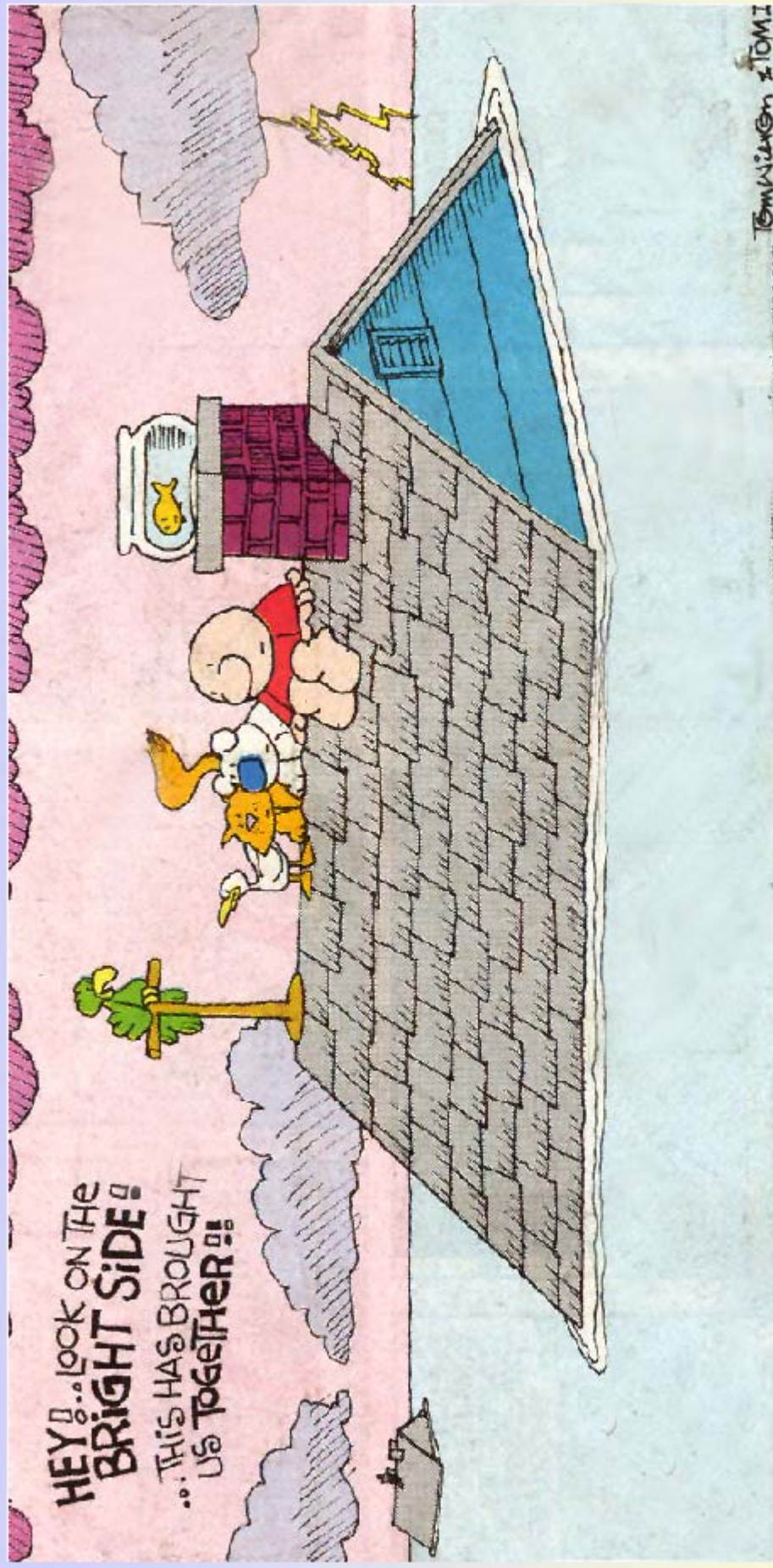- What opportunities should be pursued immediately?

Resources

- SART Web site
  - www.flsart.org
- Animal-related resources
- Emergency management resources
- Ag safety resources
- FEMA training

Thank You!

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Appendix: Planning Consideration

The appendix that follows outlines planning considerations for sheltering in mass evacuations.

The appendix may be used in one of two ways:

1. In a second part of this meeting

2. In a planning meeting that is held later

Sheltering Option in Mass Evacuation Appendix: Planning Consideration

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Security

- 24/7
- Restrict access

Staffing

- Experienced with animals
- Vet (*optional, but ideal*)
- Vet tech or animal health tech

Funding Issues

- Staff overtime
- Volunteers – housing, equipment & supplies
- Government reimbursement – local, state & federal
- Track volunteer & staff hours
- Record expenses

Donation Management

- Control intake of supplies
- Locate off-site storage facilities for large shipments

Pet Owner Responsibilities

- Conduct pre-disaster training
  - *Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning*
- Provide crates or cages large enough to stand, sit & turn around
- Supply medications

Owner Prep

- Documented medical history
- Cat litter/newspapers
- Chew toys or other comfort items
- Collars, tags, leashes, harnesses & muzzles

Unprepared Owners

- Owners may arrive without necessary supplies

- Emergency shelter should stockpile basic animal supplies

Problems with Owners

Plan for owners breaking rules:

- Not providing food & water
- Not confining & controlling pets
- Not cleaning
- Not letting dogs relieve themselves
- Verbally or physically abusing animals

Dealing with Violations

If animal owner violates rules:

- In pet-friendly shelter, remove animal to another part of facility or to animal shelter
- Have staff provide all care
- Deny owners access to animals

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Supplies

- Crates & cages – all sizes
- Food – different types
- Water – drinking & cleaning
- Bowls
- Collars, leashes & muzzles
- Cat litter/newspapers
- Plastic sheets
- Paper towels

Supplies Continued

- First aid kits
  - Human & pet
- Office supplies & paperwork
- ID tags
- Transport carts
- Waste disposal bags
- Blankets, towels & sheets
- Communication devices
- Cleaners & disinfectants

Areas of Shelter

- Animal intake & registration
- Animal housing — separate by species
- Isolation — sick, injured, stressed & aggressive

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Areas of Shelter

- Vet care & first aid

- Food prep

- Food storage by species

- Dog relief area with tile or other hard surface & drain

Areas of Pet-Only Shelter

- Equipment storage — extra leashes, bowls & crates
- Animal visitation — quiet area
- Animal exercise
  - Hall indoors
  - Outdoors, if weather permits

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