

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF) #17 ANIMAL ISSUES UNIT

PRIMARY AGENCY: Highlands County Animal Control Director
Highlands County Animal Control Supervisor

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Local Veterinary Clinics, Hospitals and Boarding Kennels
Florida Animal Disaster Planning Advisory Committee
Wrede's Wildlife and Rehabilitation Center, Inc.
Highlands County Emergency Management
Highlands County Solid Waste Department
Highlands County Agriculture Extension
Highlands County Sheriff's Office
Local Feed and Pet Supply Businesses
Horsemanship Safety Association, Inc.
Highlands County Red Cross Chapter
Highlands County Humane Society
Highlands County Animal Disaster Services (HCADS)
Local Cattlemen's Association
Local Pet Boarding Facilities
Adopt-A-Horse L.T.D., Inc.
County Public Health Unit
Local Animal Breeders
Local 4-H Clubs

NIMS: The lead agency representative will serve as the Animal Issues Unit Leader. This Unit will report directly to the Logistics Section Chief.

I. INTRODUCTION

Animal issues are generally overlooked in disaster planning. This lack of planning leads to serious human health and safety risks when animals are forced from their habitats due to flooding, hunger, and injury. By developing operational procedures to care for these animals before, during, and after such an event, this ESF will reduce the threat to humans as well as reduce the resource drain on other County ESFs.

A. Purpose

The purpose of this function is to provide for the coordination of local resources in response to pet, farm, and wild animal emergency needs before, during, and after a significant natural disaster or man-made event.

B. Scope

1. The available or obtainable resources for Emergency Support Function #17 (ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit) lead and support agencies will be provided through the Highlands County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for:
 - a. Minor emergencies or disasters that require a Level 3 or Level 2 activation of the County EOC and minimal State or Federal assistance.

- b. Major emergencies or disasters that require a Level 2 or Level 1 activation of the County EOC and a broad range of State and/or Federal assistance.
 - c. Catastrophic emergencies or disasters that require Level 1 activation of the County EOC and massive State and Federal assistance.
 - 2. Agency available resources include the human, technical, equipment, facility, and material and supply resources available from lead and support agencies.
 - 3. Agency obtainable resources are the human, technical, equipment, facility, and material and supply resources obtainable through contractors, vendors, suppliers, and agency related known local, State, regional, or Federal government and public or private associations and groups.
- C. Planning Assumptions
 - 1. A significant natural or man-made event could quickly overwhelm local governmental resources and capabilities to provide services, necessitating State and/or Federal assistance. Such a disaster would pose certain public health and nuisance threats, such as injured, displaced, and dead animals, rabies and other animal related diseases, veterinary treatment or euthanasia, care and shelter, and other animal problems. Additionally, these problems could tax the human needs response and resources.
 - 2. Many people will not leave their pets, thus electing to stay in an unsafe dwelling and will endanger themselves and their pets.
 - 3. There are inadequate spaces in boarding and veterinarian kennels for the anticipated needs.
 - 4. Planning is underway to designate certain community disaster shelters that would allow pets. (See ESF #6/Mass Care Unit)
 - 5. Evacuees will not be told to leave their pets at home. To do so would delay their evacuation and could cause them to violate curfews and restricted access areas as they attempt to get back to their pets.
 - 6. Leaving pets behind could cause injury, death, malnutrition and unnecessary cruelty as it could be weeks before some areas are accessible.
 - 7. When it is determined that an area needs to be evacuated, residents will be advised, "Take your pets with you because you may not be able to return for sometime."
 - 8. County-wide animal related assistance will be most successful when coordinated by Highlands County Animal Control, an Ad-hoc group especially formulated to carry out ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit planning and response task.
 - 9. Human lives will be at risk due to the refusal of many to leave pets or livestock behind in a disaster event. Public education by the County and animal related organizations is needed to increase public awareness of disaster preparation for pets and the pet sheltering facilities available in the event of an evacuation.

10. A large-scale disaster event could result in many wandering homeless, sick or injured pets, livestock and wild animals. This situation would be a health nuisance and bite threat requiring timely capture and subsequent sheltering of these animals.
11. Triage and treatment of sick and injured animals will be needed, including humane euthanasia in some cases. This should be accomplished by Animal Control personnel and veterinarians at designated collection points or private veterinary hospitals. Some large and/or wild animals may have to be shot.
12. Food supplies will be inadequate in a disaster event. Prior arrangement with vendors should be made to import commercial pet and livestock food into the County after a disaster. Food drops for wild animals would be organized by various wild animal related groups and State agencies.
13. Animal shelter waste and carcasses will accumulate in the post-disaster period, requiring removal of the material to approved solid waste dumping sites or burning on site.
14. In the aftermath of a long-term power outage, residents will need to be advised not to throw spoiled meat from their freezers outside. The meat can poison and kill both wild and displaced domestic animals.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Disaster Planning Phase should include:

1. Planning meetings of all ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Advisory Committee Support Agencies.
2. Review and update of the ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Animal Issues Plan.
3. Drills and training of Animal Search and Rescue Teams and other ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit functions.
4. Identify facilities and fenced pasture land that could be used by animal owners from a risk area (horses, breeding bulls, etc.).
5. Identify facilities and pasture land to quarter pets and livestock.
6. All agencies involved with the ESF 17/Animal Issues Unit will attend training on NIMS/ICS components to understand NIMS, its purpose, and how the ESF 17/Animal Issues Unit fits into the overall structure.

B. Disaster Preparation Phase should include:

1. Notification of all ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit agencies and schedule an ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit operations meeting.
2. Buying or ordering food and supplies to meet the anticipated needs of this ESF in the initial, short and long term recovery phases.
3. Open and supply shelters to be used as HCADS shelters for persons with pets and shelters (facilities and fenced pasture land) that will be used by large animals.
4. Distribute necessary ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit forms to shelters, etc.
5. Care and shelter of animals before a disaster event.
6. Establish communications with ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit at the State EOC.

- C. Initial Recovery Phase should include:
 1. Immediate mobilization and deployment of animal search and rescue teams to the disaster area(s) to determine ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit needs and begin recovery operations.
 2. Provide support to aid in the relief of nuisance and health related problems involving animals and their impact on human relief efforts.
 3. Initiation of critical animal assistance activities, as prioritized in III below.
 4. Designated animal shelter sites will be utilized first: additional shelters will be identified as the situation requires.
 5. Supply Depot and Staging Sites will be created as the situation requires.
 6. Request ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit assistance from the State or other outside agencies through the ESF 7/ Procurement Unit as required.
 7. Provide information to the ESF 5/Planning Section to ensure current information is included in situation reports and the Incident Action Plan (IAP).
- D. Short Term Recovery Phase should include:
 1. Organized relocation, sheltering, feeding, triage, and emergency medical care of animals to meet short term needs.
 2. Capture of injured and displaced animals.
 3. Begin reunification of animals and owners.
 4. Acquisition of additional food and supplies from vendors as needed to support relief efforts.
 5. Continued coordination with other ESFs for timely and proper carcass disposal.
 6. Direct incoming assistance to needed areas.
 7. Provide information to the ESF 5/Planning Section to ensure current information is included in situation reports and the Incident Action Plan (IAP).
- E. Long Term Recovery Phase should include:
 1. Return of animals to their owners or natural environment.
 2. Adoption of unclaimed animals.
 3. Long term health care and proper disposal of carcasses.
 4. Return to normal operations.
 5. Normal periods before euthanasia will be extended to allow owners to return from other areas and to locate their animals.
 6. Critique ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit operations and rewrite this ESF plan as necessary.
 7. Provide information to the ESF 5/Planning Section to ensure current information is included in situation reports and the Incident Action Plan (IAP).

III. ORGANIZATION

- A. Highlands County Animal Disaster Services

The Highlands County Animal Control is an Ad-hoc committee, specifically created to develop ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit plans and perform needed ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit response actions. This committee is made up of representatives from ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit support groups and local

citizens at large. The group has selected a chairman and secretary and holds scheduled meetings. The committee is comprised of the following subcommittees, having the following tasks:

1. Supply Committee: Develop a plan for the provisions of medications, medical supplies, bleach, blankets, towels, food and water, and other items that could be used in treating injured animals as well as maintaining animal shelters. Establish liaison with ESF #7/Procurement Unit.
2. Equipment Committee: Develop a plan to procure items of a reusable and durable nature, such as cages, traps, nets, fencing material, ropes, reflective vests and tape, fuel, tools, lanterns, post hole diggers, control sticks, gloves, generators and other items that can be used in rescue and health and safety. Establish liaison with ESF #7/Procurement Unit.
3. Transportation Committee: This committee would provide assistance to vets, animal shelters, etc. by procuring trailers, trucks, etc. to help with the transportation of animals lost or injured and to assist with getting supplies to the care sites. Establish liaison with ESF #1/Transportation Unit.
4. Shelter/Evacuation Site Committee: Attempt to secure properly constructed buildings which would agree to shelter people and their pets. Locate shelters for animals only, and for horses, cattle and other large animals. Establish liaison with ESF #6/Mass Care Unit.
5. Volunteer Coordinator: Responsible for recruitment and screening of volunteers for placement in appropriate positions. Establish liaison with ESF #15/Volunteers and Donations Unit.
6. Identification Committee: Responsible for developing a system for identifying volunteers and animals. Establish a means of identifying specialists from available volunteers. Those who are trained should be assisted by untrained, unscreened volunteers. All Animal Disaster Services personnel will be issued a Highlands County Public Safety Identification card stating their area of service (Animal Disaster Services.) Establish liaison with the County Emergency Management Director.
7. Communications Committee: Develop a plan to augment the CEMP ESF #2 Communications Unit Plan to provide communications between animal care sites, distribution centers and the EOC. Identify and procure communications resources, radios, cell phones, radio operators and establish communications procedures. Establish liaison with ESF #2/Communications Unit.
8. Animal Care Committee: Train available volunteers to provide hands on animal care, such as exercising, sanitation of animals and animal facilities, and general animal care and welfare.
9. Animal Rescue Committee: Develop a plan for the rapid determination of animal care problems after a disaster, so that when the assessment is made, trained workers can implement the search and rescue operation. An animal care giver should be assigned to each County Search and Rescue Unit as animals will undoubtedly be where people are. Establish liaison with ESF #9/Search and Rescue Unit.

10. Public Relations/Education Committee: Keep the media informed of disaster planning progress, develop news releases, assist in the recruitment of volunteers and the procurement of equipment and supplies through news and radio appeals and advertisements. Establish liaison with ESF #14/Public Information.
11. Records and Reports Committee: Minutes should be kept from all committee meetings. A plan for compiling this information is vital for amendments and improving the ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Plan and for disaster declarations and reimbursement of expenditures. Establish liaison with the County Emergency Management Director.
12. All committee members and volunteers should be educated in disaster preparedness for animals and people. The Animal Disaster Services Committee will:
 - a. Identify commercial animal operations, such as kennels, stables, dairy farms, poultry farms, breeding facilities and other related agencies. These should be visited personally, provided with planning literature, and solicited as a source of shelter for other animals.
 - b. Compile an estimated census of all types of animals in the County.
 - c. The Animal Disaster Services Committee Chairman will function as the ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Animal Issues Coordinator and will attend Multi-Agency Response Committee meetings. (MARC is a planning and exercise group that reviews and establishes CEMP and SOP format and provides multi-agency exercises to validate these plans and procedures).
 - d. Provide appropriate public information and seminars as requested by the public, Emergency Operations, and other agencies.
 - e. Provide appropriate information and training for committee members, County employees, police and fire responders, damage survey teams, and animal rescue teams.
 - f. Annually review the ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Plan and incorporate any needed changes, including facility and resource lists.
 - g. Maintain, implement and regularly review the ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Plan. Arrange and conduct periodic drills of the ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Plan.
 - h. Maintain a good working knowledge of the animal community, including annual review of disaster plans for special high-risk facilities housing animals such and kennels, shelters, and wildlife rehabilitation centers. Insure that these plans are interactive with the ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Plan and be prepared to provide special assistance to these groups if necessary.
 - i. Regularly recruit volunteers and identify resources within the County necessary for the completion of tasks assigned to the HCADS and subcommittees to implement the County's plan.

- j. Coordinate identification and development of resources throughout departments within the County, municipalities, and the private sector.
- k. Coordinate planning and response with State and National disaster animal response groups.
- l. Attend regional and statewide Animal Disaster Planning Advisory Committee (AD-PAC) meetings.
- m. On an annual basis, coordinate the acquisition and distribution of applicable brochures to all veterinarians, groomers, pet supply stores, kennels, pet sitting services, stables, feed stores, mobile home parks, etc.
- n. Prepare public service announcements to be used in the event of a disaster and coordinate these with public health and other officials.
- o. Develop and provide a budget for ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit financial needs and seek disaster relief funds from the public and private sector.
- p. Establish a means for identification of all disaster animal personnel and ensure that all other appropriate agencies are familiar with this identification.
- q. Notify, activate, and mobilize all agencies assigned to ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit.
- r. Coordinate all support agency actions in performance of the missions assigned to ESF#17/Animal Issues Unit.
- s. Coordinate requests for assistance and additional resources necessary during performance of the mission with the appropriate agencies.
- t. Maintain communications with the EOC for the activities and responsibilities carried out by the primary and support agencies of ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit.
- u. Facilitate the transportation of injured, stray, or nuisance animals to animal care facilities.
- v. Assist human emergency response teams with animal related problems.
- w. Coordinate with the Highlands County Public Health Unit for the release of public information regarding animals and related health issues.
- x. Respond to animal related inquiries.
- y. Maintain a roster of all persons who would be involved with animal search and rescue operations and insure that they receive per-exposure rabies and tetanus vaccinations.

B. Highlands County Animal Control will:

- 1. Function as the primary County agency for ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit.
- 2. Attend Animal Disaster Services meetings.
- 3. Investigate all animal bites.
- 4. Arrange for the removal and disposal of dead animals.
- 5. Enforce Highlands County Animal Control Ordinances.
- 6. Quarantine bite animals for observation.

7. Impound animals at large with no evidence of ownership.
 8. Euthanize sick and/or injured animals through assigned and authorized persons.
 9. Pick up wild animals for appropriate disposition.
 10. Investigate animal cruelty and neglect complaints in conjunction with the SPCA or Humane Society.
 11. Develop and coordinate procedures for using volunteers.
- C. All ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Support Agencies should:
1. Attend Animal Disaster Services Committee meetings as scheduled.
 2. Participate in the planning and review of the ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Animal Issues Plan.
 3. Maintain agency or facility disaster plans as appropriate.
 4. Maintain communications with ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit during emergency conditions.
 5. Have pre-exposure rabies and tetanus vaccinations for all animal responders.
- D. Wrede's Wildlife & Rehabilitation Center, Inc. will:
1. Coordinate the capture of sick and injured wildlife.
 2. Shelter sick and injured wildlife.
 3. Maintain liaison with the Florida Game and Fish Commission.
- E. Florida Animal Disaster Planning Advisory Committee (AD-PAC) will:
1. Provide data and presentations to the ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Advisory Committee.
 2. Review the ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Plan and make comments and suggestions for updates
- F. Local Veterinary Clinics, Hospitals and Boarding Kennels should:
1. Provide for the shelter of household pets as capable.
 2. Provide triage and treatment of sick and injured animals, including humane euthanasia as required.
 3. Assist in identifying the owners of stray pets.
- G. Highlands County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will:
1. Provide initial notification to HCADS for the need to implement all or portions of ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit.
 2. Assist in coordination of request for support from other ESFs and the State EOC.
- H. Highlands County Solid Waste Department will:
1. Provide landfill disposal for animal shelter waste and small animal carcasses.
- I. Highlands County Agriculture Extension Office will:
1. Provide brochures before and after a disaster.
 2. Maintain listings of current livestock owners.
 3. Survey damage to livestock and facilities.
 4. Assist in the location of boarding facilities and pasture for large animals.
- J. Highlands County Sheriff's Office will:
1. Provide dispatch and communications for Animal Control.
 2. Investigate large animal cruelty cases.
 3. Patrol roadways for, and inform ranchers and/or Animal Control of, stray livestock.

4. Assist with euthanasia of livestock if necessary.
 5. Insure access of all disaster animal personnel to all County areas in order to accomplish their mission.
- K. Local Feed and Pet Supply Businesses should:
1. Establish communications with the ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Coordinator.
- L. Highlands County American Red Cross Chapter:
At this time, the Red Cross has not established a shelter program to include pets.
1. Provide for the feeding of animal shelter workers and disaster field teams.
 2. Provide CPR and first aid classes as requested.
- M. Highlands County Humane Society will:
1. Assist in sheltering stray, sick and injured animals.
 2. Assist in providing humane euthanasia where necessary.
 3. Assist in locating the owners of stray animals.
 4. Provide for adoption of adoptable animals.
- N. Local Cattlemen's Association will:
1. Inform the ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Coordinator of pasture, corrals, etc. that would be available to quarter breeding stock and horses from a risk area.
 2. Begin search and rescue operations of ranch land to determine animal issue needs and notify ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit.
 3. Assist in the identification of lost stock and the herding of stock from public highways and lands back to their pasture areas.
- O. County Public Health Unit will:
1. Investigate reports of animal bites.
 2. Ensure the impounding of any animals suspected of having rabies.
 3. Provide pre-exposure rabies and tetanus vaccinations to selected emergency responders who will be involved with animals.
 4. Provide rabies vaccinations as required by any responders that are bitten by animals.
- P. Adopt-A-Horse L.T.D., Inc. will:
1. Assist in the location of boarding facilities for horses.
 2. Shelter stray horses.
 3. Coordinate finding owners of stray horses.
 4. Coordinate adoption of horses.
- Q. Horsemanship Safety Association, Inc. will:
1. Assist in the location of boarding facilities for horses.
 2. Provide pasture for horses brought in from coastal and other risk areas.
- R. Local Pet Boarding Facilities should:
1. Inform ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit of pet boarding capabilities and situation before, during and after a disaster.
 2. Assist in animal search and rescue operations if able.
- S. Local Animal Breeders should:
1. Inform ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit of pasture land and facilities that could be used to quarter breeding stock and horses from risk areas.
 2. Assist in animal search and rescue operations as able.
- T. Local 4-H Clubs should:
1. Assist in staffing public shelters accepting pets and in large animal shelters.

2. Assist in animal search and rescue operations.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

Animal related services under this ESF are prioritized in the following functional areas with agency responsibility assigned.

- A. Bite Investigation and Rabies quarantine
 1. Highlands County Animal Control
 2. Highlands County Public Health Unit
- B. Pick-up of Animals Causing a Direct Threat to People
 1. Highlands County Animal Control
 2. ESF #17 Animal Search and Rescue Teams
 3. Sheriff's Office, Agricultural Unit
- C. Pick-up, Sheltering and Care of Injured Animals
 1. Highlands County Animal Control
 2. ESF #17 Animal Search and Rescue Teams
 3. Highlands County Humane Society
 4. Wrede's Wildlife and Rehabilitation Center, Inc.
 5. Adopt-A-Horse L.T.D., Inc.
- D. Pick-up of Animals At-large
 1. Highlands County Animal Control
 2. ESF#17 Animal Search and Rescue Teams
 3. Adopt-A-Horse L.T.D., Inc.
 4. Wrede's Wildlife and Rehabilitation Center, Inc.
- E. Pick-up of Strays Held by Individuals
 1. Highlands County Animal Control
 2. ESF #17 Animal Search and Rescue Teams
- F. Investigation of Cruelty Complaints
 1. Highlands County Animal Control
 2. Highlands County Humane Society
 3. Sheriff's Office, Agricultural Unit
- G. Routine patrol
 1. Highlands County Animal Control
 2. Highlands County Sheriff's Office
 3. ESF #17 Animal Search and Rescue Teams
- H. Pick-up of Nuisance Animals (non-threats)
 1. Highlands County Animal Control
 2. ESF #17 Animal Search and Rescue Teams
- I. Receiving unwanted, owned animals
 1. Highlands County Animal Control
 2. Highlands County Humane Society
- J. Exotic animals, wanted-unwanted
 1. Highlands County Animal Control
 2. Highlands County Humane Society

V. PET SHELTERS

- A. The American Red Cross and Highlands County are currently designating certain shelters where pet owners could take refuge with their pets.
- B. Criteria for the use of these shelters would be:
 - 1. Animals must be in a cage such as the airlines require.
 - 2. Eligible animals will be limited to dogs and cats.
 - 3. Highlands County and the Shelter provider would not be liable for any injuries sustained from an animal (to other animals or humans).
 - 4. Pet owners are required to bring all the food and supplies that their pet would require (including medications).
 - 5. Owners must have garbage bags for waste and clean up.
 - 6. Animals must remain in cages while in the shelter.
 - 7. Animals must have proof of shots.
 - 8. Owners will be responsible for noise control.
 - 9. Owners would be required to sign a Shelter/Pet Agreement.
- C. Only shelters designated as accepting pets would be open to shelterees with pets. A tentative listing of those shelters are:
 - 1. The Avon Park Holiness Camp
- D. Large Animal Shelters
People may evacuate their horses and prized breeding stock from coastal and other hurricane risk evacuation areas. Tentative locations for these large animal shelters are:
 - 1. The 4-H corral at the County Agri-Civic Center.
 - 2. The animal area at the County Fair Grounds.
 - 3. Pasture land as made available by local ranchers.

VI. ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit Forms

- A. Shelter/Pet Agreement: To be signed by all pet owners bringing pets to a HCADS Shelter. (See Attachment #1) Agreements will be retained by the HCADS.
- B. Release: To be signed by animal owners quartering large animals at a Large Animal Shelter or on private pasture land. (See Attachment #2) All personnel obtaining releases will forward them to ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit within 10 days following the disaster.
- C. Animal Rescue Request: To be completed by Road & Bridge Disaster Survey and Clean-up Teams, Police and Fire Search and Rescue Teams, etc. (See Attachment #3) This form will be used for all animals sighted, even if deceased. The information will be relayed to ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit by radio with time of radio contact noted on the form. These forms will be forwarded to ESF #17/Transportation Unit ASAP.
- D. Animal Health Alert: To be filled out for all rescued animals and signed by the animal owner when the animal is returned to the owner. (See Attachment #4) These forms will be forwarded to ESF #17/Animal Issues Unit within 10 days following the disaster.

Support Agency Contacts:

A.	Adopt-A-Horse L.T.D., Inc.	(863) 382-4483
B.	Anderson's Animal Clinic	(863) 655-3155
C.	Citrus Animal Clinic	(863) 465-2176
D.	Country Dream Inn Kennels	(863) 465-9674
E.	Highlands Animal Hospital	(863) 385-7743
F.	Highlands County Agriculture Extension Office	(863) 386-6540
G.	Highlands County Animal Control	(863) 655-6475
H.	Highlands County Emergency Operations Center	(863) 386-6737
I.	Highlands County Humane Society	(863) 655-1522
J.	Highlands County Public Health Unit	(863) 386-6040
K.	Highlands County Red Cross Chapter	(863) 655-4440
L.	Highlands County Sheriff's Office	(863) 385-5111
M.	Highlands County Solid Waste Department	(863) 386-6477
N.	Horsemanship Safety Association, Inc.	(863) 465-1365
O.	Lake Forest Veterinary Clinic	(800) 798-8106 or (863) 452-1261
P.	Saunder's Veterinary Clinic	(863) 382-5700
Q.	Sebring Animal Hospital	(863) 285-6147
R.	Wrede's Wildlife & Rehabilitation Center, Inc.	(863) 385-2770

Resource Agency Contacts:

A.	Florida Division of Forestry	(863) 467-5798
B.	Florida Game and Fish Commission	(863) 648-3200
C.	Florida Veterinary Medical Association Director, Dr. Larry Dee	(305) 920-3862 or toll free (800) 992-3862
D.	Ridge Veterinary Medical Society Dr. Ralph Raymond Director, Dr. Geoffrey Gardner	(863) 688-3338 (813) 647-1986
E.	State Veterinarian: Dr. Bill Pace	(904) 488-7747
F.	Sunshine State Horse Council	(813) 484-6449

VII. References (other than those for CEMP)

The following publications by the University of Florida, Florida Cooperative Extension Service are available at the Highlands County Extension Office and County Animal Control Office:

- A. *Protecting Livestock During a Hurricane*
- B. *Protecting Dairy Cattle During a Hurricane*
- C. *Emergency Treatment and Management of Horses Under Hurricane Conditions*
- D. *Emergency Preparedness for Small Ruminants*
- E. *Hurricane Guidelines for Household Pet Care*
- F. *Emergency Plan for Small Animals*

Attachment 1, Shelter/Pet Agreement

**HIGHLANDS COUNTY
Shelter/Pet Agreement**

I, _____(the owner of the pet(s) listed on the reverse side) understand that an emergency exists and that special arrangements have been made to allow my family and pets to remain together in this shelter facility. I understand and agree to abide by the pet care rules contained in this agreement and have explained them to all other family members accompanying me and my pet(s).

Rules:

1. My pet will remain contained in its approved carrier except scheduled times. During scheduled relief/exercise times, my pet(s) will be properly confined with lease and harness and muzzle (if necessary). Scheduled times will be strictly adhered to.
2. I agree to properly feed, water and care for my pet(s) as instructed by the shelter animal coordinator. Administration of all medication should be properly documented.
3. I agree to properly sanitize the areas used by my pet, including proper waste disposal and disinfecting as instructed by the shelter animal coordinator.
4. I certify that my pet is current on rabies and all other vaccinations recommended and agree to assume the cost of these vaccinations if given at the shelter because records are not sufficient to show my animal is fully protected.
5. I will not permit other shelter occupants to handle or approach my pet while it is in its carrier or during exercise times. I will make sure the carrier door is latched and secured with a wire or rope tie.
6. I will maintain proper identification on my pet and carrier at all times.
7. I will permit my pet to be examined by qualified animal shelter personnel to determine if medical or stress conditions requiring attention are present. I further agree to the administration of medication to alleviate any symptoms.
8. I acknowledge that my failure to follow these rules may result I the removal of my pet to another location. I further understand that if my pet becomes unruly, aggressive, shows signs of contagious disease, is infested by parasites (fleas, ticks, lice, etc.), or begins showing signs of stress-related conditions, it may be removed to a more appropriate location. I understand that any decision concerning the care and welfare of my pet and the shelter population as a whole are within the sole discretion to the shelter animal coordinator, whose decisions are final.

I certify that my pet has no previous history of aggressive behavior and has not been diagnosed with any contagious diseases for which it has not received successful treatment.

I hereby agree to hold harmless all persons, organizations, corporations, or government agencies involved in the care ad sheltering of my animal. I further agree to indemnify any persons or entities which may have suffered any loss or damage as a result of the care and sheltering of my animal.

I acknowledge that the following items were loaned to me to provide proper care and confinement of my pet during the emergency:

Signed: _____ Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

**HIGHLANDS COUNTY
ESF #17 RELEASE**

The undersigned owner(s) (agent) of the animal(s) described as follows:

Name of Animal: _____

Breed:

Description:

_____ hereby request the emergency quartering of these animals being evacuated because of a pending or occurring disaster. The animal owners (agents) hereby release the receiving property owners and any caregivers from any and all liability regarding the care and quartering of these animals during and following this emergency. The animal owners (agents) acknowledge that if emergency conditions pose a threat to the safety of these animals, additional relocation may be necessary and that the release is intended to extend to such relocation.

The animal owners (agents) acknowledge that the risk of death to these animals during an emergency can not be eliminated and agree to be responsible for any veterinary expenses which may be incurred in the treatment of their animals. It is also requested that the animal owners (agents) contribute to the feeding and daily care on their animals.

The cost (if any) of returning these animals after the emergency will be at the owner's (agents) expense. If an animal is not claimed within thirty (30) days, unless prior arrangements have been made, the animal owner will be notified of possible adoption or relocation.

Printed Name of Animal Owner (Agent)

Signed Name of Animal Owner (Agent)

Address of Animal Owner (Agent)

Home phone: _____

Place of Employment

Work Phone: _____

Address to which

Owner _____

(Agent) plans to evacuate during the emergency

Phone: _____

It is the responsibility of the animal owner (agent) to keep the receiving property owners aware of where the animal owner (agent) can be contacted following the emergency.

Address of Receiving Property

Phone:

**HIGHLANDS COUNTY
ANIMAL RESCUE REQUEST**

(TO BE USED FOR ALL ANIMALS SIGHTED, EVEN IF DECEASED)

Description of Animal (Note injuries or special conditions):

Location of Animal or Sighting:

Date:

Time:

Name of Requesting Party:

Agency or Owner:

Address:

Phone #s: Work Home

If Owner, Is Key Available? Yes No

If no, Is Break-In Authorized If Necessary Yes No

PLEASE FILE A SEPARATE RESCUE REQUEST FOR EACH ANIMAL

***** RESCUE TEAM USE ONLY *****

Request Received: Date: _____ Time:

Action Taken:

Medical Treatment Given:

Treatment Given By: Rescue Team Veterinarian

Name:

Animal Taken To:

THIS REPORT MUST ACCOMPANY THE ANIMAL. THE ANIMAL, OR ITS CARRIER SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE LOG NUMBER LISTED ABOVE AND THE LOCATION OF RESCUE.

Attachment 4, Animal Health Alert

ANIMAL HEALTH ALERT

We are pleased to reunite you and your pet. Your pet was rescued from the disaster area where it was exposed to adverse conditions. It is very important that you take your pet to a veterinarian as soon as possible for a through examination.

1. If there is any evidence of wounds from other animals, your pet should be brought to your veterinarian. If its rabies vaccination is current, it should receive a rabies booster and be confined for 45 days. If the vaccination is not current, the animal must be confined for 6 months and observed closely for signs of rabies.
2. If other injuries are present, even though they may seem minor, close monitoring and antibiotic therapy is recommended.
3. Your pet may have been without sufficient water and must be monitored closely for dehydration, or a kidney or bladder infection. The animal's temperature and elimination ability should be carefully checked over the next two weeks.
4. Your pet may have eaten contaminated food which may result in poisoning. If elimination problems, diarrhea, vomiting, listlessness or high temperatures occur, please have you veterinarian administer these as soon as possible. Thank you!

Description of Animal:

Male Female Altered Unaltered

Location Where Animal Was Rescued:

Medical Treatment Provided to Animal:

Treatment Provided By: Rescue Team Veterinarian

Name of Claiming Owner or Agent:

(Please Print)

Address:

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Other _____

The Undersigned, owner (or agent for the owner) of the above described animal, hereby acknowledge receipt of our animal. We hereby agree to hold harmless all persons, organizations, corporations, or government agencies involved in the rescue, care and sheltering of our animal.

Signed: _____ Date: _____