

**ANIMAL CONTROL PLAN**  
ESF-17

**I. GENERAL:**

**A. Primary Agency:** Union County Animal Control

**B. Support Agencies:** Lake Butler Animal Control  
Union County Extension Agent  
Union County Sheriff's Office  
Union County Health Department

**II. SITUATION:**

ESF-17 will assume responsibility to coordinate animal related activities with Union County during an emergency or disaster. Coordination and support with the ESF-11 will be accomplished.

**III. MISSION:**

ESF-17 will provide leadership and direction for persons involved with the safety and welfare of animals during times of emergency and/or disaster.

**IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATION:**

The Union County Animal Control will be responsible for the coordination of animal services during times of disaster with the County. The Animal Control will initiate the coordination of animal services when the EOC is activated and ESF-17 is advised that their ESF has been activated. At that time they will provide a representative to the EOC.

**V. PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS:**

**A.** Following a disaster, it can be expected that there will be many loose pets and livestock throughout the County. The disaster force, flying debris, floodwaters or evacuation traffic, will kill some animals. Decaying carcasses will cause a health threat. As time goes by, other animals will become rabid and pose a threat to human lives.

- B. There will be a shortage of shelter facilities, animal control officers and vehicles. Volunteer resources will be difficult to locate during response, but will be available during recovery.

**VI. RESPONSE ACTIONS:**

**A. Initial Action:**

If the magnitude of the disaster overwhelms the resources of the local operations, the State of Florida will be called upon for assistance through the Division of Animal Industry under the Commissioner of Agriculture.

**B. Continuing Action:**

Upon activation of the EOC, ESF-17 will provide coordination of animal related activities with the support agencies.

**C. Priorities for ESF-17 are as follows:**

1. Capturing and destruction of rabid or threatening animals.
2. Transporting of injured animal to veterinary services, or destruction of the animal.
3. Carcass removal of dead animals, which pose a health threat.
4. Capturing and sheltering stray domestic pets and livestock and then reuniting with owners.

**D. Sheltering of stray pets will utilize the resources of:**

1. Existing animal control shelters.
2. Veterinary clinics.
3. "Foster" homes.

- E.** Sheltering of stray livestock will be accomplished by:
1. Available trailers to relocate stray livestock to temporary stockades, fields or shelters. (Extension Office can assist in locating trailers).
  2. "Foster" shelters will be identified and used until the animals can be reunited with their owners.
- F.** Carcass removal will be accomplished using the following methods:
1. Small animals will be disposed of in accordance with current policy of the County.
  2. Livestock on the owner's property will be disposed of using existing methods and approved state guidelines.
  3. Livestock on public right of way may be buried on site with the concurrence of the Health Department.
  4. Where carcass burial is not appropriate, the Union County Extension Office will assist in locating farmers or ranchers with hoist capability. The carcasses will be removed to a landfill site for burial.
- G.** Medical concerns will be coordinated on a regular basis with the Health Department.
- H.** Union County Animal Control will develop a plan for reuniting recovered animals with their owners. This will include developing posters or handouts for public distribution.
- I.** There is no capability in Union County for capturing or sheltering of exotic animals. Should the need arise; request for assistance will be made to the Gainesville Zoo. If assistance is still needed, a request will be made to the State EOC.