

The Bushnell FL Incident 2010



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The Pet Rescue Foundation

8/30/10

- 221 dogs from animal welfare agencies in Puerto Rico arrived by cargo plane in Orlando FL
 - Destined for adoption events in NY on Labor Day weekend
 - Contracted with Sumter DART for transport to NY by truck
 - 4-day layover in Bushnell FL pending transport
 - Housed in a temporary shelter (air-conditioned warehouse) under the care of Sumter and Bay Area DART volunteers

8/30/10

- Sumter DART contract stipulations
 - Dogs at least 4 months old and properly vaccinated
 - Official health certificates
 - Individual identification

- Age ranged from 3 weeks to 2 years
- Most of the dogs were <12 weeks old
- Unofficial health certificates
- No individual identification
- Multiple dogs per crate

Arrival 8/30/10



Setting up the shelter





Very young pups



Disease outbreak

- Day 4: parvovirus
- Day 7: distemper virus
- 16 pups died within 1 week of arrival
- Virus incubation periods consistent with exposure in PR
- All dogs in the shelter were exposed and possibly infected

Response

- Official state quarantine of the site
- Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program responsible for management



Management options

- Mass euthanasia

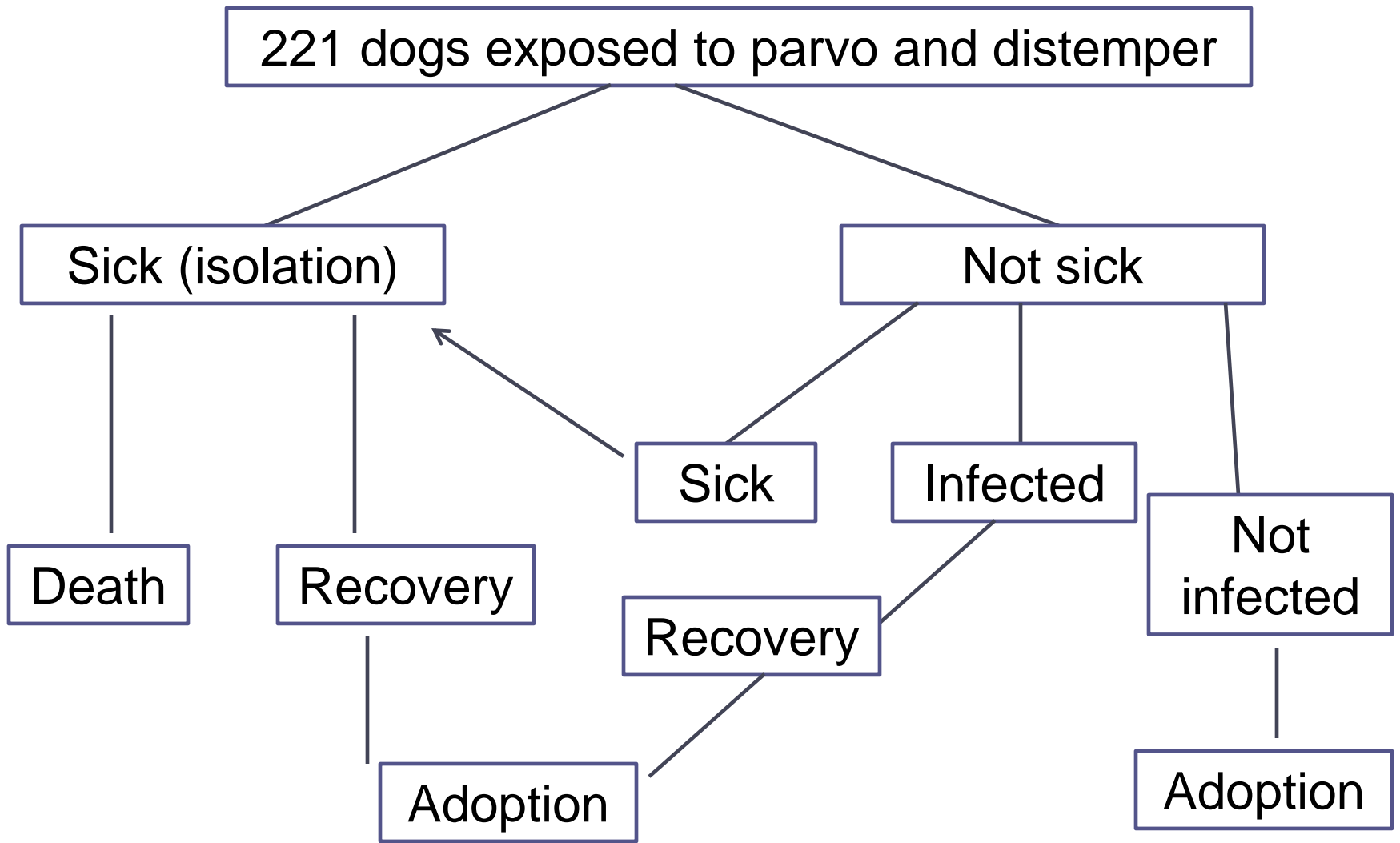


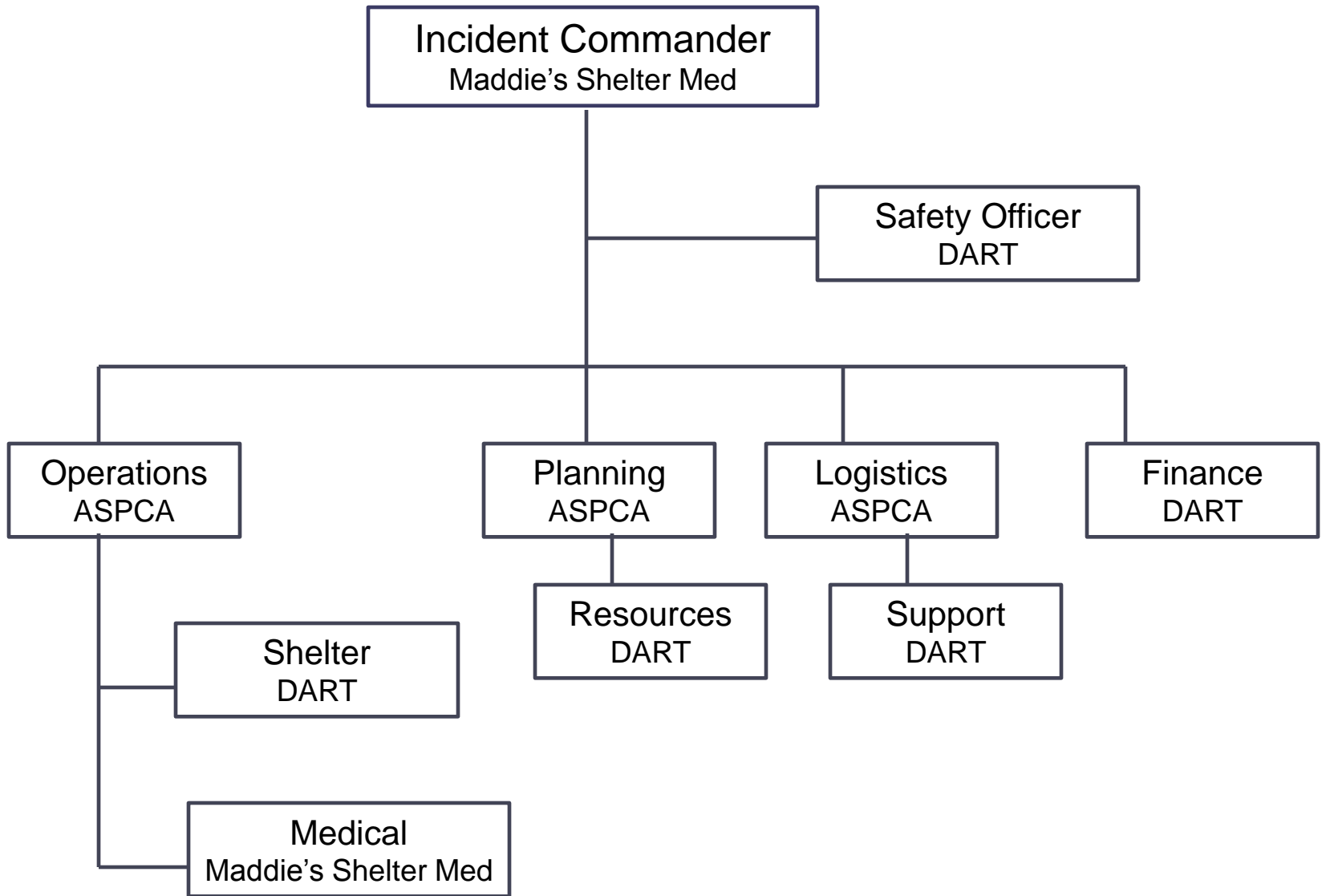
Life-saving strategy

- Segregate dogs based on susceptibility
 - Required additional housing space
- House dogs individually
 - Required more crates
- Isolation of sick dogs
 - Required additional housing space
 - Needed veterinarians
- Determine infection status of exposed asymptomatic dogs
 - Required diagnostic testing of all dogs
 - Needed veterinarians

Life-saving strategy

- Minimize virus transmission between dogs
 - Required PPE (Tyvek suits, boots, gloves)
 - Training/supervision of volunteers
 - Staff assignment to each housing area
- Environmental decontamination
 - Dedicated supplies for each housing area
 - Needed lots of the appropriate disinfectant





Incident command post

- Twice daily briefings of command staff
- Daily action plans



Volunteer Check-in



Break Room





Segregation of most vulnerable

- Youngest puppies moved to a trailer (PuppyPalace)



Main kennel

Puppy Palace

Puppy Palace



Puppy Palace



Puppy Palace



Puppy Palace 2

Segregation of asymptomatic dogs

- Created zones in main kennel based on age and infection status
 - Green zone = pups >3 mo old and not infected
 - Yellow zone = pups >3 mo old with distemper infection
 - Red zone = pups 8 to 10 wk old with distemper/parvo
- One dog per crate and 2 crates per dog
 - Facilitated care with minimal handling and cross contamination
 - Allowed accurate monitoring of every dog

Green trailer



Main kennel



Main kennel



Main kennel



Segregation of sick dogs

- Created isolation area in back of main kennel using tarps



Post-Isolation recovery



Day 23

- Transferred 60 healthy uninfected dogs to adoption facilities



Day 23

- Transferred 31 asymptomatic pups with distemper infection to veterinary clinics for recovery
 - 6 clinics with isolation units volunteered to care for the pups during recovery from infection
 - Distemper virus shedding monitored every 2 weeks
 - All recovered and were adopted



Day 23

- Transferred 29 pups recovering from distemper to smaller quarantine site in Altamonte Springs
 - Transfer of authority to Dr. Bruce Keene
 - Distemper virus shedding monitored every 2 weeks
 - Adopted once shedding stopped



10/24/10

- Remaining 16 dogs at Altamonte quarantine kennel transferred to another quarantine site in Gainesville
 - Transfer of authority to MSMP
 - Distemper virus shedding monitored every 2 weeks
 - Adopted once shedding stopped
 - Last dog cleared virus on 12/17/10



Outcome

- Saved 113 dogs (51%)



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Large- scale field response

- State veterinarians
- >200 volunteers
 - 20 veterinarians
- 6 disaster response groups
 - ASPCA
 - Sumter DART
 - Bay Area DART
 - UF VETS
 - FVMA Vet Corps
 - Maddie's Shelter Med Program
- 6 veterinary clinics
- 2 adoption facilities

