The Bushnell FL Incident 2010

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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
221 dogs exposed to parvo and distemper

Sick (isolation)
  - Death
  - Recovery

Not sick
  - Sick
  - Infected
    - Recovery
  - Not infected
    - Adoption

Recovery
  - Adoption
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)
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