Florida Animal Control Association (FACA):

Role in ESF – 17
Local & Statewide

Paul Studivant, Division Chief of St Johns County Animal Control
FACA members:

Experts when it comes to companion animals

Resource for other animal issues of concern for ESF-17 Response

Whether it be.................
fire

flood

HURRICANE

Assisting w/ foreign animal disease outbreak
A common thread in all disasters is:

Where there are people issues:

There will be animal issues!
pets, friends, companions, or replacement for lost family members........
coworkers
Or as livestock & livelihood
Bonds are real strong as steel cable.
Basic things that need protection:

- Family
- Residences/Homes
- Personal Property/Possessions
- Pets

What is the most important?
When asked which one should get rescue priority - family & pets nearly tie – this is how we think of pets
Primary responsibility for County ESF-17: Animal Protection rests with local ESF-17 Coordinator through local Emergency Management Agency.
Why choose local animal care & control agency for this role?

it is most logical selection.....
First:

When local, state, or federal government issues Emergency Declaration, as county agency, our public resources become available to citizens at risk.

Legal authority exists for animal control officers, similar to law enforcement and code enforcement officials, making them first responders.
Volunteer groups or private industry alone cannot offer total resources.

Lead needs to be someone with a permanent stake in local area and true responsibility to citizens (i.e., local government).
Second:

Statutory Authority mandates through Chapter 252...

252.38 Emergency management powers of political subdivisions.--Safeguarding the life and property of its citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state.

252.34 Definitions.--As used in SS. 252.31-252.60, the term:

(1) "Disaster" means any natural, technological, or civil emergency that causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to result in a declaration of a state of emergency by a county, the Governor, or the President of the United States.
Third:

Our state certified, trained animal care professionals, & other contacts w/ volunteers & other organizations ready to assist in impacted area.

Can respond to assist citizens in less time than outside groups that don’t know area or may have to be dispatched from distance. Local animal Control already does this daily!
Goal Of ESF-17 Animal Protection

• To provide rescue, protective care, feeding and identification of animals separated from their owners.

• To provide for public health and safety.
FACA Can Provide:

- Expertise
- Experience
- Training
- Special Skills/Equipment
- Highly Trained Animal Handlers
- State Certified Staff for Chemical Immobilization & Euthanasia when Required
FACA’s Mission:

Provide professional support & companion animal expertise for disaster & ESF-17 response.

Florida response to Katrina showed that FACA agencies able to work as cohesive & professional group even w/ members from different agencies working together due to training & continued support provided by FACA to animal control agencies throughout state.
Done through mitigation activities, preparedness plans, response to emergencies, & recovery operations
Some Resources:

Florida Animal Control Association
Florida Veterinary Medical Association
Florida Cattlemen's Association
DART
Disaster Animal Response Team
EARS
Emergency Animal Rescue Service
Sunshine Horse Council
FACA can assist w/ emergency disease control...
Coordination of animal evacuation & rescue...
Temporary confinement, shelter, food & water for displaced animals...

Assistance w/ disposal of dead animals
Prevent or control spread of disease of public health significance
Our Policy

ESF 17 implemented
At request of local Emergency Operations Center.
Our Policy

ESF 17 may seek assistance from animal control agencies, humane or volunteer groups, livestock or farming organizations, or other animal industry or govt. agencies.
Our Policy

ESF 17 works through the County's Designated Animal Issues Coordinator Only!
Disaster’s effects may be larger than abilities of local agency to handle, & exceed its available resources. Need to have well defined support agencies & develop partnerships to assist us.
Partners In Protection

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Florida Division of Emergency Management
Department of Community Affairs

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
USDA

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Law Enforcement
Marine Patrol
Partners In Protection

FACA

HSUS

Florida Cattlemen's Association

DISASTER ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM

AVMA
Old saying:

“Chain is only as strong as its weakest link”

never more true
than in Disaster Management!
Local, County, State, & federal response agencies:

must maintain strength of chain by having well defined & written MOUs, or plans.

FACA will not serve as replacement for lack of planning - will help fill support function to local plans when resources are needed.