



Pets & Disasters: Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations

Training Guide



SART Training Media



Pets in Disaster: Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations

Training Guide

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Web site <www.flsart.org>.

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About Florida SART

- SART is a multi-agency coordination group.
- SART is made up of over 25 partner agencies (state, federal and non-governmental organizations).
- SART provides preparedness and response resources for Emergency Support Function 17 [(ESF 17) Animal and Agricultural Issues].
- SART statutory authority
 - State Emergency Management Act (Section 252.3569, Florida Statutes)

SART Mission

Empower Floridians through training and resource coordination to enhance all-hazard disaster planning and response for animal and agricultural issues.

SART Goals

- Support the county, regional and state emergency management efforts and incident management teams.
- Identify county resources available for animal and/or agricultural issues.
- Promote the cooperation and exchange of information of interested state, county and civic agencies.

Specific Learning Objectives

At the end of this training module, participants will be able to:

- Review sheltering in previous disasters
- Review options for emergency shelters
- Explore other options such as foster care
- View the operation of a model shelter
- Join in planning for shelter improvements

Resources

The following are sources of additional information about the subjects mentioned in this introduction.

For a complete listing of SART Training Materials, visit the Florida SART Web site:

www.flsart.org

The following is a source of additional information about the subjects and agencies mentioned in this module.

Florida Division of Emergency Management Emergency Response Team

<http://www.floridadisaster.org>

Resources directly related to animals and disasters include:

American Red Cross

<http://www.redcross.org/services>

Topics include Pets and Disaster — Be Prepared, First Aid for Pets and Barnyard Animal Rescue Plan.

Animal Management in Disasters, Sebastian E. Heath, Mosby, 11830 Westline Industrial Drive, St. Louis, MO 64164.

Available through many Internet booksellers.

Missing Pet Network

<http://www.missingpet.net>

Triumph Over Tragedy, Disaster Handbook Video Series: Helping Four-Legged Friends Survive the Storm (18 minutes).

The video can be viewed in its entirety at the National Ag Safety Database Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/>

Humane Society of the United States Personal Planning

www.humanesociety.org/make-disaster-plan-your-pet

Resources, continued

The National Ag Safety Database has articles on handling horses and livestock safely. Go to “animals” under “Locate by Topics” at <http://nasdonline.org/>

Hawkins Guide on Equine Emergencies and Horse Trailering on the Road
Blue Green Publishing Co., PO Box 1255, Southern Pines, NC 28388

Equine Trailer Rescue video, Horse Park of New Jersey,
PO Box 548, Allentown, N.J. 08501

Animals in Disasters: Module A, Awareness And Preparedness, IS 10. Access this course at: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-10.a>

Animals in Disaster: Module B, Community Planning, IS 11.
Access this course at <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-11.a>

The following are sources of information on emergency management in general.

Federal Emergency Management Agency
<http://www.fema.gov>

IFAS Disaster Handbook, prepared by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.
<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu>

Other parts of *Triumph Over Tragedy*, Disaster Handbook Video Series are:
Surviving the Storm—Coordination
Communication and Cooperation (30 minutes)
A Community Response to Managing Post-Disaster Stress (45 minutes)

Resources, continued

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)

<https://eden.lsu.edu/>

Occupational Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) Emergency Preparedness and Response Page

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/index.html>

Other resources related to agricultural safety are listed below:

National Agricultural Safety Database (NASD)

<http://nasdonline.org/>



Pets & Disasters: Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations

Appendix A - Training Slides



SART Training Media



Pets & Disasters

**Sheltering Options
in Mass Evacuations**



 State Agricultural Response Team 2

Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations

<p>Prepared by: Laura Bevan Director, Humane Society of the United States Southeast Regional Office, Tallahassee, Florida</p> <p>Jill Lancon Director, Marion County Animal Center, Ocala, Florida</p> <p>Chris Eversole University of Florida, Gainesville</p> <p>Carol J. Lehtola, Ph.D. Associate Professor, University of Florida, Gainesville</p>	<p>Updated in December 2018 by: Laura Bevan Director, Southeast Region, The Humane Society of the United States Tallahassee, Florida</p>
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 State Agricultural Response Team 3

Learning Objectives

- Review sheltering in previous disasters
- Review options for emergency shelters
- Explore other options such as foster care
- View the operation of a model shelter
- Join in planning for shelter improvements



Making the Connection

Animal issues
are people issues

- Supporting people by taking care of what's important to them
- Not putting animals above people



Pet Owners ...

- Won't evacuate or delay evacuation if can't take animals
- Attempt to go home & retrieve pets
- Won't seek shelter if animal care unavailable



Hurricane Andrew

- People told to leave pets behind
- Homes blown apart
- Pets escaped



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Hurricane Andrew MASH Animal Compound

- Created by Humane Society & Citizens Against Pet Overpopulation
- Operated 6 weeks



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MASH Compound Statistics

- 600 animals taken in
- Vets saw 2,000
- Most pets & owners never reconnected
- Held 30 days before adoption



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Hurricanes of 2004



- Shelters with people & pets in the same building used in many counties
- Animal-only shelters also used
- Some pets flown out of state for adoption



Options for Emergency Shelters

- People & pets in same room
- People & pets in separate spaces in same building
- Animal-only shelters
- Large animal/livestock facilities



People & Pets in Same Room

- Least labor-intensive
- Owners feed, exercise & clean up after pets
- Rules about keeping pets in crates, waste disposal & so on



People & Pets in Same Room

Benefits

- Avoid separating people & pets
- Many pets do better with owners taking care of them



People & Pets in Same Room

Recommended procedures

- Tell people pets are allowed
- Direct people who are uncomfortable around animals or have allergy problems around animals to non-pet shelter



People & Pets in Same Building

- Owners in same building, but separate area
 - Still care for pets
- Somewhat labor-intensive
 - Owners not immediately available
- Used in many Florida counties during 2004 hurricanes
- However, if space is limited in an area where pets can be housed, it may be best for the owners to stay in a nearby location instead of with their pet(s). Then the available space can be used for the largest number of animals.



People & Pets in Same Building



Vanguard High School in Marion County, Fla. in 2004



Animal-Only Shelter

- Often based at an existing animal shelter
- More labor intensive
 - Staff cares for animals
 - Sometimes expanded role for shelter staff



Animal-Only Shelter

Not only owned animals

- Rescued pets
- Owner give-ups
- Fostering requests
- Emergency animal hospital
- Large animals & livestock



Discussion of Sheltering Options

- What are the current options?
- Which ones should be explored?



Shelter Requirements

- Meet safety standards
- Conducive to housing animals
 - Solid, non-porous floors
 - Good ventilation
- Free of other obligations during declared emergencies



Potential Shelter Locations

- Fairgrounds
- Pastures
- Ball fields
- Schools (gyms)
- Vacant stores
- Warehouses
- Parking lots



Locations

*Make sure shelters
are accessible & easy to find*



Discussion of Locations

- What locations should be considered?
- What challenges exist for using these locations?



Marion County Case Study



Marion County Animals Accepted . . .

- Dogs under 80 lbs.
- Cats
- Birds



Marion County Animals Excluded

- Exotics
- Reptiles
- Aggressive animals



Marion County* – Pet Census

Hurricane	Cats	Dogs	Other
Charley	48	140	5
Frances	87	211	39
Jeanne	64	138	45

*Vanguard School



Marion County Setting Up Equipment & Supplies



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Marion County Setting Up Equipment & Supplies



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Marion County Preparing Building

Lining hallway with plastic



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Marion County Preparing Building

Placing
rubber
runner



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Marion County Completing Arrangements

- Assembling cages
- Setting up registration area
- Lining garbage cans
- Filling litter bins
- Filling dog food barrel



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Marion County Registration

Completing
forms &
instructing
owners



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Marion County Registration

Fastening
armbands
on owners &
neckbands
on dogs



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Marion County Identification

Photos show pets
& owners



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Marion County Owners Caring for Pets



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Marion County Owners Caring for Pets



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Marion County Socializing



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Marion County No Power on 3rd Day of Frances



State Agricultural Response Team

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Marion County Teamwork Fixed Generator



State Agricultural Response Team

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Marion County Tearing Down & Cleaning Up



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Marion County Floor Still Shiny



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Marion County Lessons Learned

What's needed

- Comfortable bedding is a must!
- Provide large industrial fans
- Comforts from home are important



Marion County Lessons Learned

Staffing

- Hard work
- Long hours
- More volunteers needed for relief
- Volunteer cooks are important



Marion County Lessons Learned

Policies & procedures

- Be ready to restock fast
 - Don't know when next storm is coming
- Post rules
- Post opening & closing times
- Have in/out sheet for staff & volunteers hours



Other Options

- Temporary day-care facilities
 - Owners returning to disaster area or applying for assistance
- Foster care
 - Animal owner may be staying in human evacuation shelter or other housing where animals not allowed



Foster Care

- Check homes thoroughly to ensure safety of animals & foster families
- Match pets & families as in pet adoptions
- Keep excellent records so owners & pets can reunite



Specialized Care

- Recruit organizations familiar with large animals & animals with special needs
- Provide care on-site or have animals moved



Expanding Involvement

- Broad involvement is crucial
- Levels of involvement
 - Core group
 - Support network
 - General public



Expanding Involvement

High priority contacts

- Animal services
- Humane Society
- Emergency management
- Other animal groups & organizations



Expanding Involvement

Work with social service agencies

- Experienced with mass care
- May refer pet owners to animal shelters
- May provide supplies such as cots, food & water



Expanding Involvement

Other contacts

- Government & educational institutions
- Key communicators
- Nonprofit agencies, civic groups & businesses



Worksheet 1 – Contact List

Worksheet 1
County SART Organizational Meeting

Contact List

Planning for animal and agriculture facilities is more effective when community members and agencies are able to share a variety of perspectives and provide a consensus plan for animal facilities. Use this worksheet to identify people to invite to a county SART.

	Organization	Representative
High priority contacts • Animal services • Business owners • Emergency management • Other external groups and organizations		
Subcommittee representatives		
Governmental educational institutions		
Representatives		
Outgroups		
Businesses and health care providers		



Planning Considerations

- Security
- Staffing
- Funding
- Pet owners' responsibilities
- Owner preparation
- Problems with owners
- Supplies
- Areas of shelter



Worksheet 2 Organizing a Planning Meeting

- When should a planning meeting be held?
- How can attendance be promoted?
- What other preparation is needed for the meeting?
- What opportunities should be pursued immediately?



Resources

- SART Web site
 - www.flsart.org
- Animal-related resources
- Emergency management resources
- Ag safety resources
- FEMA training





Thank You!



Appendix: Planning Consideration

The appendix that follows outlines planning considerations for sheltering in mass evacuations.

The appendix may be used in one of two ways:

1. In a second part of this meeting
2. In a planning meeting that is held later



**Sheltering Option in Mass Evacuations
Appendix: Planning Consideration**



Security

- 24/7
- Restrict access



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A2

Staffing

- Experienced with animals
- Vet (*optional, but ideal*)
- Vet tech or animal health tech



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Funding Issues

- Staff overtime
- Volunteers – housing, equipment & supplies
- Government reimbursement – local, state & federal
- Track volunteer & staff hours
- Record expenses



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A4

Donation Management

- Control intake of supplies
- Locate off-site storage facilities for large shipments



Pet Owner Responsibilities



- Conduct pre-disaster training
 - *Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning*
- Provide crates or cages large enough to stand, sit & turn around
- Supply medications



Owner Prep



- Documented medical history
- Cat litter/newspapers
- Chew toys or other comfort items
- Collars, tags, leashes, harnesses & muzzles



Unprepared Owners

- Owners may arrive without necessary supplies
- Emergency shelter should stockpile basic animal supplies



Problems with Owners

Plan for owners breaking rules:

- Not providing food & water
- Not confining & controlling pets
- Not cleaning
- Not letting dogs relieve themselves
- Verbally or physically abusing animals



Dealing with Violations

If animal owner violates rules:

- In pet-friendly shelter, remove animal to another part of facility or to animal shelter
- Have staff provide all care
- Deny owners access to animals



Supplies

- Crates & cages – all sizes
- Food – different types
- Water – drinking & cleaning
- Bowls
- Collars, leashes & muzzles
- Cat litter/newspapers
- Plastic sheets
- Paper towels



Supplies Continued

- First aid kits
 - Human & pet
- Office supplies & paperwork
- ID tags
- Transport carts
- Waste disposal bags
- Blankets, towels & sheets
- Communication devices
- Cleaners & disinfectants



Shelter Areas

- Animal intake & registration
- Animal housing – separate by species
- Isolation – sick, injured, stressed & aggressive



Shelter Areas

- Vet care & first aid
- Food prep
- Food storage by species
- Dog relief area with tile or other hard surface & drain



Areas of Pet-Only Shelter

- Equipment storage – extra leashes, bowls & crates
- Animal visitation – quiet area
- Animal exercise
 - Hall indoors
 - Outdoors, if weather permits



Shelter Procedures



Animal intake

- Forms on owners completed
- Identification photos taken of animals & kept with paperwork
- IDs attached to animals & cages
- Owners given ID numbers of animals



Procedures – Pet Only Shelters

- Allow only animal owners to visit
- Schedule visits—feeding, cleaning, exercise & relief
- Log care by owners
- Limit interaction with animals not their own
- Monitor animals' condition
 - Notify veterinary staff of any medical problems


