

Emergency Animal Shelters
Providing Safe Haven for People and their Pets




Calibrating Animals, Greening Diversity hhsu.org

Curt Ransom
 West Coast Regional Program Manager
 5301 Madison Avenue #202
 Sacramento, CA 95841
 916-344-1710
cransom@hsus.org

PETS Act – It’s the Law

Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act of 2006

Amends Stafford Disaster Relief & Emergency Assistance Act - ensures “state and local emergency preparedness operational plans address needs of individuals with household pets & service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency”



In order to qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding, a city or state is required to submit a plan detailing its disaster preparedness program. The PETS Act requires that the State and local emergency preparedness authorities include how they will accommodate households with pets or service animals when presenting these plans to FEMA.

“the Director shall ensure that such plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency.”

“The Director may make financial contributions, on the basis of programs or projects approved by the Director, to the States and local authorities for animal emergency preparedness purposes, including the procurement, construction, leasing, or renovating of emergency shelter facilities and materials that will accommodate people with pets and service animals.”

- Other States**
- LA – extensive pet evacuation and sheltering plan required by law (2006)
 - New Hampshire – requires evacuation & housing of pets & livestock (2006)
 - Vermont – removes civil liability for providing space for sheltering animals w/out compensation (2006)
 - Maine, Hawaii, New Mexico, New Jersey, etc. require evacuation & sheltering plans
 - CA – AB 450 (2006) Codified C.A.R.E.S.
 - OR - SB 570 (2007)

History

Hurricane Andrew 1992

- 700,000 people evacuated
- 80,000 housed in shelters
- 175,000 people homeless
- 25,000 homes destroyed
- 100,000 homes damaged
- \$20 billion in damages
- \$10 billion cleanup costs



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Personal Losses


- Home
- Job
- Friends
- Security
- Pets



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Animal Issues in Andrew


- People told to leave pets behind when evacuating
- Homes blown apart – pets escape in fear
- Disoriented pets wander away from home area
- No ID on pets
- No system for animals



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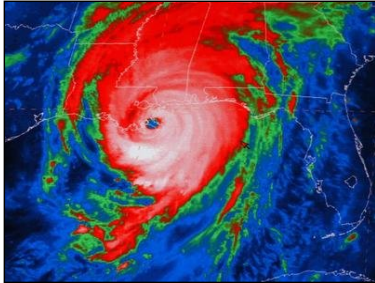
MASH Animal Compound

- Operated 6 weeks
- 600 lost, foster or owner give-up animals
- Mostly volunteer workforce
- Approximately 2,000 animals seen by emergency vets
- Support from Army: supplies, full-time vet, tents, security
- Most lost pets never matched with owners



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Hurricane Katrina



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Thousands of Animals Rescued...






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Many, But Not Enough Reunifications

Why Should Emergency Personnel Care?

- People are unwilling to leave pets behind
- Animal issues can complicate any emergency

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Pet Evacuation Issues

- Fritz Institute Poll – 44% who did not evacuate cited not wanting to leave pet behind
- Zogby International Poll – 61% surveyed would refuse to evacuate if pets not taken w/ them
- American Kennel Club (AKC) – 62% polled would defy evacuation orders & stay with pets

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Human Animal Bond

- 63 % of all US households include animals.
- 45% have more than one pet.
- Pets are usually considered FAMILY MEMBERS

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Impact of Not Planning for Pets


- Stress, anxiety, grief, and depression
- A potential media nightmare
- An emotional issue for public

This man made his way through the rubble of his home after rescuing his friend's dog, Hercules in Biloxi, Mississippi.

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Impact of Not Planning for Pets

- Risks of disease & injury to residents and emergency responders
- More labor-intensive relief efforts



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Individuals with companion animals...


- Won't evacuate or delay evacuation if animals are not taken with them.
- Attempt to re-enter residential areas during & after evacuation to retrieve pets
- Will not seek shelter if animals not cared for also



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Making the Connection

- It is not a question of putting animals above people
- It is about supporting people by taking care of what is important to them
- The human/animal bond is never more important to people than in situations of extreme stress
- Animal issues ARE people issues



Old Message




Leave your pet behind with 3 days of food & water because human evacuation shelters don't allow pets!

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New Message

When you evacuate:
Take pets with you!
If it is dangerous for you, it is dangerous for them!



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Options for Families Evacuating with Pets

- Hotels / Motels
- Friends
- Family
- Boarding Kennels / Veterinary Offices



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Why Emergency Animal Shelters are Needed:



- Most pets do better with owner taking care of them & visa versa
- Cannot afford cost of staying in hotel/motel or boarding fees
- Cannot find a hotel/motel that allows them to keep pet
- Family and friends may also be displaced or disaster victims
- No place to go and no way to get there

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Note:

The public should be told that certain evacuation shelters allow pets. If anyone is uncomfortable around animals or has allergies that could present a health problem, they can be directed to a non-pet facility.

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Types of "Pet Friendly" Shelters

- People and their pets in the same room
- People and their pets in the same building, but in separate area
- People and their pets are located in separate buildings of varying distances



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Best Bet: Keep People & Pets Close Together



- Allows animal owners to take care of their own pets
- Is less stressful on both the animal and owner
- Allows the pet shelter to operate with a minimum of staff

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Pets & People in Same Room

- Least labor intensive since owners are responsible for feeding, exercising, & clean up of their animals
- Shelters develop rules outlining their policies, such as removal of animals from crates & clean up of animal waste



Example: Volusia County, FL; Charleston, SC

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People & Pets in Same Building

- Animal owners in same building, but separate area - still provide for their own pets
- Slightly more labor intensive because owners not immediately available to care for pet
- Qualified animal care workers on hand to care for animals when owners can't



Example: Alachua County, FL; Macon, GA

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People & Pets in Separate Places



- People & animals located distance away
- More labor intensive – qualified animal handlers provide care for pets
- Owners less able to help because of conditions or lack of transport

Example: Bainbridge, GA, Santa Fe, NM


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Emergency Animal Shelter

Pet Friendly Shelters are **owned** animals.

Emergency Animal Shelters include:

- Rescued / found pets
- Owner give-ups
- Fostering requests
- Veterinary emergency hospital



Example: Dade County, FL

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Work with Human Care Agencies

- Already experienced at providing mass care for people
- Can provide training in operating sheltering facilities
- Can assist pet owners with referrals to pet friendly or temporary animal shelters
- May provide supplies such as cots, food, water



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Do you have a sheltering facility in mind?



- Fairgrounds
- Restaurants
- Ball Fields
- Storefronts
- Schools
- Warehouses
- Stockyards
- Rodeo Grounds
- Equestrian Facility
- Pre-designated mass care

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Facilities

- Should meet the standards of safety set by emergency management
- Should be conducive to housing animals – solid, non-porous floors
- Should be free of other obligations during declared emergencies. A clause in the contract should allow for cancellation in times of emergency

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Staffing


- Qualified animal care staff with animal handling experience
- Vet (*optional, but ideal*)
- Vet or Animal Health Tech
- Volunteers – set up, daily cleaning, registration, pet visit scheduling, enforcement of shelter rules, manage feeding areas, close down



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Security

- Provided 24/7 for protection of staff, volunteers, pet owners & animals
- Restrict persons in shelter
- Pet owners show ID to visit pets (*unless known*)
- No one person alone in facility
- Volunteers pre-screened




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Pet Owner Responsibilities

Should be educated already about pet supplies needed


- Animals in crates or cages large enough to stand, sit and turn around
- Have a supply of food, water, and medications
- Proof of vaccinations



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Owner Preparation

- Documented medical history and/or needs
- Cat litter / Newspapers
- Chew toys or other comfort items
- Have collars, tags, leashes, harnesses, muzzles



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Unprepared Pet Owners

Owners arriving without necessary supplies

- Not aware of requirements
- Not financially able to comply
- Choose not to comply
- Disaster developed quickly & no time to gather supplies
- Pet shelter plan should provide for stockpiling basic pet supplies



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Problems with Pet Owners

Plan for owners not complying with rules:


- Not providing food & water for animal
- Not keeping pet confined or under control at all times
- Not cleaning the caging, litter box, or doing general clean up of area
- Not providing dogs with opportunity to relieve themselves at designated sites
- Verbal or physical abuse of animal



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Violation of Rules Options

- Pet friendly shelter - animal removed to another part of facility or to temporary animal shelter
- All care provided by staff & volunteers
- Owner denied access to animal



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Pet Friendly Shelter Supplies

- Crates & cages – all sizes
- Food – different types
- Water – drink & clean
- Bowls
- Collars, leashes, muzzles
- Cat litter / newspapers
- Plastic sheets
- Paper towels
- 1st Aid Kits – human / pet
- Office supplies/Paperwork
- Identification tags
- Transport carts
- Waste disposal bags
- Blankets, towels, sheets
- Communication devices
- Cleaners/Disinfectants

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Donation Management

- Control intake of supplies or it will control you
- All donation requests approved by donation manager
- Locate off-site storage facilities for large shipments



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Designated Areas of Pet Shelter

- Animal intake / registration
- Animal housing – separated by species
- Isolation – sick, injured, stressed, aggressive
- Veterinary / first aid
- Food preparation
- Food storage – species & type
- Equipment storage – extra leashes, bowls, crates



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Designated Areas of Pet Shelter

- Dog relief – tile or hard surface floor, preferably w/ drain
- Animal visitation – quiet area, possibly separate room where animals can be removed from cages
- Animal exercise – larger area where animals can be walked more extensively (indoors – hallway; outdoors if weather permits)




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Shelter Procedures

Animal Intake


- Forms filled out on owners
- Identification photo taken of pet(s) preferably w/owner – kept with paperwork
- ID attached to animal & cage
- Owner is given identification number of animal(s)
- Animal removed to proper area



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Ongoing Procedures

- Limit people in shelter
- Schedule visits
- Log when care provided
- Restrict interaction w/ animals not own
- No visitors (*tourists*)
- Staff monitors condition of animals – vet staff notified of problems




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Other Options

Temporary Day Care


- Owners returning to disaster area to retrieve belongings, make repairs, or process relief assistance applications
- Owner staying in human shelter or other housing where not safe to leave animal unattended



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Foster Pet Care Programs


- Animal cared for in private home / stable on a temporary basis
- Needed when pet shelter is closing, but animals still in its care.
- Should be last resort and used with caution
- Foster homes screened to ensure safety of pet & foster family
- Foster pets & families matched similarly to regular pet adoptions



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Closing down!

- Calls or press release to notify owners or those looking for lost pets (deadline)
- Pets removed in organized fashion and logged out
- Unclaimed animals put in foster care, vets or shelter
- Non-perishable supplies cleaned and stored
- Perishable supplies distributed or disposed of
- Facility cleaned
- Paperwork kept for future reference




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Pet Friendly Shelters.....

- Dade County (FL)
- Broward County (FL)
- Brevard County (FL)
- Volusia County (FL)
- Flagler County (FL)
- Leon County (FL)
- Hillsborough County (FL)
- Marion County (FL)
- Lake County (FL)
- Manatee County (FL)
- Sarasota County (FL)
- Seminole County (FL)
- Pinellas County (FL)
- Collier County (FL)
- Duval County (FL)
- Jackson (MS)
- Charleston (SC)
- Macon (GA)
- Kauai (HI)
- CA Fires

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Final Thoughts



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THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
Celebrating Animals, Creating a Better World

Thank You!!

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