Dealing with Animals in Emergencies
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Speaker

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(Funded by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response)

University at Albany
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Evaluation

www.UAlbanyCPHP.org/evals

Nursing Contact Hours,
CME & CHES Credits Available
Why Address the Needs of Animals?

- Public Safety
- Moral and Ethical Issues
- Legal Issues
- Demographics
- Statistics

NYS Statistics

- > 2 Million Dogs
- > 2.3 Million Cats

Formula to Estimate the Number of Animals in a Community

- Number of dog-owning households = 0.361 x total # of households
- Number of cat-owning households = 0.316 x total # of households
- Number of horse-owning households = 0.017 x total number of households

Public Safety

- Refusal to evacuate
- Risks for human health and safety

Public Health Risks Posed by Abandoned Animals

- Injury (e.g., bites)
- Increased spread of infectious (zoonotic) diseases
- Increased number of homeless animals

Zoonotic Disease

Diseases transmittable from animals to humans:

- Of the infectious organisms known to be pathogenic to humans, approximately 60% are zoonotic
- Of the recent emerging and re-emerging pathogens, 75% have originated from animals (e.g., SARS, West Nile Virus, Monkeypox and Avian Influenza)
Moral and Ethical Issues

- The Human-Animal Bond
- Cultural Values

Legal Aspects

Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act

- Federal P.E.T.S. Act
- State P.E.T.S. Act

State PETS Act

Disaster plans required to incorporate evacuation, shelter and transportation options for household pets and service animals.

Sheltering

Marion County Florida
### Personal Preparedness

- “All emergencies start and end locally”
- Plan at Home
  - Supplies
  - “Buddy System”
  - Records/Documentation
  - Communication
  - Where will you go?

### Personal Preparedness

- Contact Info: local emergency response agencies & animal care organizations
- Post ‘Pet Inside’ stickers
- Develop pet evacuation kit

### Pet Evacuation Kit

- 3-day supply of food & water
- Medication
- Leash, collar and harness (include ID and contact info)
- Crate or carrier, if possible
- Kitty litter and pan for cats
- Pet’s medical records & vaccination certificates (proof of rabies)

### Pet Evacuation Kit

- Picture of self with pet
- Roll of paper towels & plastic bags
- Consider special needs of other animals (e.g., reptiles and birds)

### Community Preparedness

- County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Assess Community Vulnerability
- Identify Community Partners
- Identify Community Resources
- Training
- Exercise and Evaluate

### Assess Local Vulnerabilities
### Who Are Our Community Partners?

- Animal Related Businesses
- Industry Partners
- Animal Welfare Organizations
- Professional Associations
- Governmental Entities
- Private Citizens

### Specific Examples of Community Partners

- Feed & supply stores
- SPCA/Humane Society
- Veterinary organizations
- Dog/Animal Control officer associations
- Wildlife rehabilitators
- State & county emergency management
- Department of Agriculture employees

### Why Collaborate with Community Partners

- Builds community involvement and awareness
- Gains buy-in
- Identifies resources
- Subject matter experts
- Enhances communication and readiness
- Facilitates organization

### Resources

![Image of Resource 1]

![Image of Resource 2]

### Organizing Community Partners

- The SART/CART concept
- Coordination with County Emergency Management
- Integration into existing response structure
The Empire SART (ESART) was established to strengthen and support NY State’s capacity to respond to animal emergencies by supporting the development of local plans and response teams.

Current ESART Members

- NYS Department of Ag & Markets
- NYS Emergency Management Office
- NYS Veterinary Medical Society
- Animal Health Diagnostic Center, Cornell University
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- University at Albany School of Public Health
- Dutchess County Animal Response Team
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
- National Dairy Council

Specific ESART Goals

- Establish state-wide communication & coordination system facilitating rapid & effective response to emergencies affecting animals
- Decrease threat to health & safety of humans and animals in emergencies
Specific ESART Goals

- Minimize economic impact of emergencies affecting animals
- Prevent/decrease spread of disease during emergencies affecting animals
- Minimize loss or separation of animals from their owners

Potential CART Members

- Veterinarians
- Veterinary Technicians & Assistants
- Animal Control Officers
- Dog Control Officers
- Wildlife Rehabilitators
- Farmers
- Pet Groomers
- Dog Trainers

Potential CART Members

- Emergency Service Personnel
- Cooperative Extension Educators
- 4-H Groups
- Humane Organizations
- Boarding Kennels
- Breed Clubs, Fanciers and Associations
- Horsemen’s Associations
- Farm and Cattle Associations

Potential CART Members

- Interested Individuals
  - Teachers
  - Social Service Workers
  - Emergency Services Personnel

Help the Partnerships Thrive

- Hold frequent meetings
- Provide preparedness training and outreach events to bring partners together
- Involve partners emergency preparedness planning
- Recognize the involvement, input and contributions of community partners
Training Our Partners

- National Response Framework / NIMS requirements
- Need for training
- Availability of specialized training
- Team Building
- Placement of trained individuals into defined roles
- Exercising with other emergency responders

How You Can Help

- Be personally prepared - at home
- Volunteer
  - Attend ESART Orientation (web-based)
  - Complete introductory CART course developed by the CPHP, NYCEPCE and the ESART: [http://www.ualbanyphp.org/learning/default.cfm](http://www.ualbanyphp.org/learning/default.cfm)
- Donate supplies, equipment or facilities – contact ESART or your local CART

Web-based CART Course

Resources

- [www.EmpireSART.com](http://www.EmpireSART.com)
- [www.semo.state.ny.us](http://www.semo.state.ny.us)
- [http://emergencypreparedness.cce.cornell.edu/](http://emergencypreparedness.cce.cornell.edu/)
- [www.SARTUSA.org](http://www.SARTUSA.org)
- [www.RedCross.org](http://www.RedCross.org)
- [www.ASPCA.org](http://www.ASPCA.org)
- [www.UAN.org](http://www.UAN.org)
- [www.HSUS.org](http://www.HSUS.org)

CART/SART

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[www.EmpireSART.com](http://www.EmpireSART.com)
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