Pet Preparedness

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Why discuss preparedness?

- Lessons learned
  - Hurricane Andrew (1992), Hurricane Katrina (2005)

- Pets Act, 2006
  - Federal mandate that all county emergency management plans (CEMPs) must include provisions for people’s pets.
60% of households have pets.

Nearly 100% consider pets to be members of the family.

More pets than people in the US.

1/3 Americans closer to the family dog than human family members (!)
“…the most common reason people return to an evacuation site is to rescue their pets.”

The human-animal bond

- 75% of horse owners’ decisions to evacuate are affected by the safety of their horses.

- Concern for horses second only to family.

Bond between livestock, farmers and family???
The veterinarian's role in pet preparedness
Veterinarian's role

- Educate yourself about preparedness
  - Prepare your own family and pets

- Inform your clientele
  - Yearly exam checklist
  - Hand-out

- Increase awareness within the community

- Volunteer for CART (County Animal Response Team)
Raise community awareness

How?

- Clinic website
  - Include links if possible (HSUS, FEMA, ASPCA)
- Advertisements – PSA’s
- Outreach to regional hotels and shelters
- Identify other community partners
Pet Preparedness

Basics
ANIMALS INSIDE!

Check type of pets in the home:

☐ Cats    ☐ Dogs

☐ Other (please specify) ____________

Please call ________________

ASPCA®

Pet Rescue Decals
Shelters and Havens

- Establish locations in close proximity and varying distances away where pets can be taken.

- Hotels/motels
- Animal shelters
- Friends and family

petswelcome.com
doginmysuitcase.com
Pet Survival Kit

- First aid book and supplies
- 3-7 days of food and water
  - Collapsible bowls
- Cat litter, disposable trays
- Leashes and harnesses
- Crates/carriers
- Pillowcases and blankets
- Photocopies of medical and vaccine records
- Extra medications
  - Insulin must be kept cool
Pet Survival Kit

Special provisions for:

Reptiles – pillowcase, warming device, bowl for soaking

Birds – cage cover, cage liners, catch net

Include other animals specific to your practice.
Livestock preparedness

- Barn fire, infectious disease outbreak, Hazmat, etc.
- Major issue:
  - Transport versus sheltering

Humane Society

http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources/disaster_preparedness_for_livestock.html
"Other" preparedness
Community Involvement

County Animal Response Teams (CART)
The Empire State Animal Response Team (ESART) is an interagency state organization dedicated to preparing, planning, responding and recovering during animal emergencies in New York State.

County Animal Response Teams (CARTs) are the actual responding units of volunteers activated and deployed by county emergency management to provide the initial assessment and response for animals affected by a disaster.
CART Activities

- Risk reduction
  - Community outreach and education.
  - Coordination of local resources both public and private.

- Response plan
  - Pet-friendly shelter.
  - Training in evacuation and transportation of animals.
Online Resources

- Empire State Animal Response Team (ESART)
  - www.esart.com

- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
  - Resources for shelter vets and staff
    - http://www.animalsheltering.org/programs_and_services/disaster_services/
  - Brochures for pets and livestock
    - http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
  - http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/animals.shtm

- ASPCA
  - http://www.aspca.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pets_emergency