

Concept of Operations	Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 17 Animal Protection
------------------------------	--

Lead Agency	Franklin County Animal Control Department (FCACD)
Support Agencies	Apalachicola Bay Animal Clinic Inc (ABAC) Big Bend Disaster Animal Response Team (BBDART) Franklin County Emergency Management Department (FCEMD) Franklin County Extension Service (FCES) Franklin County Humane Society (FCHS) Franklin County Solid Waste Department (FCSWD)

Table of Contents

- 1.0 – Introduction 1
 - 1.1 – Purpose 1
 - 1.2 – Scope..... 2
 - 1.3 – Assumptions 2
- 2.0 – Concept of Operations 2
 - 2.1 – General 2
 - 2.2 – Organization..... 3
 - 2.3 – Primary Activities 3
 - 2.3.1 – Normal Operations 3
 - 2.3.2 – Disaster Operations..... 3
 - 2.3.3 – Pet Friendly Shelter 4
 - 2.3.4 – Pet Friendly Hotel / Motel – Boarding Kennel / Stable..... 4
- 3.0 – Responsibilities – Lead and Support Agencies 4
 - 3.1 – Lead Agency 5
 - 3.2 – Support Agencies..... 5

1.0 – Introduction

1.1 – Purpose

The purpose of this ESF is to provide a coordinated effort among the numerous government agencies and community based organizations that respond to the needs of animals during disaster response and recovery activities. Areas of concern include, but are not necessarily limited to animal emergency medical care; evacuation; rescue; temporary confinement, shelter, food and water; and the identification of strays and their return to owners.



Coordination may also involve diagnosis, treatment and control of diseases of public health significance and the disposal of dead animals.

1.2 – Scope

This ESF will provide overall management, coordination and prioritization of countywide animal related services and resources to support pet, livestock, exotic¹ and wild animal needs in the event of an emergency or disaster.

1.3 – Assumptions

Animal protection following a disaster is an important issue, even in a rural county. The AVMA² estimates that 36.5 percent of households own dogs with an average of 1.52 per household, while 31.0 percent of households own cats with an average of 1.95 per household. Applying these estimates to the county yields the following estimated population of dogs and cats:

- Dogs – 36.5% households with dogs x 4,316 households x 1.52 = 2,395 dogs.
- Cats – 31.0% households with cats x 4,743 households x 1.95 = 2,609 cats.

A prolonged disaster could result in a significant number of domestic animals requiring assistance.

2.0 – Concept of Operations

2.1 – General

Conduct rabies control.

Assist in the capture of animals that have escaped confinement or have been displaced from the natural habitat.

Assist emergency personnel with animal related problems.

Provide humane care and handling of animals before, during and after emergencies and disasters.

Procure and / or coordinate appropriate equipment and resources for pre and post disaster sheltering and rescue of animals.

Provide emergency care to all sick or injured animals.

¹ Snakes, Monkeys, Birds, Lizards etc...

² American Veterinary Medical Association



Provide information to the general public regarding such issues as quarantine areas, rabies alerts etc.

2.2 – Organization

This ESF is part of the Operations Section of the county’s EOC³. The county’s EOC utilizes the ICS⁴ structure during all activations.

2.3 – Primary Activities

2.3.1 – Normal Operations

Staff for the FCACD consists of two full-time animal control officers. Animal control officers in the county respond to numerous reports of abandoned and stray dogs and cats each week from throughout the county.

The FCAS⁵ has 14 pens that house 2 to 3 dogs each and 12 cat cages. By local ordinance, animals are kept at the FCAS for five days to allow owners to reclaim them. If they are not considered adoptable and go unclaimed, they are euthanized by injection after five days. Animal carcass disposal is the responsibility of the FCSD with the remains being disposed of at the county landfill.

According to the FCACD relatively few animals arriving at the FCAS are adoptable.

2.3.2 – Disaster Operations

Capture of Displaced Animals – Following a disaster such as a tropical storm, hurricane or flood, many animals may become separated from their owners. The FCACD has the primary responsibility for the capture of displaced domestic animals following a disaster.

Temporary Shelter – The FCACD is located adjacent to the county’s landfill on State Road 65 north of Eastpoint. As stated above, the FCAS can accommodate approximately 40 dogs and 12 cats.

Evacuation of Sheltered Animals – Presently, there are no plans to evacuate animals at the FCAS in the face of a disaster. If a category two or greater hurricane was projected to directly impact the county, animals at the shelter may be euthanized at the discretion of the FCACD director or designee.

³ Emergency Operations Center

⁴ Incident Command System

⁵ Franklin County Animal Shelter



Food and Water – The FCACD, as part of its normal operation, provides food and water for animals in its custody. Following a disaster, if the population of sheltered animals dramatically increases surpassing local feeding resources the FCACD will need to rely on donated supplies.

Emergency Medical Care – There are several veterinarians in the county and nearby counties that can provide emergency medical care for small animals.

Reunification with Owners – The FCACD attempts to contact pet owners when stray dogs and cats have identification tags. However, only about 10% of the animals taken in by the FCACD have identification tags. In the aftermath of a disaster, staff from the FCACD would make every effort to reunify displaced pets with their owners.

Disposal of Dead Animals – Euthanized animals will be disposed of as quickly as possible to minimize the potential for the spread of disease. Euthanized animals are disposed of on-site at the county landfill.

Resource Requests – When the disaster response capability of the FCACD is exceeded additional resources can be requested through the county EOC to the SEOC⁶.

2.3.3 – Pet Friendly Shelter

Tropical Event – For tropical events there will not be a Pet Friendly Shelter opened in the county due to the fact that there are no approved hurricane shelters located in the county.

A regional Pet Friendly Shelter will be operated in Leon County. During tropical events, the FCACD will coordinate with the ESF # 17 at the Leon County EOC regarding the evacuation of residents with pets.

Non-Tropical Event – The FCACD has the responsibility of establishing a Pet Friendly Shelter during non-tropical event emergencies and disaster. It is understood that the FCACD has very limited resources and will request assistance through the county EOC should there be a need to establish such a shelter.

2.3.4 – Pet Friendly Hotel / Motel – Boarding Kennel / Stable

A comprehensive listing of internet web sites regarding Pet Friendly Hotels / Motels, Boarding Kennels and Stables can be found the Animal Response Annex to the CEMP.

3.0 – Responsibilities – Lead and Support Agencies

⁶ State Emergency Operations Center



3.1 – Lead Agency

Franklin County Animal Control Department – Responsible for the management and coordination of all animal issues during and after an emergency or disaster.

3.2 – Support Agencies

Apalachicola Bay Animal Clinic Inc – Assist the FCACD by supporting animal protection actions during disasters.

Big Bend Disaster Animal Response Team – Support Pet Friendly Shelter Operations for county residents evacuating with their pets.

Franklin County Emergency Management Department – Coordinate requests for additional assistance as needed.

Franklin County Extension Service – Assist the residents of the county who have pets and other animals with becoming prepared for the next emergency or disaster.

Franklin County Humane Society – Assist the FCACD by supporting animal protection actions during disasters and providing adoption services for stray dogs and cats.

Franklin County Solid Waste Department – Provide assistance by disposing of dead animals at the county landfill.

