



Temporary Sheltering

Companion Animals



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Natural Disasters

- People evacuating with their pets
 - Evacuation facilities do not allow pets
 - Pet owners may refuse to evacuate
- Pets left behind
- Injured, displaced or lost pets
- Dogs, cats, pocket pets, birds



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SETTING UP A SHELTER

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Assessment and Planning

- Location and facilities
- Animal requirements
- Supplies and housing
- Sanitation
- Security
- Volunteer training and coordination

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Location

- Out of affected area
- Near human shelters
- Possible locations
 - Animal control or humane society shelters
 - Veterinary hospitals
 - Pet boarding facilities
 - Dog training centers
 - Fairgrounds, school gyms, parking garage, warehouses

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Facilities

- Water source
- Adequate size
- Ventilation and climate control
- Sanitation and waste disposal
- Allow for animal segregation
 - Species, age, illness, aggression



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Supplies

- Animal supplies
 - Food and water
 - Kennels and crates
 - Collars, leashes
 - Bowls
 - Cat litter
- Medical supplies
- Cleaning supplies
- Office Supplies



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Sanitation

- Prevent spread of disease
- Keep environment clean
- Procedures for
 - Waste removal and disposal
 - Cleaning and disinfection
- Shovels or scoopers, buckets and mops, hoses, scrub brushes, trash cans, sawdust
- Detergent, broad spectrum disinfectants, paper towels, disposable gloves
- Separate equipment should be used for isolated animals

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Site Security

- Needed to limit unauthorized access
 - Protect animals on-site
 - Prevent pillage of stored supplies
 - Controlled substances
 - Locked cabinets
 - Authorized veterinary personnel
- Methods
 - Shelter is well lit, especially in evening
 - Control entry and exit points
 - Log book of persons entering/exiting shelter
 - Locked doors at nighttime
 - Personnel present at all times of day

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Volunteers

- Animal handling experience
 - Pre-exposure rabies vaccination desirable
- Register all volunteers
- Training and coordination
 - Incident Command System critical
 - Animal handling
 - Personal protection and appropriate PPE
 - Infection control procedures

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ANIMAL ARRIVAL

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Animal Identification



- Identification number and collar
- Record sheet
 - Animal description
 - Owner’s name, cell
 - Location found
 - Date found
- Photograph
 - Book of photos for owners to find pets



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Incoming Assessment


- Physical exam
 - Veterinarian
- Microchip scan
- Triage
 - Sick and injured animals
- Potential procedures
 - Bathing
 - Parasite treatment
 - Vaccination

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Animal Handling


- Stressed and fearful
- Proper handling minimizes stress
- Decrease risk through training
- Report all animal bites and scratches
- Highly aggressive animals should only be handled by experienced personnel



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Animal Housing

- Every pet needs a cage
- Plastic, collapsible, wire
- Large enough for
 - Food dishes
 - Standing
 - Lying down
 - Litter box for cats
- Appropriate density



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Sanitation

- Processing areas, high traffic areas
 - Between each animal
 - Entire area once a day
- Feces
 - Removed daily from runs and cages
 - Removed immediately from play areas
- Broad spectrum disinfection
 - Use according to product label
 - New solutions daily or when visibly dirty
- Clean and disinfect equipment after use
- Separate equipment for isolation animals

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Animal Management

- Daily
 - Food and water
 - Clean bowls and cages
 - Dogs walked
 - Visual health checks
- As needed
 - Medical treatment
 - Bathing
- Record sheet



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Infection Control

- Infectious disease
 - Cleaning and disinfection
 - Isolation area
 - Clear posting on cage
 - Limit contact
 - Protective clothing
- Visual health checks before handling

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Resources

- American Veterinary Medical Association. Emergency: Preparedness and Response Guide
 - https://ebusiness.avma.org/EBusiness50/files/productdownloads/emerg_prep_resp_guide.pdf
- AVMA and CDC. Interim Guidelines for Animal Health and Control of Disease Transmission in Pet Shelters
 - https://www.hhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=19712
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 - Lessons Learned Information Sharing: Shelter Operations – Pet-Friendly Shelters
<http://www.isart.org/sites/site-1707/documents/ShelterOperations-PetFriendlyShelters2.pdf>

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Resources (cont'd)

- LSU Emergency Animal Shelter Disaster Response Manual
 - <http://www.lsuemergencyanimalshelter.org/>
- Louisiana State Animal Response Team
 - Companion Animal Evacuation and Sheltering Manual
www.isart.org/refId,12776/refDownload.pml
- ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)
 - Sample Plans for Evacuation and Sheltering
<http://www.aspcapro.org/sample-plans-for-evacuation-and-shelteri.php>

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