Temporary Sheltering: Equine

Situations
- Natural Disasters
  - Displacement
  - Rescue
- Animal Health Emergency
  - Quarantine
  - In-transit

Assessment and Planning
- Location and facilities
- Animal requirements
  - Food, water, bedding
- Supplies
  - Cleaning
  - Administrative
- Waste management
- Security
- Personnel

FACILITIES
- Containment
- Facility Setup
- Waste Management
- Special Needs

Shelter Requirements
- Containment
  - Sturdy fencing, pens, stalls
  - Check for sharp objects
- Shelter from elements
- Temperature control
- Ventilation

- Wood chip or straw bedding
- Waste disposal
- Isolation areas
  - Sick animals
  - Disease quarantine
- Special care
  - Mothers with offspring
  - Young animals
Possible Shelter Sites

- Sites
  - Fairgrounds
  - Rodeo arenas
  - Public lands
  - Sale barns
  - Feedlots
  - Fenced pastures

- Get proper permission for shelter use
- Shelters built on-site
- Sturdy panels, stalls, and gates

Supplies

- Animal supplies
  - Halters, lead ropes, buckets
- Cleaning supplies
  - Buckets, shovels, stall forks, rakes, wheelbarrows, hoses
- Administrative supplies
  - Computer, paper, pens, paperwork forms
  - Document labor and supplies

Transportation

- All-weather surface road
  - Two lane
  - One way traffic flow
- Unload animals at distance from the shelter
- Vehicles left at shelter should be cleaned and disinfected

Equine Housing

- Proper stocking densities
- Separate animals based on:
  - Gender, herds, species
  - Mothers with offspring, pregnant mares
- Permanent identification
- Isolate sick

Waste Management

- Prompt removal of waste
- Daily cleaning of stalls
- Equipment should be cleaned and disinfected after use
- Separate equipment should be used for isolation animals

ANIMAL REQUIREMENTS

- Food and Water
- Isolation Areas
- Safety and Security
- Veterinary Care
- Handling
Animal Care

- **Feed**
  - 1-2% of body weight
  - Hay or grass pastures
    - 20 pounds hay/1000 pound animal
  - Be aware of grain provided
- **Water**
  - 5 gallons water/1000 pound animal
- **Monitor all feed and water intake**

Isolation Areas

- Kept separate from other animals
- Keep isolation areas at a distance from main shelter areas
- Biosecurity
- Utilize proper disposal methods for dead animals

Safety and Security

- Can be dangerous in stressful situations
- Only allow experienced volunteers to handle horses
- Keep up with shelter security once the shelter is establish

Veterinary Care

- Examine animals upon entry and exit from shelter
- Isolate sick animals
- House animals based on when they entered the shelter
- Educate volunteers on disease symptoms

Equine Handling

- Herd animals
- Elevated stress
- Handlers must have experience with equine animals
- Stressed animals become unpredictable

Resources

- AVMA Disaster Preparedness and Response Guidebook
- Basics of Feeding Horses: Feeding Management. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
  - [http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/pages/publicationD.jsp?publicationId=914](http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/pages/publicationD.jsp?publicationId=914)
  - [http://msucares.com/pubs/infosheets/is1713.pdf](http://msucares.com/pubs/infosheets/is1713.pdf)
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