



Animal Welfare During Animal Health Emergencies



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Animal Welfare

- Ethical responsibility
- Ensuring animal well being
- Physical and mental
- Consideration of animal's
 - Health
 - Behavior
 - Biological function



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The Five Freedoms

- Define ideal states of welfare
- Framework for analysis of welfare
 - Freedom from hunger and thirst
 - Freedom from discomfort
 - Freedom from pain, injury and disease
 - Freedom to express normal behavior
 - Freedom from fear and distress

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Welfare During Emergencies

- Animals
 - Behavior, health, comfort, euthanasia
- Environment
 - Transport, fencing, restraint, food/water
- Human Interaction
 - Experience, proper training, mental health

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ANIMAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Behavior
- Health
- Comfort and Maintenance
- Euthanasia

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Animal Considerations: Behavior

- Can deviate from normal behavior
 - Heightened awareness and panic
 - New surroundings
 - Increased handling/transport
 - Species specific
- Unpredictable actions
 - May injure self or others
 - Be watchful and prepared

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Animal Considerations: Health


- Monitor at all times
 - Illness
 - Injury
 - Parturition
 - Nutritionally
- May have delay in showing signs
 - Stress analgesia
- Treat appropriately
 - Medically, surgically, or euthanasia



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Animal Considerations: Comfort and Maintenance


- Density
 - Avoid overcrowding
- Stalls
 - Bedding, manure
- Temperature
 - Excessive heat, cold
- Maintenance needs
 - Milking lactating animals
 - Exercise for horses



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Animals: Euthanasia

- Can be necessary
 - Stop disease spread
 - Minimize suffering
- Proper method and technique
 - AVMA euthanasia guidelines
- Ensure the kill
- Third person observer
- Evacuate vs. euthanize
 - Potential for future suffering



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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Transport
- Facilities
- Separation of Groups

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Environment: Transport

- Identification
 - Consistent with Incident Action Plan
- Grouping
 - Familiar animals, no mixing
- Proper handling
 - Prevent panic with quiet handling
- Safe equipment
 - Ramps, trucks, crates
- Increased panic = unpredictability

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Environment: Facilities


- Food, water
- Fencing
 - Keep animals in
 - Keeps wildlife out
- Stalls
 - Adequate space
 - Separation
- Environmental concerns
 - Temperature
 - Ventilation
- Foreign objects
 - Metal and other hazardous material



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Environment Separation of Groups

- Consideration when sheltering
 - Species dependent
 - Cattle vs. Horses
 - Sex dependent
 - Intact males
 - Life Stage dependent
 - Neonates, pregnant animals
 - Health and at-risk status
 - Sick vs. healthy vs. exposed



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HUMAN INTERACTION

- Handling
- Mental Health

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Human Interaction: Handling

- Proper handling minimizes stress
- Responders with experience
 - Need to know species
- Recognize unique situations
 - Do not hesitate to consult expert

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Human Interaction: Mental Health and Animals

- Response stress can affect mental health of responders
- May affect animals welfare
 - Responder apathy
 - Responder fatigue
 - Uncompleted tasks
 - Increased carelessness of tasks
 - Forgetting overall welfare needs

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Summary

- Animal welfare during emergencies
 - Five Freedoms
 - Animal considerations
 - Environment
 - Human Interactions

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Resources

- American Veterinary Medical Association
 - The veterinarian's role in animal welfare www.avma.org/products/animal_welfare/welfare.pdf
 - AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/euthanasia.pdf
- USDA Animal Welfare Information Center
 - <http://awic.nal.usda.gov>
- OIE Animal Welfare Guidelines
 - Terrestrial Animal Health Code www.oie.int
- American College of Animal Welfare
 - www.acaw.org

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