



NCR/UASI Animals in Disaster
Animal Search & Rescue
Field Guide

Colorado NCR/UASI
Animal Emergency Committee

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Points of view or opinions expressed in this document
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Introduction

All emergencies are local and therefore the local agency always has the option and latitude to respond to emergencies involving animals in the way and method that best suits the entity involved.

This document is meant only to provide some quick guidelines and suggestions to local animal control agencies or others who are designated to take responsibility for animal issues during an emergency or disaster by identifying key points and critical issues that will be useful to the first responder and his/her agency during the initial stages of an emergency.

Flexibility and adaptation are critical during emergency situations. If the field guide or existing policy and procedure does not make sense for the situation, do what works. If you don't have the ideal supplies and equipment, adapt to what you do have available. Sometimes it is a matter of doing the best that you can with what you have available.

Anticipate chaos. In the early stages of an event, high energy, high volume, and high stress will create frustration, frayed nerves, and short tempers. Chaos is part of the response and in no way indicates failure or sub-standard performance. If there wasn't chaos, it would not be an emergency.

If your team is working under an Incident Management Team (IMT) or other organization that utilizes ICS forms, the ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor (AEGS) should fill out an ICS201 upon arrival and provide the completed form to the Animal Response Branch Director who will pass it on to the ICS Command and General Staff.

The ICS201 is used to gather initial size-up information on the situation, including health and safety concerns, current and future objectives for ASAR/Evacuation operations tactics, and provide an initial organizational chart and a first inventory of available resources.

After the initial size-up, the ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor should complete an ICS214 form for each operational period or shift and provide the ICS214 form to the Animal Response Branch Director. The ICS214 form is intended to capture notable activity for the shift as well as resources utilized.

The Animal Response Branch Director (ARBD) should complete an ICS204 for each operational period and provide this form to all Group Supervisors in the operation. The intent of the ICS204 is to provide assignments and special instructions for the work of the day.

Activation

At the request of the chain of command and/or incident command, animal control staff or county/community animal response team (CART) leadership should begin the process of preparing for animal search and rescue (ASAR) and evacuation operations whenever they know that evacuation orders are imminent or have already been issued.

- If evacuation orders are contemplated, put the ASAR team on stand-by;
- If evacuation orders have been given, determine what locations have been (or will be) designated for animal emergency shelters and animal rescue intake;
- Notify ASAR team members of the location/address (or multiple locations/addresses) where ASAR personnel should stage human, equipment and vehicle resources;
- Confirm the capacity of staging locations to stage human, equipment and vehicle resources. If necessary, designate multiple staging locations – however note that this will increase ASAR management requirements and complexities;
- Appoint an animal control staff member, or qualified CART member to serve as the ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor and send that person to the staging site to manage the operation. The ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor will serve as a liaison between Incident Command (the Animal Response Branch Director if the existing system has one), the ESF 11 desk at the EOC, local law enforcement, animal control dispatch or law enforcement dispatch, and the emergency animal sheltering team(s);
- Appoint an animal control staff member or a qualified CART member as the Staging Manager(s) at the designated staging location;
- Instruct animal control and CART members to transport and stage human resources, equipment and vehicles at the appointed staging location(s);
- The ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor will establish a communication plan for use between the ASAR Teams, the Group Supervisor, and the animal control/law enforcement dispatch center (exchange phone numbers, radio frequencies, etc.);
- The ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor will establish a communication plan for use between Incident Command, the EOC/ESF 11 desk, local law enforcement, the Animal Sheltering Group Supervisor and the animal control/law enforcement dispatch center (exchange phone numbers, radio frequencies, etc.);
- ASAR team members will wear their designated identifying uniform and will wear their group ID badge. Their vehicles should be identified with a magnetic door placard or a dashboard placard;
- All personnel activated to the ASAR Staging Area(s) will check in with the ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor or his/her designee and will sign in on official sign in sheets;
- An accountability system should be utilized to dynamically track resources. This can be as simple as a spreadsheet that itemizes resources and provides an “assigned” and “returned” status and date to each item;
- Responders should be reminded to bring 24-48 hours of self-care supplies including food, water, medications, change of clothes, etc. so that they can be self-supporting until such time as first responder support can be established;
- If a responder lives within the evacuation area or in an area that potentially will be impacted by the event, the must have their personal situation well in order (family, pets, important personal property) already evacuated or left in the care of a responsible adult.

Staging

- When ASAR operations are requested it is optimal if ASAR resources can be staged in a location that makes coordination with animal control dispatch and animal emergency sheltering most efficient. The ASAR Staging location should be chosen for ease of access, egress, communication capabilities, and ease of deployment;
- ASAR Staging kits (or “Go Boxes”) should be set up pre-response and should contain appropriate ICS forms (204’s, 214’s, etc.), informational documents, impound forms and ID tags, local maps, street guides, the ASAR Field Operation Guide, and contact lists (with email and phone numbers of EOC, major agencies and departments);
- ASAR personnel must sign in upon arrival (and sign out upon leaving) and must also complete a volunteer waiver form if one is not already on file with the designated ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor;
- Assign/Designate an Animal Search and Rescue/Evacuation Group Supervisor (ASRGS) (member of animal control staff or CART leadership) to manage the operation of the ASAR effort;
- Assign/Designate an ASAR Staging Manager to manage the operation and safety of the ASAR Staging location(s);
- The ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor should immediately start an on-going Supervisor’s Log (ICS214) to track unusual incidents; note procedures that may need to be adjusted, or keep track of miscellaneous ideas and suggestions for future use. Communication should also be tracked, including updates, incoming requests, etc. with a time stamp;
- Identify and assign team leaders for each ASAR Team;
- Identify communication flow and/or chain of command (ICS structure);
- If ASAR staging is projected to have a duration of more than a few hours, consider ordering port-a-potties if other sanitary facilities are not available;
- Identify and assign safe ingress and egress to the staging area for both vehicles as well as personnel and mark these clearly with signage and cones if available;
- Identify and assign parking areas that allow for safe ingress and egress of the staging area for all vehicles and trailers. Utilize flagging or crime scene tape to rope off, separate, and mark areas as needed;
- Post large signs to name/designate the established areas;
- Establish cache locations and inventory/record quantities for unassigned equipment;
- Requested shared resources if needed (i.e. sheltering trailers);
- Place tarps, plastic sheets, etc. over unused equipment. Use ropes and duct tape to secure tarp covered caches from wind and weather;
- The ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor will need to begin immediate planning for shift relief – including the Group Supervisor position and field veterinary support if applicable. Nobody should be allowed to work more than a 12-hour shift;
- Staffing assignments will need to be considered and planned for any overnight shift work and necessary overnight accommodations (cots, blankets, access to restrooms, security, etc.). Typically, this can be coordinated with Red Cross personnel;
- The ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor will need to determine and post a briefing schedule – a time to brief the arriving shift, and periodic shift briefings to keep staff and volunteers apprised of the situation.

Communications

- ASAR Teams should have a variety of methods for communicating among themselves, the ASAR Group Supervisor, animal control dispatch, the emergency animal shelter and other first responders. These

methods can and should include radios, cell phone calls and text messaging. This communication plan should be written, copied and distributed amongst the teams at the Staging Area;

- The communication plan identifying designated devices and methods for communicating, assigned radio channels, designated cell phone/telephone numbers and text messaging identifiers should be written before field assignments are made;
- The ASAR communication plan should be coordinated with the overall incident response communications plan to avoid radio frequency or designated cell/phone number conflicts or interference;
- ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor, ASAR Teams, animal control dispatch and the animal emergency shelter should be familiar with the communications plan, have copies of that plan and utilize the plan as instructed;
- ASAR Team position reports should be made to ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor on a designated time cycle as a part of their mission assignment and the ASAR Teams should periodically report to ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor based on that reporting cycle. (Note: It may be easier to maintain safety checks or welfare communication between teams and the ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor if the communication is initiated by the ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor at predetermined intervals;
- Emergency communication triggers, (i.e code words) should be predefined, along with expected actions to occur when codes are used. Code words may be utilized when sensitive communications are needed and Teams wish to avoid broadcasting publically such as in the case of human mortality, large scale animal mortality or situations that may have criminal or other legal implications.

Incident Command

- ASAR/Evacuation operations will reside under the ICS Operations Section;
- ASAR will usually report up through ICS to the Animal Response Branch. However, it is possible that in some instances, ASAR may be attached to the Human Search and Rescue Operations Branch and may act as independently dispatched ASAR Teams within the SAR Operations or tasked to support USAR/SAR Teams in the field. Assignments will be coordinated by the Animal Response Branch Director at the Incident Command Post.

ASAR Planning

- ASAR Planning should be conducted in advance of mission assignments and should be coordinated with Incident Command and the EOC to assure a coordinated effort;
- ASAR Planning will utilize maps, street guides and other appropriate documents to identify, assign, and document search areas;
- ASAR Plans should incorporate specific discussions as to the term of the plans, when will they begin, and when will they end;
- Decisions to terminate ASAR missions should be documented in ASAR Plans with supporting decisions to terminate ASAR activity, appropriate ASAR and ICS management approval and date of termination;
- ASAR Plans should contain a demobilization guide that includes instructions for the appropriate collection, collation, and distribution of forms, records, and information.

Animal Search and Rescue Operations

- An ASAR Team is any mobile resource used to conduct ASAR operations;
- ASAR Teams should have appropriate personnel, equipment, skills and fuel to accomplish mission assignments safely;
- ASAR Teams will carry appropriate pre-approved credentials to access restricted/evacuation zones or will have appropriate law enforcement or designated first responder escorts;
- Under no circumstances will ASAR Teams enter restricted zones without proper permission and/or credentials;
- ASAR Teams will be dispatched out of either the dispatch center of the local Animal Control Office or out of a dispatch center established specifically for ASAR tasking;
- ASAR Dispatch will utilize standardized forms for ASAR requests and collect a standardized set of information regarding the request for dispatch. ASAR dispatch documentation should be organized and filed for reference during and after the incident;
- ASAR Dispatch for owner requested rescue will often require homeowner permission to access the property in order to reach the animal. A system will be set up at an appropriate location such as ASAR Dispatch to document resident's requests for service. This documentation should include owner's information, address, specific location(s) on the property where animals are likely to be found and types of animals, permission to access property and the means to do it, i.e., keys, security code, etc. In addition, documentation of the return of keys, and what was done with the animals should be maintained as should the current location of the animal(s) owner;
- ASAR Teams will have and will utilize maps, street guides and other appropriate documents to identify and document areas searched and points where animals are loose, in distress, picked up or fed in place. GPS units are recommended for capturing exact locations for documentation and transfer to operations maps;
- When animals are sighted, the ASAR Team should follow their mission assignment with regard to capture, rescue, transport, "feed in place" or other actions and act and document accordingly;
- ASAR Teams should create and execute documented search and rescue action plans and report to the ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor or appropriate incident commander the area searched, search results and identify any hazards encountered afterward and as necessary for safety;
- ASAR Teams should maintain communications with the ASAR Group Supervisor or his/her designee until released;
- Marking of cleared and evacuated houses, buildings, etc. should be predetermined and coordinated with other search operations, i.e. human SAR;
- ASAR Search Areas will differ depending on whether the evacuation zone is rural, suburban, urban or metropolitan in nature. Search area planning should take these variables into account and search areas should be sized into areas that can be covered in 2 hour – 3 hour periods. The number of search areas sized by the time factor will provide a general level of resources needed to accomplish the search area plan;
- Search Patterns:
 - Rural – define areas by geographic landmarks (rivers, ridges, bodies of water, etc.) or established roads visible on available maps or GPS waypoint marking (the latter requires GPS technology both in planning and in the field);
 - Suburban – define areas by geographic landmarks (rivers, ridges, bodies of water, etc.) or established roads visible on available maps, residential community boundaries or other human made border delineations;
 - Urban/Metro – define areas by roads, streets, residential area boundaries or specific building addresses. **Note that urban or metro ASAR searches of high occupancy buildings will be coordinated with human SAR and law enforcement searches. Law enforcement escorts**

may be required dependent upon neighborhood issues, i.e. known gang areas, heavy drug activity, etc.

- Recording coverage: ASAR Teams should keep track of areas covered and what was accomplished. Area coverage should be documented with appropriate ICS Forms for field work to include ICS204, ICS214 forms and area maps. If available GPS handhelds can be utilized to record waypoints, routes and other information that can be downloaded at a later time.
 - Locations and numbers of animals left in place for any reason should be documented with GPS coordinates or on maps with the reason the animal was left in the field. When possible, documentation should be left or buildings marked to alert other searches to the presence or absence of animals;
 - Notations regarding follow-up for “feed in place efforts” or additional attempts to capture and retrieve should be noted;
 - Injured animals that cannot be secured or captured should be noted in the field and this information should be conveyed post ASAR mission to the ASRGS or ICS Management;
 - Locations of unsafe areas and details regarding the situation should be documented and provided to the ASRGS or ICS management ASAP (i.e. downed power lines, live power lines, gas lines, structural damage, debris collections, open wells, rising flood or swift-water conditions, obstructed roadways, sudden and unexpected encroachment of dangerous conditions, dead animals or deceased humans, etc.).
- Field Triage: Triage entails rapid examination followed by classification of a patient according to the urgency of treatment needs. The triage process requires an organized approach to multiple patients to ensure the most critical animals are identified and normalized first. Triage is based on two key points:
 - The immediate medical needs of the patient;
 - The available medical resources (facilities, equipment, personnel, and time).

For injured animals located in the field ***that can be safely captured*** apply basic triage categorizations:

- GREEN – “Likely to survive regardless if care is administered or not;”
 - RED – “Critical: may survive if lifesaving measures are administered;”
 - BLACK – “Dead or likely to die;”
 - Provide first aid as required. Obtain an estimate of the number of animals that can be transported and confirm that veterinary resources can handle that volume. Consider whether RED animals can realistically be saved and whether available rescue, transport and veterinary resources should be concentrated on GREEN animals;
 - Assess whether living BLACK animals require field euthanasia and follow Field Euthanasia protocols to assure a humane animal death;
 - Inform the transport unit and the receiving veterinary professionals on the type of the animals, number of animals, nature of injuries and cases of suspected or confirmed contamination;
 - Document all information.
- Animal capture: Wear gloves and safety glasses when appropriate. Carry a control pole as a safety tool even if it is not utilized as a capture tool. Utilize blankets, towels, pillow cases, leashes or other soft capture tools to secure injured animals whenever possible. Utilize capture poles on dogs when necessary. Capture poles are not recommended for cats;
 - Uncatchable animals: Animals located but not catchable or purposefully left to shelter in place should be documented as to location (street address, road location, GPS coordinate), description, numbers, possible injuries and any other available information. This documentation should be passed to ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor or ICS Management upon return from the ASAR Mission;
 - Injured Animals: Do not attempt to capture or handle any injured animal if doing so risks your safety or the safety of others. Muzzle all injured animals using manufactured muzzles, leashes, gauze or other means of safely securing the animal’s mouth. Use blankets, towels, pillow cases, leashes or other soft capture tools to

secure injured animals if possible. Utilize capture poles on dogs when necessary. In general, do not attempt to treat the animal's injuries in the field except to address life threatening blood loss – in which case apply pressure but do not attempt a tourniquet. The animal's best chance of survival is quick packaging and transport to a veterinary professional for emergency care. However, if a simple, non-invasive, quick intervention can save an animal that may perish before transport is complete, then it should be considered;

- Field animal identification and documentation:
 - ASAR Teams will document all animal contacts in the field on proper forms and cross-reference those forms with the placement of field animal identification on the animal. This identification may be:
 - Water-proof paper collars;
 - In-field-photos with animal specific information attached;
 - Non-toxic paint to create a unique animal identifier;
 - Other appropriate, safe and effective methods of temporarily providing identification for the animal;
 - Large animals should be field identified with livestock “rump” tags or non-toxic paint on rumps or shoulders. Identifiers should be unique numbers cross referenced with field paper documentation;
 - If owner collars and tags are removed and/or discarded for decontamination of the animal, information from owner collars and tags should be documented and re-associated to the animal throughout the process in order to facilitate reunification of animals and owners.
- If ASAR Teams encounter humans in need of assistance they should report the situation and its detail back to the ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor or directly to human search and rescue operations or incident command so that appropriate action can be taken;
- ASAR Team decisions to cut fences or to release animals previously secured in buildings or corrals or to otherwise impact a property owners personal property must be supported through pre-approval by owner or, in cases of urgent need, by the approval of the Animal Search and Rescue Group Supervisor, Law Enforcement or ICS Management. Cutting of fences or release of previously secured animals should not be taken lightly as unsecured animals may put subsequently first responders, evacuees or other animals in danger;
- ASAR Teams will contact the ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor, Animal Sheltering Group Supervisor or Intake Team Leader 15 minutes prior to ETA with rescued animals or return to base at the completion of a mission assignment;
- The ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor will calculate ASAR personnel hours from sign-in/sign-out sheets;
- All paperwork will be turned over to the ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor. The ASAR Group Supervisor will arrange for documentation to be delivered to appropriate personnel for staff and volunteer time tracking;
- The ASAR Group Supervisor will assure that the proper agency is notified and provided with a list of items that are needed to re-stock the ASAR Team with what is needed to replenish the established inventory.

Decontamination

- ASAR Teams transporting animals contaminated with toxins shall inform the decontamination area of their ETA no later than 15 minutes before arrival to facilitate the preparation of decontamination facilities and personal preparedness equipment by the decontamination team;
- In the event that evacuated animals have been exposed to chemical, biological, or radiological contaminants, the decontamination process will most likely take place at the staging area and may occur in conjunction with human decontamination. This process will be supervised and facilitated by subject matter experts including hazmat professionals, physicians, veterinarians, and public health professionals. Animal emergency responders will work in a support capacity as directed by the experts;
- Previously contaminated animals will only be handled at the emergency shelter (or regular animal shelter) once they have been deemed safely decontaminated. If a decontamination process is to be conducted in conjunction with the emergency shelter or at the regular shelter, it will only be initiated under the direct supervision of subject matter experts and only with the proper support, expertise, and personal protective equipment that is necessary to protect the health and safety of the animal emergency workers;
- Decontamination of transport vehicles, equipment and ASAR responders will also occur as appropriate prior to returning to the field.

Transport

- Staging:
 - Transport vehicles should be staged at pre-designated locations;
 - Staging areas for transport should have ready access to general vehicle maintenance capabilities; fuel and equipment resources;
 - Staging areas should have appropriate communications capabilities.
- Modes of Transport:
 - Purpose-built animal transporters;
 - Modified animal welfare units;
 - Animal Control units;
 - Farm/agriculture vehicles;
 - Box vans (short haul only);
 - Climate controlled cargo vans;
 - Personal occupied vehicles.
- All modes of transport must be assessed for appropriateness based on:
 - Weather;
 - Time;
 - Animal species/breed;
 - Terrain;
 - Airflow;
 - Accessibility;
 - Vehicle operation.
- The single most important issue for safe transport is the environmental conditions during the transport. Adequate airflow, temperature control, ability to monitor air quality and presence of redundant systems are critical considerations. However, absence of environmental systems does not preclude its use in an emergency, especially for short hauls;
- Continued monitoring of animals in transport is essential;

- ASAR transport transfer points should be established. This allows ASAR Teams to offload/handoff captured and rescued animals to transport vehicles and transport teams for immediate transport to an emergency animal shelter or veterinary clinic. Transfers in the field enables safety for animals by removing them from disaster zones and environmentally unsafe situations and facilitating faster medical care for animals pulled from the field. Transfers also enable ASAR Teams to extend their ASAR mission time in the field by eliminating the need for ASAR Teams to leave the field to transport animals;

Health Concerns

- ASAR Teams should monitor captured animals for any signs of illness or disease and should notify the Temporary Animal Shelter Manager (TASM) immediately if something amiss is discovered. Of particular concern are zoonotic diseases that can be transmitted between animals and people and infectious diseases that can be spread quickly between animals in the shelter;
- Leather or puncture/slash resistant gloves should be worn at all times when working with animals in the field. Nitrile gloves should be worn when handling any animal suspected of being injured, diseased or contaminated and can be worn under work gloves;
- If any member of an ASAR Team is bitten, animal control must be called to complete a bite report and institute a quarantine of the animal. In most situations, a bite animal will have to be moved to a more suitable location where separation from people and other animals can be maintained;
- The ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor must be notified immediately if any ASAR Team member is injured. If the injury is serious or life threatening, 911 should be contacted immediately if telephone access is available. If telephone access is not available radio communications should be made immediately to Incident Command requesting immediate medical aid. An incident report shall be completed at the earliest possible opportunity and forwarded to Incident Command.

Intake

- ASAR Teams will deliver captured animals to either the decontamination station or, if no decontamination is necessary, to the designated animal shelter intake position;
- All field documentation and identification documentation on the animal will be passed to the Shelter Manager (large animal or small animal) to assure continuity of documentation and to facilitate the reunification of owner and pet or livestock;
- Sick or aggressive animals, or animals that are otherwise not suited for the temporary shelter, will not be housed at the temporary facility. ASAR Teams may be requested to take the animal to the animal control facility, a veterinary clinic, arrange for private boarding, or if the owner is unable to make these arrangements, animal control officers will transport these animals to an appropriate location.

Feed in Place

- If people and their pets are requested or ordered to shelter in place in response to an emergency situation, animal emergency response personnel will provide support as needed with delivery of supplies or transportation to outside facilities if needed;
- If animals are left behind without care and owners cannot return, animal emergency response personnel will either bring the animals out upon request or will make arrangements to provide food and water on site. The course of action will be determined by the Animal Response Branch Director with authorization of the chain of command;
- The ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor will, in conjunction with the Animal Response Branch Director and ICS Management create a “Feed in Place” plan if appropriate. This plan will incorporate specifics regarding:
 - Who approved the plan;
 - Timelines for reassessing the plan (Daily? Weekly?);
 - Geographic boundaries of the plan;
 - Term of the plan (when will it begin and when will it end);
 - Feed in place circuit intervals (i.e. each day? every-other day?);
 - Criteria for access of private property if necessary;
 - Standards for making decisions to transport “feed in place” designated animals out of the restricted zone based on animal illness, injury or owner requested rescue;
 - Type and amount of feed required.

Spontaneous Unaffiliated Volunteers (SUVs)

- Absent extraordinary circumstances, SUVs will **NOT** be used in field animal search and rescue operations due to liability and safety concerns;
- People wishing to assist during an emergency should be asked to consider a monetary or in-kind donation in lieu of volunteer service or should be referred to an agency that is currently accepting new volunteers. It can also be suggested that after the incident, they may wish to pursue an affiliation and training with an animal welfare organization so that in the event of another emergency, they have the training and credentials they will need to volunteer for animal emergency response;
- In the rare situation where the ASAR Team is in need of additional assistance and supplemental resources are not available, SUVs will need to fill out a volunteer waiver, provide identification and supply emergency contact information. They should be teamed with a trained ASAR responder for supervision and given tasks that do not involve field response or animal handling, i.e. providing vehicle maintenance, assisting with staging base functions, assisting with communications, etc.

Supervisory Considerations

Provide an immediate safety message to all staff and volunteers: **Safety is the most important consideration.** Personal safety first, followed by team safety, and then public safety.

- The animal control supervisor or manager should establish contact with the law enforcement and/or fire person in charge of the situation or the Operations Chief or Incident Commander if an ICS structure has

been activated. Typically, the animal control supervisor or manager will fill the role as Animal Response Branch Director (ARBD).

- The media relations person (PIO or equivalent) should be contacted and asked to disseminate the following information:
 - The EPN (reverse 911) message should advise people in the evacuation area to take pets and livestock with them or call a designated number if they need assistance with animals;
 - Advise that a temporary animal shelter has been set up for the pets of people staying at the Red Cross shelter (if this is the case);
 - Publicize the website and phone number for locating pet-friendly hotels/motels;
 - Advise that the regular animal shelter is providing temporary boarding (at no charge if applicable) for pets of evacuated families that are staying with friends/family/paid lodging that cannot accommodate pets (if true);
 - Publicize the phone number and location where requests for Animal Search and Rescue can be taken and centralized for dispatch.
- Strays or evacuated animals - not with their owners - should be taken to the regular animal shelter as the temporary animal shelter should be reserved for owned pets or those pets belonging to people staying at the Red Cross shelter. The temporary shelter should designate a stray and/or a “no owner present” holding area and an animal control officer can be called to transfer those animals to the regular shelter;
- The ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor will assure that ASAR Team members are providing good self-care, i.e. eating healthy meals, drinking plenty of water, taking breaks, and going home for at least 12-hour downtime and recuperation;
- The ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor will assure that equipment, food and water supplies are available for ASAR Teams working in the field and staged in base.

Supplies and Equipment

- All ASAR vehicles and equipment will be safety checked before deploying on a dispatched mission:
 - Brake and tail light checks for both vehicles and trailers;
 - Trailer floorboard checks;
 - Tire inflation checks;
 - Spare tire check;
 - Crates and cages will be checked for sanitation/cleanliness;
 - Crates and cages will be checked for sharp edges, secure latches, strength;
 - Capture equipment will be checked for any damage.
- Suggested Equipment & Supplies
 - Location
 - Compass (w/Mirror);
 - GPS unit with extra batteries;
 - Headlamp/flashlight with extra batteries/bulb;
 - Local area maps in large plastic bag;
 - Personal locator beacons (if available).
 - Assessment
 - Marking guide;
 - Entry marking supplies – spray paints/markers/paper/plastic;
 - Baggies/duct tape, note pads, writing instrument;
 - Flagging tape.

- Capture
 - Catch pole;
 - Snappy Snare;
 - Cat tongs;
 - Pole net;
 - Reptile Hook;
 - Sling (Anderson for aerial extraction or Becker for non-aerial lifting);
 - Bait food;
 - Muzzles/leashes;
 - Humane traps;
 - Injection or pole syringes;
 - Chemical Capture equipment and drugs;
 - Leads/halters;
 - Portable corrals;
 - Blinds/masks;
 - Nylon ropes;
 - Tubular webbing, carabineers;
 - Pulleys with ropes;
 - Towels or blankets;
 - Flashlight.
- Confinement
 - Leads;
 - Halters;
 - Hobbles;
 - Leashes;
 - Cages/crates/buckets;
 - Cat/bird/snake Bags;
 - Nylon rope (20 ft. of 7mm);
 - Muzzles.
- Treatment
 - Water;
 - And compliant with controlled substance and licensure requirements:
 - Tranquilizer drugs;
 - Humane Euthanasia equipment and drugs (Sodium Pentobarbital);
 - Basic first aid (bandages, splints, gauze pads, rolled gauze);
 - Pain management drugs;
- Transport
 - Animal transport vehicles (cage truck);
 - Livestock trailers;
 - Animal gurneys.
- PPE (situation specific)
 - Tyvek suits;
 - Surgical masks;
 - N95 (or better) respirators;
 - Collapsible baton;
 - Emergency beacon (light and sound);
 - Rubber boots;
 - Kevlar/bite gloves;
 - Nitrile/latex gloves;

- Eye protection;
- Sunscreen;
- Insect repellent;
- Whistle;
- Bear Spray/Bear bangers;
- Ear plugs or hearing protection.
- Communications
 - Handheld radio;
 - Spare radio batteries and charger;
 - Cell phones;
 - Cell phone chargers;
 - Nextel;
 - Walkie-talkies or FRS/GMRS type radios and spare batteries.
- Documentation
 - Intake/impound forms;
 - Assessment/treatment form;
 - Final disposition or handoff (shelter in place, needs re-visit);
 - Note-taking items (pads, pencils, pens, Sharpies);
 - Packing and/or duct tape.
- Personal Items
 - Toilet Paper in Ziploc type baggie;
 - Toothpaste & Toothbrush;
 - Thermal /space blanket;
 - Waterless hand cleaner/sanitizer, baby wipes;
 - Deodorant;
 - Brush/comb;
 - Feminine sanitary products and plastic Ziploc;
 - Sunglasses;
 - Spare prescription glasses;
 - Personal Meds (inform fellow team-members of relevant medical conditions!);
 - Shaving supplies.
- Clothing – pack according to season and locale
 - Baseball or wide brimmed hat for insect, sun and rain protection;
 - Long sleeve shirt;
 - Long pant;
 - Rain jacket;
 - Thin leather gloves;
 - Underwear
 - Socks (thin and thick – at least two sets of each);
 - Gaiters;
 - Waterproof hiking boots.
- Survival
 - Multi-tool;
 - Pocket knife.
 - Hatchet/sheath knife;
 - Matches (waterproof) and fire starter;
 - Candle;
 - Water purification tablets;
 - Space blanket;

- Bear spray and/or bear bangers;
- Flare;
- Duct tape;
- Safety pins;
- Large orange garbage bag;
- \$2.00 in change.
- Food
 - 2 liter water bottle;
 - Trail mix;
 - Instant oatmeal;
 - Energy bars;
 - MRE's or IMP's (foods that do not require cooking);
 - Dehydrated meals/soups mixes;
 - Personal stove/fuel;
 - Cooking pot;
 - Mess kit;
 - Powdered drink;
 - Fruit leather.
- Shelter
 - Tarp;
 - Tube tent;
 - Space blanket (see Survival);
 - Ground pad (ie. thermorest or ensolite);
 - Parachute cord (50');
 - Spare stuff sacks.
- First Aid Kit
 - Good quality Outdoorsman model.
- Additional supplies for possible Equine Rescue
 - Anderson Sling (FOAL, SMALL, LARGE);
 - Helicopter cable and webbing, carabineers, Becker sling;
 - Rescue sled- straps-handles, rigging.

Field Euthanasia

- Field Euthanasia must be carried out by a licensed veterinarian or law enforcement officer;
- Any animal control officer or law enforcement officer may lawfully euthanize or cause to be euthanized, any animal in his or her charge when, in the judgment of the animal control officer or law enforcement officer and in the opinion of a licensed veterinarian, the animal is experiencing extreme pain or suffering or is severely injured past recovery, severely disabled past recovery, or severely diseased past recovery. In the event a licensed veterinarian is not available, the animal may be euthanized if, by the written certificate of two persons, one of whom may be selected by the owner if the owner so requests, called to view the animal in the presence of the animal control officer, the animal appears to be severely injured past recovery, severely disabled past recovery, severely diseased past recovery or unfit for any useful purpose (C.R.S. 35-42-110);
- If the animal is in pain or suffering but not at the point of death:
 - *Immediately* consult with a veterinarian to determine if palliative measures can be taken while attempts are made to contact the owner *and* establish what time frame would be humane and appropriate given the circumstances;

- Record all veterinary observations, prognosis and treatment prescriptions in the animal's documentation;
- Follow veterinary recommendations regarding treatment or euthanasia;
- Attempt to contact the owner. If it was determined by the veterinarian that the animal should be humanely euthanized immediately (prior to contact), the veterinarian or law enforcement officer should make the contact.
- If the animal is at the point of death:
 - Humanely euthanize the animal;
 - Record all observations regarding the condition of the animal in the animal's documentation;
 - Photographically document animal's condition, if possible;
 - Attempt to contact the owner. A veterinarian or law enforcement office should make the contact.
- Disposal of animal carcass:
 - Thoroughly document the euthanasia including a photograph of the deceased animal with a written description of the location, date, time, and animal's identification number in accordance with state and local laws;
 - Disposition and method of disposal for animal carcass should be determined by the Temporary Animal Shelter Manager after discussion with appropriate local or state authorities via the chain of command.

Demobilization

- **Debrief:**
 - All ASAR Team Leaders must be debriefed before demobilizing;
 - Debriefing should include a review and critique of the search;
 - All ASAR Team members involved in the search are encouraged to attend the Debrief;
 - The Debrief informs everyone of what happened;
 - If the search was stressful a debriefing will occur along with the review;
 - The Debrief of the search should be considered confidential by all participants.
- **Check-Out:**
 - Each person who was in the field must sign-out on the sheet they signed-in on;
 - Each person must return any and all gear that was checked out for the search;
 - Any gear requiring resupply, refurbishment or restoration to working order must be documented and provided to the Staging Manager or the Animal Search and Rescue Group Supervisor;
 - The Staging area must be litter-free before ASAR Teams demobilize. Flagging tape, signage, posters and other markers must be removed and appropriately disposed of;
 - Once the Staging Area is cleared of searchers, cars, and litter, and the proper paperwork and documentation is complete the Staging Manager and Animal Search and Rescue Group Supervisor may demobilize.
- **Paperwork:**
 - All the reports, map copies, notes, and other pertinent documentation should be saved and given to the ASAR/Evacuation Group Supervisor for a mission write-up;
 - All the material used by the ASAR Teams must be replaced;
 - Maps must be organized and returned to their appropriate storage location.