

Disaster Sheltering

Module 1 - Site Selection

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**Disaster Animal Shelter
Education and Response**



Facility Considerations

- What are the potential threats?
- What type of sheltering?
- What types of animals?
- What types of facilities?
 - What is the facilities availability?
- What is the facility accessibility?

Facility Considerations

- What are the available amenities?
- What is the floor type?
 - What modifications need to be made?
- What's the layout for a healthy and safe environment?

Potential Threats

- Natural Disaster
 - Flooding
 - Fire
 - Tornado
 - Earthquake
 - Blizzard
 - Ice storm

Potential Threats

- Technological and Accidental
 - Nuclear accident
 - Chemical spill
 - Blackout

Potential Threats

- Terrorism
 - Biological
 - Chemical
 - Nuclear
 - Explosion

Types of Sheltering

- Colocation
 - “Pet Friendly” – Owners and animals shelter close
 - Cohabitation – Owners and animals share space
- Temporary Evacuation
 - Strays or displaced from owner
 - Owned animals – owners sheltered elsewhere

Multiple shelters?

Colocation Shelter

Benefits

- Supports the Human-Animal Bond
 - Owners are primary caretakers
 - Healthier for animals
 - Healthier for families

Colocation Shelter

Challenges

- Large number of people
 - Harder to control the environment
 - Harder to protect animals from intruders and theft
- Volunteers?
 - Fewer needed – in theory

Colocation Shelter

Challenges

- Owner caretakers – untrained and unskilled
 - Unreliable
 - Unable – physical restrictions
- Unintended interactions between unrelated animals
 - Dog park mentality
 - Escapes
 - Higher potential for disease spread

Colocation Shelter

Challenges

- Owner caretakers unavailable
 - Working
 - Maintaining daily routines
 - Minor children

Temporary Evacuation Shelter

Benefit

- Easier to control the environment
 - Only authorized people enter
- Caretakers trained, skilled, credentialed
- Decrease risks
 - Disease spread
 - Escape
 - Theft
 - Unwanted interaction between unrelated animals

Temporary Evacuation Shelter

Challenges

- Owners and animals separated
 - Could impact the human-animal bond
- Higher stress for animals
 - Care provided by strangers
- Maintaining the volunteer pool
- Reuniting procedures critical

Temporary Evacuation Shelter

Day Care

Temporary care throughout the day to allow owners to attend to daily needs in response and recovery.

Types of Animals

- Companion Animals
 - FEMA definition?
 - Exotics
 - Wildlife
- Farm/Large Animals

Types of Animals: FEMA Definition

“a domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent, or turtle that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers, and be housed in temporary facilities.”

Types of Animals: FEMA Definition

“Household pets do NOT include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses) and animals kept for racing purposes.”

Types of Animals: Exotics

- Not defined as “companion animal”
 - No federal reimbursement
- Do you take them?
- Do you have the expertise and ability to provide care?
- If you don’t take them, what happens to them?

Types of Animals: Exotics

- Exotic experts
- Specialty stores
- Zoos
- Exotic rescues and sanctuaries

Types of Animals: Wildlife

- Who is the wildlife authority?
 - Colorado Parks & Wildlife Division of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.
- Safe handling
 - Rabies
 - Never handle directly
 - “Rescuer” places directly into carrier
 - Contact wildlife authority or rehabber
 - Keep in safe place away from shelter population

Types of Animals: Farm/Large Animals

- Types of species
 - Horses
 - Goats
 - Sheep
 - Chickens
 - Pigs
 - Llamas
 - Ponies
 - Mules
 - Donkeys
 - And more

Types of Animals: Farm/Large Animals

- Not defined as “companion animal”
 - Often viewed as by the owners
 - No federal reimbursement
- Sheltering
 - Specialized sheltering
 - Each species requires specialized care
- Higher owner involvement

Types of Facilities: Temporary Evacuation

- Fairgrounds
- Warehouses
- Agricultural facilities
- Animal care facilities/shelters
- Schools and churches
- Tents

Types of Facilities



Types of Facilities



Types of Facilities



Types of Facilities



Types of Facilities



Types of Facilities



Facilities Accessibility

- Entrance and Exit
- Parking
- Truck and trailer access
 - Deliveries
 - Large animals

Facilities Availability

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for facility usage
 - Available or not available
 - Timeline for availability

Facilities Amenities

The needs of the shelter to provide care

- Water
- Power
- Lighting
- Restrooms
- Waste disposal
- Security
- Temperature Control

Facilities Amenities: Water

- Hot and cold running water
 - Cleaning equipment
 - Drinking water for the animals

Facilities Amenities: Power & Lighting

■ Power

- Electric
- Generators

■ Lighting

- Supplemental – Veterinarian
- Turn down
- Turn off
- Security lighting

Facilities Amenities: Restrooms

- Staff and volunteers
- Public access
 - Not in the shelter
 - Portables outside the shelter

Facilities Amenities: Waste

- Daily cleaning
 - Paper towels
 - Feces
 - Towels
 - Food bags
- Trash cans inside & out
 - Dumpster
 - Outside facility
 - Easy access
 - Not too close to entrance

Facilities Amenities: Waste

- Carcasses
 - Consult Jurisdictional Authority or Health Dept.
 - Plan for owner ID
- Only animals expiring in the facility
 - Not bringing in carcasses from the field

Facilities Amenities: Security

- Animal escapes
- Theft of animals or supplies
- Crowd control
- Overnight security
 - Lock down
 - Staffed

Facilities Amenities: Temperature Control

- Air conditioning
- Heat
- Fan
 - Temperature control
 - Airflow

Floor Types & Modifications

- Concrete or tile
 - Cool/Cold
 - Slippery when wet
 - Easy to clean and sanitize
- Modifications
 - Cardboard under crates
 - Blankets over the kennels
 - Newspaper or blankets in the kennels

Floor Types: Pros and Cons

- **Dirt**
 - Hard to clean and sanitize
 - Dusty
 - Dirty/Muddy
- **Modifications**
 - Shavings
 - Plastic tarps
 - Plastic

Floor Types: Pros and Cons

- Carpet

- Found in schools or office buildings
- Must be covered

- Modifications

- Plastic tarps
- Plastic

Floor Types: Pros and Cons

- Wood

- Gyms

- Should be covered

- Modifications

- Plastic tarps

- Plastic

Shelter Layout

- Animal housing
- Veterinarian
- Cleaning and sanitation
- Intake
- Donations and Supplies “Warehouse”
- Volunteer care

Facility Assessment Wrap-up

- Possible disasters you may face
- Types of sheltering you are going to be doing
- Species you will need to house
- Facility capability and what modifications you will need to make

Facility Assessment Wrap-up

- It's a Disaster!
- Can the facility work
- Can it be adapted to work better

Facility Assessment Wrap-up

- It's not going to be perfect but you can make it work
- Plan ahead
- Find a site
- Practice

Always: Be Flexible

Questions in Colorado?

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