

Workbook



Pets & Disasters: Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations



SART Training Media



Pets & Disasters: Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations Workbook

Prepared by: Laura Bevan, Director, the Humane Society of the United States, Southeast
Regional Office, Tallahassee
Jill Lancon, Director, Marion County Animal Center, Ocala
Chris Eversole, University of Florida, Gainesville
Carol J. Lehtola, Associate Professor, University of Florida, Gainesville

Copyright by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Published July 2006

SART Training Media are available for download from the Florida SART Web site
<www.flsart.org>.

Contents

Introduction	5
Session Outline	5
Options for Community Planning for Pets & Disasters	6
Specific Learning Objectives	7
Learning Environment/Aids	7
Before the Workshop	7

About Florida SART

SART is a multiagency coordination group consisting of governmental and private entities dedicated to all-hazard disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery for the animal and agriculture sectors in the state of Florida.

SART operates at the local level through county SART organizations.

SART utilizes the skills and resources of many agencies, organizations and individuals with its multiagency coordination group structure.

SART supports the county, regional, and state emergency management efforts and incident management teams.

SART Mission

Empower Floridians through training and resource coordination to enhance all-hazard disaster planning and response for animals and agriculture.

SART Goals

- Promote the active engagement of each county coordinator who is responsible for animal and agricultural issues
 - Provide assistance in the development and writing of county ESF-17 plans
 - Promote the establishment of a county SART to work as a multiagency coordination group to support emergency management and incident management teams
 - Provide training for all SART and animal and agriculture personnel
 - Identify county resources available for an emergency or disaster
 - Work to comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) document
-

Subject: Introduce participants to sheltering options for pets in mass evacuations

Mission: Engage participants in initial planning for a community-based approach to sheltering pets in disasters

Specific Learning Objectives

During this meeting, participants will:

- Consider sheltering in previous disasters
- Review options for emergency shelters
- Explore other options such as foster care
- View the operation of a model shelter
- Join in planning for shelter improvements

Worksheet 1

County SART Organizational Meeting

Contact List

Planning for animals and agriculture in disasters is more effective when community involvement and support are strong. Below is a list of categories of groups to involve in a community plan for animals in disasters. Use this worksheet as you identify people to involve in a county SART.

	Organizations	Key contacts
High priority contacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal services • Humane Society • Emergency management • Other animal groups and organizations 		
Social service organizations		
Government & educational institutions		
Key communicators		
Civic groups		
Businesses and health care providers		

Worksheet 2
Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations

Organizing a Planning Meeting

When should a planning meeting be held?

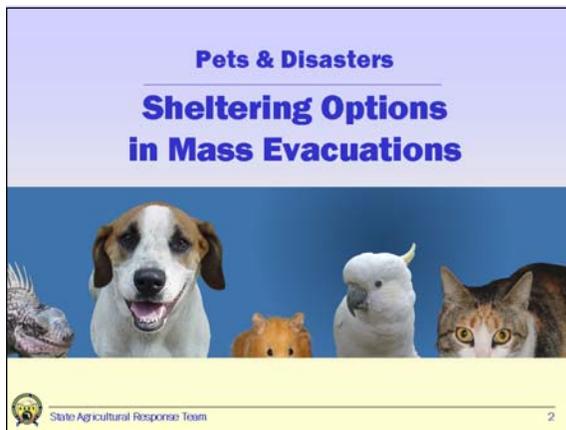
How can attendance be promoted?

What other preparation is needed for the meeting?

What opportunities should be pursued immediately?

Slides 1-3







Slides 4-6

Learning Objectives

- Review sheltering in previous disasters
- Review options for emergency shelters
- Explore other options such as foster care
- View the operation of a model shelter
- Join in planning for shelter improvements

 State Agricultural Response Team 4

Making the Connection

Animal issues are people issues

- Supporting people by taking care of what's important to them
- Not putting animals above people



 State Agricultural Response Team 5

Pet Owners ...

- Won't evacuate or delay evacuation if can't take animals
- Attempt to go home & retrieve pets
- Won't seek shelter if animal care unavailable



 State Agricultural Response Team 6

Slides 7-9

Hurricane Andrew

- People told to leave pets behind
- Homes blown apart
- Pets escaped



State Agricultural Response Team 7

**Hurricane Andrew
MASH Animal Compound**

- Created by Humane Society & Citizens Against Pet Overpopulation
- Operated 6 weeks



State Agricultural Response Team 8

MASH Compound Statistics

- 600 animals taken in
- Vets saw 2,000
- Most pets & owners never reconnected
- Held 30 days before adoption



State Agricultural Response Team 9

Slides 10-12

Hurricanes of 2004



- Shelters with people & pets in the same building used in many counties
- Animal-only shelters also used
- Some pets flown out of state for adoption

 State Agricultural Response Team 10

Options for Emergency Shelters

- People & pets in same room
- People & pets in separate spaces in same building
- Animal-only shelters
- Large animal/livestock facilities



 State Agricultural Response Team 11

People & Pets in Same Room

- Least labor-intensive
- Owners feed, exercise & clean up after pets
- Rules about keeping pets in crates, waste disposal & so on



 State Agricultural Response Team 12

Slides 13-15

People & Pets in Same Room

Benefits

- Avoid separating people & pets
- Many pets do better with owners taking care of them



State Agricultural Response Team 13

People & Pets in Same Room

Recommended procedures

- Tell people pets are allowed
- Direct people who are uncomfortable around animals or have allergy problems around animals to non-pet shelter



State Agricultural Response Team 14

People & Pets in Same Building

- Owners in same building, but separate area
 - Still care for pets
- Somewhat labor-intensive
 - Owners not immediately available
- Used in many Florida counties during 2004 hurricanes



State Agricultural Response Team 15

Slides 16-18

People & Pets in Same Building



Vanguard High School in Marion County, Fla. in 2004

State Agricultural Response Team 16

Animal-Only Shelter

- Often based at an existing animal shelter
- More labor intensive
 - Staff cares for animals
 - Sometimes expanded role for shelter staff



State Agricultural Response Team 17

Animal-Only Shelter

Not only owned animals

- Rescued pets
- Owner give-ups
- Fostering requests
- Emergency animal hospital
- Large animals & livestock



State Agricultural Response Team 18

Slides 19-21

Discussion of Sheltering Options

- What are the current options?
- Which ones should be explored?

 State Agricultural Response Team 19

Shelter Requirements

- Meet safety standards
- Conducive to housing animals
 - Solid, non-porous floors
 - Good ventilation
- Free of other obligations during declared emergencies

 State Agricultural Response Team 20

Potential Shelter Locations

- Fairgrounds
- Ball fields
- Vacant stores
- Pastures
- Schools (gyms)
- Warehouses
- Parking lots

 State Agricultural Response Team 21

Slides 22-24

Locations

Make sure shelters are accessible & easy to find



State Agricultural Response Team

22

Discussion of Locations

- What locations should be considered?
- What challenges exist for using these locations?



State Agricultural Response Team

23

Marion County Case Study



State Agricultural Response Team

24

Slides 25-27

Marion County Animals Accepted . . .

- Dogs under 80 lbs.
- Cats
- Birds



State Agricultural Response Team 25

Marion County Animals Excluded

- Exotics
- Reptiles
- Aggressive animals



State Agricultural Response Team 26

Marion County* – Pet Census

Hurricane	Cats	Dogs	Other
Charley	48	140	5
Frances	87	211	39
Jeanne	64	138	45

*Vanguard School

State Agricultural Response Team 27

Slides 28-30

**Marion County
Setting Up Equipment & Supplies**



State Agricultural Response Team 28

**Marion County
Setting Up Equipment & Supplies**



State Agricultural Response Team 29

**Marion County
Preparing Building**

Lining hallway with plastic



State Agricultural Response Team 30

Slides 31-33

**Marion County
Preparing Building**

Placing
rubber
runner



 State Agricultural Response Team 31

**Marion County
Completing Arrangements**

- Assembling cages
- Setting up registration area
- Lining garbage cans
- Filling litter bins
- Filling dog food barrel

 State Agricultural Response Team 32

**Marion County
Registration**

Completing
forms &
instructing
owners



 State Agricultural Response Team 33

Slides 34-36

Marion County Registration

Fastening armbands on owners & neckbands on dogs



State Agricultural Response Team 34

Marion County Identification

Photos show pets & owners



State Agricultural Response Team 35

Marion County Owners Caring for Pets



State Agricultural Response Team 36

Slides 37-39

**Marion County
Owners Caring for Pets**



State Agricultural Response Team 37

**Marion County
Socializing**



State Agricultural Response Team 38

**Marion County
No Power on 3rd Day of Frances**



State Agricultural Response Team 39

Slides 40-42

**Marion County
Teamwork Fixed Generator**



State Agricultural Response Team 40

**Marion County
Tearing Down & Cleaning Up**



State Agricultural Response Team 41

**Marion County
Floor Still Shiny**



State Agricultural Response Team 42

Slides 43-45

Marion County Lessons Learned

What's needed

- Comfortable bedding is a must!
- Provide large industrial fans
- Comforts from home are important



State Agricultural Response Team

43

Marion County Lessons Learned

Staffing

- Hard work
- Long hours
- More volunteers needed for relief
- Volunteer cooks are important



State Agricultural Response Team

44

Marion County Lessons Learned

Policies & procedures

- Be ready to restock fast
 - Don't know when next storm is coming
- Post rules
- Post opening & closing times
- Have in/out sheet for staff & volunteers hours



State Agricultural Response Team

45

Slides 46-48

Other Options

- Temporary day-care facilities
 - Owners returning to disaster area or applying for assistance
- Foster care
 - Animal owner may be staying in human evacuation shelter or other housing where animals not allowed

 State Agricultural Response Team 46

Foster Care

- Check homes thoroughly to ensure safety of animals & foster families
- Match pets & families as in pet adoptions
- Keep excellent records so owners & pets can reunite

 State Agricultural Response Team 47

Specialized Care

- Recruit organizations familiar with large animals & animals with special needs
- Provide care on-site or have animals moved

 State Agricultural Response Team 48

Slides 49-51

Expanding Involvement

- Broad involvement is crucial
- Levels of involvement
 - Core group
 - Support network
 - General public

 State Agricultural Response Team 49

Expanding Involvement

High priority contacts

- Animal services
- Humane Society
- Emergency management
- Other animal groups & organizations

 State Agricultural Response Team 50

Expanding Involvement

Work with social service agencies

- Experienced with mass care
- May refer pet owners to animal shelters
- May provide supplies such as cots, food & water



 State Agricultural Response Team 51

Slides 52-54

Expanding Involvement

Other contacts

- Government & educational institutions
- Key communicators
- Nonprofit agencies, civic groups & businesses

 State Agricultural Response Team 52

Worksheet 1 – Contact List

**Worksheet 1
Contact List**

Planning for animals and agriculture in disaster is more effective when community organizations cooperate during. This is a checklist of groups to include in a community plan for animals in disaster. Use this worksheet to identify people to include in your plan.

Organization	Telephone	Person(s)
Local public contacts • Animal care centers • Humane societies • Emergency organizations • Other animal groups and organizations		
State or local organizations		
Neighboring communities		
Emergency		
Businesses and health care providers		

 State Agricultural Response Team 53

Planning Considerations

- Security
- Staffing
- Funding
- Pet owners' responsibilities
- Owner preparation
- Problems with owners
- Supplies
- Areas of shelter

 State Agricultural Response Team 54

Slides 55-57

Worksheet 2
Organizing a Planning Meeting

- When should a planning meeting be held?
- How can attendance be promoted?
- What other preparation is needed for the meeting?
- What opportunities should be pursued immediately?

 State Agricultural Response Team 55

Resources

- SART Web site
– www.flsart.org
- Animal-related resources
- Emergency management resources
- Ag safety resources
- FEMA training

 State Agricultural Response Team 56

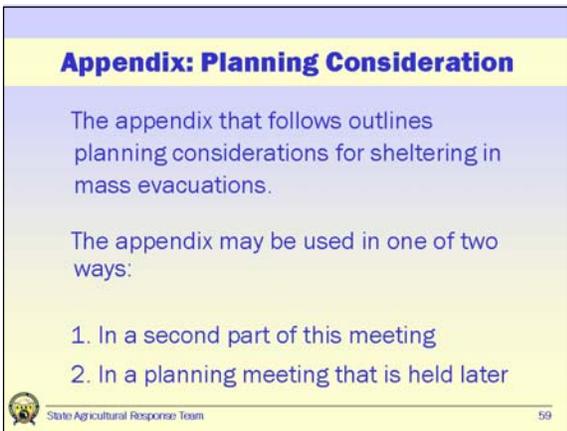


HEY!!...LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE!!
...THIS HAS BROUGHT US TOGETHER!!

 State Agricultural Response Team 57

Slides 58-59





Appendix Slides 1-3

Sheltering Option in Mass Evacuations
Appendix: Planning Consideration



State Agricultural Response Team

1

Security

- 24/7
- Restrict access



State Agricultural Response Team

2

Staffing



- Experienced with animals
- Vet (*optional, but ideal*)
- Vet tech or animal health tech



State Agricultural Response Team

3

Appendix Slides 4-6

Funding Issues

- Staff overtime
- Volunteers – housing, equipment & supplies
- Government reimbursement – local, state & federal
- Track volunteer & staff hours
- Record expenses



State Agricultural Response Team

4

Donation Management

- Control intake of supplies
- Locate off-site storage facilities for large shipments



State Agricultural Response Team

5

Pet Owner Responsibilities



- Conduct pre-disaster training
 - *Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning*
- Provide crates or cages large enough to stand, sit & turn around
- Supply medications



State Agricultural Response Team

6

Appendix Slides 7-9

Owner Prep



- Documented medical history
- Cat litter/newspapers
- Chew toys or other comfort items
- Collars, tags, leashes, harnesses & muzzles

 State Agricultural Response Team 7

Unprepared Owners

- Owners may arrive without necessary supplies
- Emergency shelter should stockpile basic animal supplies

 State Agricultural Response Team 8

Problems with Owners

Plan for owners breaking rules:

- Not providing food & water
- Not confining & controlling pets
- Not cleaning
- Not letting dogs relieve themselves
- Verbally or physically abusing animals

 State Agricultural Response Team 9

Appendix Slides 10-12

Dealing with Violations

If animal owner violates rules:

- In pet-friendly shelter, remove animal to another part of facility or to animal shelter
- Have staff provide all care
- Deny owners access to animals



State Agricultural Response Team 10

Supplies

- Crates & cages – all sizes
- Food – different types
- Water – drinking & cleaning
- Bowls
- Collars, leashes & muzzles
- Cat litter/newspapers
- Plastic sheets
- Paper towels



State Agricultural Response Team 11

Supplies Continued

- First aid kits
 - Human & pet
- Office supplies & paperwork
- ID tags
- Transport carts
- Waste disposal bags
- Blankets, towels & sheets
- Communication devices
- Cleaners & disinfectants



State Agricultural Response Team 12

Appendix Slides 13-15

Areas of Shelter

- Animal intake & registration
- Animal housing – separate by species
- Isolation – sick, injured, stressed & aggressive



State Agricultural Response Team 13

Areas of Shelter

- Vet care & first aid
- Food prep
- Food storage by species
- Dog relief area with tile or other hard surface & drain

State Agricultural Response Team 14

Areas of Pet-Only Shelter

- Equipment storage – extra leashes, bowls & crates
- Animal visitation – quiet area
- Animal exercise
 - Hall indoors
 - Outdoors, if weather permits

State Agricultural Response Team 15

Resources

For a complete listing of SART Training AMaterials, visit the Florida SART Web stie:
<www.flsart.org>.

The following is a source of additional information about the subjects and agencies mentioned in this module.

Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management Emergency Response Team <<http://www.floridadisaster.org>>

Resources directly related to animals and disasters include:

American Red Cross

<<http://www.redcross.org/services/>>

Topics include *Pets and Disaster – Be Prepared, First Aid for Pets and Barnyard Animal Rescue Plan*.

Animal Management in Disasters, Sebastian E. Heath, Mosby, 11830 Westline Industrial Drive, St. Louis, MO 64164. Available through many Internet booksellers.

Missing Pet Network

<<http://www.missingpet.net>>

Triumph Over Tragedy, Disaster Handbook Video Series: Helping Four-Legged Friends Survive the Storm (18 minutes).

The video can be viewed in its entirety at the National Ag Safety Database Web site, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/>>.

Humane Society of the United States Disaster Center

<<http://www.hsus.org/ace/18730>>

Links include *Disaster Preparedness Brochures, Disaster Preparedness for Pets, Disaster Preparedness for Horses and HSUS Disaster Planning Manual for Animals*.

Laura Bevan, director, The Humane Society of the United States

Southeast Regional Office, 1624 Metropolitan Circle, Suite B, Tallahassee, FL 32308, (850) 386-3435, lbevan@hsus.org

The National Ag Safety Database has articles on handling horses and livestock safely. Go to “animals” under “Locate by Topics” at <<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/>>.

Hawkins Guide on Equine Emergencies and Horse Trailering on the Road
Blue Green Publishing Co., PO Box 1255, Southern Pines, NC 28388

Equine Trailer Rescue video, Horse Park of New Jersey,
PO Box 548, Allentown, N.J. 08501

Animals in Disasters: Module A, Awareness And Preparedness, IS 10. Access this course at:
<<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is10.asp>>.

Animals in Disaster: Module B, Community Planning, IS 11.
Access this course at <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is11.asp>>.

The following are sources of information on emergency management in general.

Federal Emergency Management Agency
<<http://www.fema.gov>>

IFAS Disaster Handbook, prepared by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and
Agricultural Sciences.
<<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu>>

Other parts of *Triumph Over Tragedy, Disaster Handbook Video Series* are:

Surviving the Storm—Coordination, Communication and Cooperation (30 minutes)
A Community Response to Managing Post-Disaster Stress (45 minutes)
The entire three-part video series is available at the *IFAS Disaster Handbook* Web site,
<<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu>>. Go to the *Other Disaster Products* link. The series also is
available at IFAS Publications, PO Box 110011, Gainesville, FL 32611, (800) 226-1764.

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)
<<http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden/>>

Occupational Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) Emergency Preparedness and
Response Page
<<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/index.html>>

Other resources related to agricultural safety are listed below.

National Agricultural Safety Database (NASD)
<<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd>>

Florida AgSafe network
<<http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu/>>

Online training courses from FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) are available at no cost at <http://training.fema.gov>. CEU certificates are available.

Introduction to CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), IS-317. It provides background information on the concept of community members being able to work together during a disaster.

Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is317.asp>>.

Basic Incident Command System, IS-195. Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is195.asp>>.

Livestock in Disasters, IS-111. Access this course at:
<<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is111.asp>>.

Other courses that might be useful with this module include:

Emergency Preparedness, IS-2. Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is2.asp>>.

State Disaster Management (IS-208). Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is208.asp>>.

The EOC's Role in Community Preparedness, Response and Recovery Activities (IS-275). Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is275.asp>>.

The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management (IS-288). Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is288.asp>>.

Disaster Basics (IS-292). Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is292.asp>>.

A listing of all the IS courses offered by FEMA can be found at:
<<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/crslist.asp>>.
