

SHELTERING OF ANIMALS

I. GENERAL

The purpose of this section is to provide basic guidelines for the sheltering of small animals (pets) in Sector A and Sector B areas of the Shelter Area Parishes and large animals (equine, livestock) in Sector C of the Shelter Area Parishes. This plan will be activated and coordinated by the GOHSEP.

The Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association (LVMA) has organized Regional Animal Response Teams (RARTs). Under direction of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), these teams will be responsible for the operation of small animal shelters within their areas. Neither the Louisiana Shelter Task Force nor the parish OHSEP Director will be responsible for the operation of the small animal shelters.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. SITUATION

Public health during disasters is directly related to the safety of animals. Owners may fail to evacuate because they cannot take their animals with them, or owners who left their animals behind will later try to reenter the disaster area to rescue them. The human-animal bond extends to livestock and equine owners.

B. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Through public education, animal owners will be advised on how to prepare their animals for a disaster situation.
2. By providing shelters for pets, human lives will be saved.

III. SMALL ANIMALS

- A. Evacuees will be advised of pet shelter locations at the informational points. Informational points will be staffed by RARTs. Along with locations, pet owners will receive requirements for use of the pet shelters.
- B. Local veterinarians and staff, operating as RARTs, will provide veterinary emergency care of the animals as needed. RARTs will be responsible for the initial set up of the

shelter. Stations in the shelter are to include: animal and owner identification, veterinary needs, resource procurement, documentation of activities, and expenses.

- C. The pet shelters will be paired with nearby ARC shelters where owners will be sheltered. The pet owner will provide daily feeding, watering, and exercising of his/her pet and help keep the shelter area clean.
- D. At check-in, the pet owner will be required to show proof of required vaccinations. Pets will be examined, if necessary, by a veterinarian. Any pet not having its vaccinations, or considered to pose a risk to other animals or people, will not be admitted to the shelter. The final decision rests with the veterinarian in charge at the shelter.
- E. Pet shelter standard operating procedures are developed and maintained by LVMA.
- F. Staging areas for humane groups will be identified and established by LDAF.
- G. Zoos, animal humane societies, and animal control must have disaster plans and cannot utilize public shelters.

IV. LARGE ANIMALS

Large animals will be sheltered in Shelter Sector C. Humans with large animals need to evacuate early and travel the shortest distance with their animals. LDAF, Office of Animal Health Services will maintain a list of facilities in Shelter Sector C that are available for sheltering of large animals. Owners are responsible for moving and caring for their animals.

V. INFORMATION FOR CITIZEN'S

Information for Citizens concerning Pets, Livestock, and Wildlife

Disaster Planning Tips for Pets, Livestock, and Wildlife

The Humane Society of the United States offers disaster planning tips for pets, livestock and wildlife whether it's a large-scale natural catastrophe or an unforeseen emergency that causes you to leave your home temporarily. Everyone's family can benefit from having a household evacuation plan in place before disaster strikes. Every disaster plan must include your pets!

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) offers the following tips to pet owners designing an emergency safety plan:

- A. If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** Pets most likely cannot survive independently; and if by some remote chance they do, you may not be able to find them when you return.
- B. For public health reasons, many emergency shelters cannot accept pets. Find out which motels and hotels in your area allow pets -- well in advance of needing them. Include your

local animal shelter's number in your list of emergency numbers - they might be able to provide information concerning pets during a disaster.

- C. Make sure identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to your pet's collar. If possible, attach the address and/or phone number of your evacuation site. If your pet gets lost, his tag is his ticket home. Make sure you have a current photo of your pet for identification purposes.
- D. Make sure you have a secure pet carrier, leash, or harness for your pet so that if he or she panics, he or she can't escape.
- E. Take pet food, bottled water, medications, veterinary records, cat litter/pan, can opener, food dishes, first aid kit, and other supplies with you in case they are not available later. While the sun is still shining, consider packing a "pet survival" kit which could be easily deployed if disaster hits.
- F. If you are unable to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet. Most boarding kennels, veterinarians, and animal shelters will need your pet's medical records to make sure all vaccinations are current. Include copies in your "pet survival" kit along with a photo of your pet.
- G. If it is impossible to take your pet with you to temporary shelter, contact friends, family, veterinarians, or boarding kennels to arrange for care. Make sure medical and feeding information, food, medicine, and other supplies accompany your pet to his foster home. **NOTE:** Some animal shelters will provide temporary foster care for owned pets in times of disaster, but this should be considered only as a last resort.
- H. If you have no alternative but to leave your pet at home, there are some precautions you must take, but remember that leaving your pet at home alone can place your animal in great danger! Confine your pet to a safe area inside -- NEVER leave your pet chained outside! Place a notice outside in a visible area, advising what pets are in the house and where they are located. Provide a phone number where you or a contact can be reached as well as the name and number of your veterinarian.

Not only are pets affected by disaster, but the other animals in the disaster area are affected as well. The HSUS offers these basic tips for people who encounter wildlife or have livestock on their property:

1. Wildlife

- a. Wild animals often seek higher ground which, during floods, eventually become submerged (i.e., island) and the animals become stranded. If the island is large enough and provides suitable shelter, you can leave food appropriate to the species (i.e., sunflower seeds for squirrels). Animals have a flight response and will flee from anyone approaching too closely. If the animal threatens to rush into the water, back away from the island or you may frighten the animal into jumping into the water to escape from you.

- b. Wildlife often seeks refuge from flood waters on upper levels of a home and may remain inside even after the water recedes. If you meet a rat or snake face to face, be careful but do not panic. Open a window or other escape route and the animal will probably leave on its own. Never attempt to capture a wild animal unless you have the training, protective clothing, restraint equipment and caging necessary to perform the job.
- c. Beware of an increased number of snakes and other predators who will try to feed on the carcasses of reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals that have been drowned or crushed in their burrows or under rocks.
- d. Often, during natural disasters, mosquitoes and dead animal carcasses may present disease problems. Outbreaks of anthrax, encephalitis, and other diseases may occur. Contact your local emergency management office for help!
- e. If you see an injured or stranded animal in need of assistance, or you need help with evicting an animal from your home, please contact your local animal control office or animal shelter!

2. Livestock

- a. **EVACUATE LIVESTOCK WHENEVER POSSIBLE.** Arrangements for evacuation, including routes and host sites, should be made in advance. Alternate routes should be mapped out in case the planned route is inaccessible.
- b. The evacuation sites should have or be able to readily obtain food, water, veterinary care, handle equipment and facilities.
- c. Trucks, trailers, and other vehicles suitable for transporting livestock (appropriate for transporting each specific type of animal) should be available along with experienced handlers and drivers to transport them. Whenever possible, the animals should be accustomed to these vehicles in advance so they are less frightened and easier to move. If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made whether to move large animals to available shelter or turn them outside. This decision should be determined based on the type of disaster and the soundness and location of the shelter (structure).

All animals should have some form of identification that will help facilitate their return.

VI. ANIMAL CONTACTS

State Agencies:

State Veterinarian (Office of Animal Services, Department of Agriculture & Forestry)	925-3980
Area Veterinarian-in-Charge: (USDA: APHIS: VS)	389-0436
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association (LVMA):	928-5862 (LVMA) 1-800-524-2996

Animal Control Facilities:

East Baton Rouge Parish Animal Control	774-7700
Denham Springs	664-4472
Port Allen	336-2428
Walker	665-3910

Animal Organizations:

US Humane Society	(202) 452-7700
Bandits Wildlife	654-5941
Cajun Trapping	767-2021
Raccoon Rescue	766-2688
Cat Haven	756-4748
CAAWS	752-5801
PAAWS	677-9292
American Kennel Club	(919) 233-9767
Baton Rouge Kennel Club	1-900-407-7877
NACA	1-800-828-6474
Wildlife and Fisheries	765-2800
*After Hours	765-2706
Baton Rouge Zoo	775-3877
Operation Game Thief	1-800-442-2511
Animal Damage Control	389-0229

AgCenter – Parish Extension Office:

East Baton Rouge Parish	389-3055
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Dead Animals:

BFI	778-3800
Livestock	231-3254
State Hwy	231-4131
Birds- Public Health	1-800-256-2748
Mosquito Control	356-3297

Bees:

LSU (Dr. Pollet)	578-2180
LSU (Bee Lab)	578-9280
M. Catania	261-2365
E. Holloway	923-2833

Hospitals:

Baton Rouge General	387-7000
Lane Memorial	658-4335
Our Lady of the Lake	765-6565

LSU:

Small Animals	578-9600
Large Animals	578-9500

Police Departments:

Airport	355-2068
Baker	775-6000
Baton Rouge City	389-2000
LSU	578-3231
Sheriff	389-5073
State	754-8500
Zachary	654-9393

Miscellaneous Numbers:

East Baton Rouge DPW	389-3158
Baker DPW	775-5584
Information City	389-3000
Information State	342-6000

Pet Friendly Hotels:

Comfort Inn - University	1-800-228-5150
La Quinta Inn & Suites	1-800-531-5900
Red Roof Inn	1-800-843-7663
Sheraton – convention Center	1-800-325-3535

Local Veterinarians:

Acadian Oaks Pet Clinic	387-2462
Animal Ark Pet Clinic	924-5984
Animal Health Clinic	924-1353
Associated vet Services	928-4417
All Pets Clinic	767-2462
Animal Center (Zachary)	654-2649
Armstrong Vet Hospital	928-4540
Azalea Lakes Vet. Clinic	755-3838
Baker Animal Hospital	775-8815
Baton Rouge Animal Hospital	927-9940
Bluebonnet Vet. Hospital	296-0488
Bocage Animal Hospital	928-7550
Central Animal Hospital	261-3394
Comite Drive Animal Hospital	755-8036
Country Club Highland Hospital	756-5193
Coursey Blvd. Animal Hospital	292-4392
Downing Animal Hospital	751-2345
Gardening District Animal Hospital	381-9661
Greenwell Springs Animal Hospital	275-0340

Harrells Ferry Rd. Animal Hospital	293-9698
Highland Road Animal Hospital	766-3200
Helouin Animal Hospital	924-2471
Jefferson Animal Hospital	927-2344
Joor Road Veterinary Hospital	262-8385
Jones Creek Animal	753-0527
Kleinpeter Vet. Hospital	756-0204
LSU School of Vet Medicine	446-3333
Mistretta Vet Clinic	927-7196
Old Hammond Vet Hospital	275-9854
O'Neal Pet Hospital	273-0579
Park Forest Animal Hospital	275-2284
Perkins Road Animal Hospital	766-0550
Plank Road Animal Hospital	356-5676
Plains Vet. Hospital	658-2242
River Oaks Animal Hospital	275-7015
St. George Animal Hospital	769-7141
Shenandoah South Veterinarian	752-3973
Sherwood Forest Animal	275-2461
Sherwood South Animal	293-640
Siegen Lane Animal Hospital	769-4892
Staring Plaza Animal Hospital	766-8333
Village Animal Hospital	766-4570
Woodlawn Animal Hospital	753-1120
Zachary Small Animal	654-2723

Emergency Clinics:

Animal Emergency Clinic	927-8800
Animal Hospital Associates	665-6169
Baton Rouge Pet Emergency Hospital	925-5566
LSU Vet School	346-3333
Plank Road Animal Hospital	355-5676

Pet Hotels:

Alpha Boarding Kennel	755-3606
Audrey's Pet Grooming	926-5955
Petz Plaza	218-1500
Shanon's Pleasant Acres Kennel	753-5915