

ESF-17: Animal Issues

RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Lead Agency: Collier County Domestic Animal Services Division (CCDAS)

Collier County Parks & Recreation Division

Collier County Public Utilities Department

Collier County Public Services Department

Collier County Sheriff Department

University of Florida IFAS Extension, Collier County

Collier County Emergency Management Division

Mutual Aid

All jurisdictions that have entered into the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

PURPOSE

1. Provide for the coordination of local resources to assist all animals needs before, during, and following a significant event.
2. Assist animals affected by a disaster with emergency medical care, evacuation, rescue, temporary confinement, shelter, food and water and identification for return to their owners.
3. Coordinate diagnosis, prevention and control of diseases of public health significance.
4. Provide overall management, coordination and prioritization of countywide animal control services to support pet and livestock animal needs in the event of a disaster.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

1. Coordinate with ESF-15 for volunteer personnel; coordinate efforts to provide water, food, and shelter and other physical needs to animals; store and distribute animal food and medical supplies.
2. Coordinate with ESF-14 to ensure that animal shelter and related information is provided before, during and after the disaster event.
3. Coordinate with ESF-6 to manage the sheltering operations of designated Pet-Friendly Shelters to include registration, staffing, and other activities in a pet-friendly evacuation center.
4. Coordinate with ESF-8 to release information to the public regarding such issues as quarantine and zoonotic disease alerts.

ORGANIZATION

In the Incident Management System, ESF-17 is a function in the Human Services Branch and reports through the Operations Section, Response Unit.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Implement Pet Shelter operations when directed by the EOC Incident Commander or Operations.
2. Coordinate with special needs population to address their pet issues.

3. Coordinate requests for assistance and additional resources necessary with the appropriate agencies.
4. Participate in public outreach and community education about disaster preparedness for domestic animals and livestock.
5. Dispose of animal carcasses and waste.
6. Coordinate with ESF-8 to diagnose, prevent and control zoonotic diseases, e.g., rabies, and other animal related conditions of public health significance.
7. Respond to animal-related complaints; public safety, animal safety, potential rabies exposure and assist law enforcement officers.
8. Reunite animals with their owners.
9. Coordinate and assist emergency response teams with animal-related focus.

ACTIONS

Preparedness

1. Initiate emergency procedures for pet/animal sheltering and confinement.
2. Prepare to pick up animals at special needs shelters, as necessary.
3. Notify Domestic Animal Services to initiate emergency procedures for support of pet/animal shelter(s).
4. Provide information to public about hotels and commercial boarding facilities that accept pets.

Response

1. Coordinate with ESFs-11 and -15 regarding storage sites and staging areas for animal food, supplies and medical supplies.
2. Conduct damage assessment to determine if fencing must be restored/replaced at confinement areas.
3. Deploy Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) to identify and aid with; capture of injured, displaced and abandoned animals, sheltering, medical care, reunification with owners and acquisition of food and supplies to support relief efforts.
4. Assess disaster area(s) to determine specific health and safety needs. Coordinate with other Emergency Support Functions to provide support and help with concerns involving animals and their impact on human relief efforts.

Recovery

1. Consolidate/close shelters as need phases out.
2. Return animals to their owners.
3. Coordinate long-term sheltering, feeding and medical care.

INTERFACE

ESF-6, Mass Care
 ESF-8, Health, Medical & Human
 Services
 ESF-9, Search and Rescue
 ESF-11, Food and Water
 ESF-14, Public Information

ESF-15, Volunteers and Donation
 ESF-16, Law Enforcement
 ESF-18, Business & Industry