

**MADISON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
ANNEX Q
ANIMAL CONTROL AND PROTECTION**

Updated: January 28, 2009

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| Primary Agency: | Animal Shelter |
| | Cooperative Extension |
| Support Agencies: | Health Department |
| | Sheriff |
| | Emergency Management |
| | Others as required or requested |

I. PURPOSE

To control, protect and ensure the humane care and treatment of animals (companion and livestock) during an emergency situation that could cause animal suffering.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Any disaster that threatens humans threatens animals as well and it will be necessary to provide water, shelter, food and first aid.
2. Relocation, shelter, or relief efforts for livestock, wildlife, or companion animals may be required.
3. Shelter locations may be required to provide companion animal control due to sheltered persons bringing their pets with them.
4. Livestock left in evacuated areas will need to be cared for and provisions will need to be made for reentry.

B. Assumptions

1. Madison County may expect outside assistance from the State and private sector in a major disaster.
2. Animal protection planning will ensure the proper care and recovery of animals impacted during an emergency.
3. Personnel with proper training and protective equipment will be available to reenter evacuated areas for the purpose of rescue or care of livestock or domestic animals.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. The sheltering and protection of companion animals and livestock is the responsibility of their owners. Animal owners should plan for animal care during a disaster as they prepare their family preparedness plan.

- B. The Madison County Animal Shelter will be the lead agency for situation assessment and determination of resource needs. As needed, the County will protect animals affected by any disaster to include rescue, shelter, control, feeding, and preventive immunization of animals left homeless, lost, or strayed as a result of the disaster. Regional or local SPCA, Humane Society, or similar organizations will be asked to assist in this effort.
- C. Requests for animal protection assistance and resources such as food, medicine, shelter, specialized personnel, and additional veterinary medical professionals will be routed through the Madison County Emergency Operations Center.
- D. North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission personnel will handle wild animals, out of their natural habitats, in danger either to themselves or humans.
- E. Shelters that have been established for disaster victims will not accept domestic or companion animals. However, if an evacuee comes to the shelter with their pet(s), efforts will be made to assist in locating the companion animal(s) away from the general populace and given proper care. If pet carriers or other similar containment equipment can be obtained in sufficient quantity and within a reasonable period of time, the Madison County Animal Shelter may locate such containment equipment in close proximity to a shelter so that pet owners may care for their animals themselves. Companion animals and wildlife must, however, remain outside of the shelter for human evacuees or disaster victims.

IV. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A. The Madison County Animal Shelter and the Animal Control Officer will direct and control all activities related to animal protection and control during a disaster.
- B. As needed, the Animal Shelter will coordinate their efforts with related state agencies.

V. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

Line of succession:

- A. Animal Shelter Director
- B. Animal Control Supervisor / Animal Control Officer
- C. Emergency Management Coordinator
- D. County Manager

Attachment 1
Suggested Animal Shelter Director/Supervisor Checklist

- Upon request, report to the Emergency Operations Center to serve as technical advisor regarding domestic animal issues.
- Issues of *livestock* will be referred to Cooperative Extension and issues of *wildlife* will be referred to NC Wildlife Resources Commission.
- Receive a briefing from the Emergency Operations Center. Understand your assignment.
- Brief other Animal Shelter personnel and volunteers that will be assisting you. Briefing should include, but not be limited to:
 - Overall emergency/disaster scope.
 - Follow Incident Command.
 - Safety.
 - Assignment including locations and possible duration.
 - Items personnel are expected to have or have issued (i.e. food, water, flashlight, safety vest, boots, appropriate clothing, etc.).
 - Rules, regulations, special conditions personnel should expect.
 - Stress the importance of complete and accurate records.
 - Inform personnel (full time and part time) to keep all vehicle mileage and accurate time records.
 - Answer questions and address concerns before concluding the briefing.
- Prepare personnel and supplies for expedient shelter for domestic animals.
 - Notify and coordinate with CART. (County Animal Response Team)
 - Appropriate safety equipment for personnel (i.e. gloves, safety vests, capture equipment, etc.).
 - Portable pet carriers/kennels of various sizes suitable to the type and breed.
 - Feeding and water bowls/supplies of various sizes.
 - Appropriate fencing.
 - Collars, leashes and muzzles of various sizes.
 - Appropriate domestic animal food and water.
 - Signs indicating pet shelter or pet area.
 - Sign in / Sign out log indicating at least: (a) Owner (b) Owner address (c) breed of animal (d) date and time in (e) date and time out.
 - Rules sheet for owners bringing animals to expedient shelter to be given to each owner.
- Issue equipment and supplies to personnel.
- Log all mileage and time during the emergency/disaster.

- Record all supplies used or purchased and be prepared to submit copies of all expenses.
- Coordinate setup and operation of expedient shelter for *companion animals* with:
 - Emergency Operations Center, informing the EOC that the shelter is operational.
 - Security (i.e. Sheriff's Department).
 - If expedient companion animal shelter is to be located in proximity to an emergency shelter for humans, coordinate with the Shelter Manager (i.e. Red Cross) and Health.
 - Madison County Animal Response Team, HSUS, SPCA or similar organization.
- File daily reports with the EOC.
- Remain in contact with the EOC by radio or telephone.
- When requested to do so, provide all mileage, supplies used/purchased and time records to the appropriate agency (i.e. HR or Finance).