

A Two Module
Course

Animals in Disasters

Module A
Awareness and Preparedness

CONTRIBUTORS

This course was made possible through the efforts of the following persons and organizations.

Project coordinator, senior editor

Sebastian Heath, VetB

Purdue University, School of Veterinary Medicine, West Lafayette, IN

Secretary/Treasurer, American Academy on Veterinary Disaster Medicine, West Lafayette, IN

Logistics supervisor, FEMA representative

Joe Bills

Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, MD

Contributors (in alphabetical order of organization)

American Academy on Veterinary Disaster Medicine and the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society

John H. Anderson, DVM, Ph.D.

American Humane Association, Denver, CO

Doug Trowbridge

American Red Cross, Falls Church, VA

Judith Melicks

American Veterinary Medical Association, Schaumburg, IL

Lyle Vogel, DVM

Center for Veterinary Medicine, Food and Drug Administration, Rockville, MD

Michael Blackwell, DVM, MPH; Richard Cullison, DVM, Ph.D.

Fayette County Emergency Management Agency, Connersville, IN

Adrian Ellis

Humane Society of the United States, Washington, DC

Steve Dickstein, Melissa Rubin, Eric Sakach, Laura Bevans

Interbay Animal Hospital, Seattle, WA

Julia Allen, Ph.D., DVM

Los Angeles Department of Animal Services, Los Angeles, CA

Fred Michael

Los Angeles Area G, Office of Emergency Preparedness, Lomita, CA

Patty Boge, DVM

Maryland Department of Agriculture, Frederick, MD

Jack Casper, DVM

Montclair Veterinary Hospital, Oakland, CA

James Harris, DVM

City of Torrance, California, Police Department, Torrance, CA

Terese Condon

Santa Barbara Equine Emergency Service, Santa Barbara, CA

Tim Collins

Sunshine State Horse Council, Sarasota, FL
Cindy Ferguson
United Animal Nations, Sacramento, CA
Terri Crisp
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
Robert Linnabary, DVM
U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, Fort Sam Houston, TX
Col. Paul Barrows

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American Academy on Veterinary Disaster Medicine, Alan Beck (Purdue University, IN), Candace Lundin (AVMA, IL), Jim Hamilton (Southern Pines Equine Services, NC), Richard Mannsmann (Central Carolina Equine Services, NC), American Animal Hospital Association, Nicholas Gilman (American Humane Association), Vicky Vogelman (U.S. Air Force Veterinary Services, Arlington, VA), Richard Dorn (The Ohio State University, OH), Dave Barrabee, Chat Sloane (Indiana State Emergency Management Agency, IN), Kerri Marshall (VetSmart, OR), Melissa Nixon (Grass Valley Veterinary Services, CA), Jean Hooks (Fairfax County US&R, VA), Victoria Joseph (Bird and Pet Clinic, Roseville, CA), Indiana Board of Animal Health, Indiana State Emergency Management Agency, Franklin County, OH, Emergency Management Agency



Federal Emergency Management Agency

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Dear Participant:

Whenever and wherever disaster strikes, people and their property are affected. Over the years, we have seen whole communities destroyed and lives devastated. A problem that is increasingly being recognized is that disasters also affect animals. In times of crises, people worry not only about their family but also about the family pet; farmers worry about the livestock they are stewards of; the horse owner worries about their prize show horse or backyard pony. More and more, emergency management and agriculture officials are having to include animal issues in planning and preparedness.

We are pleased to present the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) new two-module independent study course, "Animals in Disaster." For the first time, FEMA is addressing this important issue through training and education. A major theme throughout the course is that individuals must prepare and plan for their animals. In a flood or earthquake, State and local government must first of all take care of people; government officials will not have time to deal with all animal problems. Therefore, it is up to the individual to see that their animals are taken care of as best as possible. It is also imperative that animal owners work with one another through mutual interest groups such as kennel clubs and horse associations, agricultural organizations, county extension agencies and humane societies to develop plans for their animals.

This course will help you prepare to take care of animals. It will not provide answers to all of your questions or concerns but will help you formulate answers specific to your own situation. We are pleased that you care enough to take this course.

Sincerely,

James L. Witt
Director

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Animals in Disasters

MODULE A UNIT 1

Overview

Preface

Why should emergency management officials be concerned with animals in disasters? After all, they are responsible for the safety of humans, not animals. However, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, 58.9 percent of all U.S. households own animals. For this reason, the care of animals in disasters is important to the care of humans.

This course aims to bring together emergency management officials and the animal-care community to share resources, authority and expertise. A collaborative effort between emergency management and animal-care providers can improve a community's successful disaster preparedness and response.

This course does not intend to provide details on the care of animals in disasters, but to promote personal responsibility of animal owners and care providers. It also guides emergency managers in the recruitment and use of local community resources to define, develop, teach, and implement a disaster response. **Each community must tailor its plan to meet its own needs.**

The purpose of this course

The purpose of this course is two-fold. Module A is intended to increase awareness and preparedness among animal owners and care providers. It includes sections on typical hazards, how these affect animals and what can be done by responsible owners to reduce the impact of disasters. It is also intended to help animal owners, care providers and industries to better understand emergency management. Module A will heighten awareness of the special issues that emergency managers need to consider when incorporating animal-care annexes into their emergency operations plans.

Module B is intended to guide emergency management officials and animal owners, care providers, and industries in preparing community disaster plans. The goal of Module B is to provide sufficient information for both groups to meet and develop meaningful and effective plans that improve the care of animals, their owners, and the animal-care industries in disasters. This course provides the basic background knowledge needed to develop a coordinated response to a disaster in which animals and their owners are affected. Further training with local or State emergency management programs is essential.

Summary of the groups that make up the animal-care community and examples of local groups that may represent them	Type of Organization	Examples
	Private owners	Pet owners, livestock producers
	Public owners	Native wildlife (tax payers own wildlife, which are managed by the natural resources department)
	Businesses	Veterinarians, pet stores, feed stores, farmers cooperatives, animal accessory stores, department stores, boarding kennels, grooming parlors, animal transport companies, pest control companies, racetracks, renderers, slaughterhouses, circuses
	Humane organizations	Humane shelters, SPCA, volunteers groups
	Educational institutions	Veterinary schools, veterinary technician schools, animal science and agriculture schools and departments, zoos, aquaria
	Governmental agencies	Animal care and control, U.S. Department of Agriculture, health departments, natural resources department, Cooperative Extension Services, public health services
	Professional associations	Veterinary medical associations, registered veterinarian health technician associations
	Other associations	Livestock producer associations, breeding clubs, riding schools, search and rescue teams, wildlife rehabilitators, youth and 4H groups

Course overview Module A is divided into an overview, seven units of instruction, a final exam and appendices. A description of each unit is provided.

Unit 1: Overview. Preface, purpose of the course, and information on the course. **(This unit is the same in both modules.)**

Unit 2: Introduction. Why are animals an important consideration in disasters? This unit describes the animal-care community, the societal impact of animal ownership and introduces the concept of the human-animal bond as a major factor affecting animal owners in disasters. **(This unit is the same in both modules.)**

Unit 3: The four phases of emergency management. This unit introduces the activities of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery and addresses government and individual responsibilities for carrying out these activities.

Units 4 through 6: Defining the risks and applying the four phases of emergency management. These units describe the major natural and technological hazards in the United States and provide information on typical animal-related issues that may arise in these circumstances.

Units 7 and 8: The care of animals in disasters. These units contain specific information on how to provide care for animals in disasters.

Unit 9: Module A final examination. By completing this unit and passing the exam, you may receive a certificate of completion from the Emergency Management Institute.

Unit 10: Appendices. This unit contains reference materials that supplement the course materials and indicates where further information can be obtained.

Course overview (continued)

Module B is divided into an overview, six units of instruction, a final exam and appendices. A brief description of each unit is provided to follow.

Unit 1: Overview. Preface, purpose of the course, and information on the course. **(This unit is the same in both modules.)**

Unit 2: Introduction. Why are animals an important consideration in disasters? This unit describes the animal-care industries, their societal impact and introduces the concept of the human-animal bond as a major factor affecting animal owners in disasters. **(This unit is the same in both modules.)**

Unit 3: Disaster preparedness through planning and collaboration. This unit outlines the steps needed to develop a community disaster plan that takes special consideration for animals and their owners. Suggestions are made as to how emergency management and the animal-care community can collaborate to develop an effective plan.

Unit 4: Analyzing risks affecting animals and their owners. This unit outlines the principles of identifying risks that are relevant to animals and their owners.

Unit 5: The organization of the response to disasters. This unit provides information on the official and proven methods of response to disasters. The Incident Command System and other established elements of response are described.

Unit 6: Recovering from a disaster. This unit outlines considerations for effective recovery from disasters. It also describes major sources of disaster relief.

Unit 7: Developing community support for the disaster preparedness plan. This unit suggests ways in which the community, government and citizens can be informed and inspired to support and participate in disaster planning.

Unit 8: Module B final examination. By completing this unit and passing the exam, you may receive a certificate of completion from the Emergency Management Institute.

Unit 9: Appendices. This unit contains reference materials that supplement the course materials and indicate where further information can be obtained.

How to complete the course

You will remember the material best if you do not rush through it. Take a break at the end of each section and give yourself time to think about the material. Once you feel familiar enough with the material, take the quiz at the end of the unit or section. The answers to the quizzes are provided in an appendix. There is a final examination at the end of each module.

The purpose of the final examination is to ensure you have a complete understanding of the material. An answer sheet is supplied with the course materials. Mail the completed answer sheet to the address on the form; your test will be evaluated and results will be mailed to you within a few weeks. If your score is 75 percent or above, a certificate of completion will be mailed to you. Interested students who have successfully completed the course and passed the final examination may apply for one semester hour of college credit through the FEMA Independent Study Program Office.

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