

Village of Oak Park
Emergency Operating Plan

ANNEX H – MASS CARE - ANIMAL CARE

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to address the needs of animals (companion, livestock, wildlife, and exotic) that are in need of food, rescue, medical attention or shelter, as a direct result of an emergency or disaster situation. This annex also addresses the reunification of animals with their owners, euthanasia, and disposal of deceased animals.

SITUATION

The Village is a community in Cook County. Within its boundaries are highways as well as major expressways (I-290, Route 43).

The geographical area of the Village is 4.5 square miles with a general population approximately 53,000. The Village is primarily residential with some large sections of multi-family housing located throughout.

All animal care functions are under the direct auspices of the Public Health Director, and it is he/she that will coordinate efforts with outside agencies, as well as the Cook County Animal Control, for the implementation of this annex.

ASSUMPTIONS

Personnel from the Village will handle the initial response to any disaster or unusual occurrences within the geographical limits of Oak Park. It is quite possible that in the event of a disaster or unusual occurrence, animals/pets will be displaced from their homes. Officials will assist in finding temporary housing and supplies for displaced animals.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Shelter: The provision of emergency shelter for displaced animals includes the use of pre-identified shelter sites in existing structures, creation of temporary facilities such as tents, the temporary construction of shelters, and use of similar outside the disaster affected area, should evacuation become necessary. Attempts will be made to house/shelter animals in as close proximity to their owners as possible.

Feeding: MOUs are to be completed with local veterinary and pet shelter agencies for the provision for feeding disaster animals and emergency workers through a combination of fixed sites and mobile feeding units, and bulk food distribution.

Emergency first aid: Emergency first aid services will be provided to animal disaster victims in the field and at mass care facilities and at designated sites within the disaster area. This emergency first aid service will be supplemental to emergency health and medical services established to meet the needs of animal disaster victims.

Disaster Animal Information: Disaster welfare information regarding animals residing within the affected area will be collected and provided to concerned persons outside the affected area. Disaster animal information will also be recorded and utilized to assist in reunification of animal owners with their animals within the affected area were separated at the time of

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the disaster.

Bulk Distribution of emergency relief items: - Sites will be established within the affected area for distribution of emergency relief items.

Animal Disposal: Provide for the safe disposal of animal carcasses in accordance with State and Local laws.

Rescue: Capture, transport, and confinement of animals to reduce the risk or injury to humans and animals alike.

Animal Return – Reunification with Owners: Animal releases shall be monitored and identification required when picking up or releasing any animal. Animal owners should attempt to provide some type of paper identification, which indicates that the animal is theirs. All releases shall require individual identification such as a driver's license, etc. to ensure accuracy of animal releases.

Following the impact of an event requiring the activation of the Animal Care Annex, a representative from Oak Park Public Health Department will rapidly assess the needs within their jurisdiction. The representative will forward those needs to the EOC. Upon activation, the Public Health Department representative in the EOC will coordinate with the Animal Care Representative in the stricken jurisdiction(s) to determine the level of activation required. The Oak Park Public Health Department will work with local veterinarians to activate the appropriate Animal Shelters.

Amateur radio operators may be sent to each regional Animal Care facility and will be responsible for transmitting data contained in the animal registration form from the regional center to the EOC. This data will be compiled and made available as part of the Animal Disaster Inquiry system.

If it is determined that the situation overwhelms the capabilities of the Village, CCDHSEM and IEMA will be notified and outside assistance will be requested. State assistance will be provided based on tasks assigned in the Illinois Emergency Management Plan. This assistance may be in the form of personnel or supplies, or by providing state facilities for use during the event.

In Oak Park, the Environmental Health Services Supervisor will be responsible for initiating and coordinating emergency response efforts for animal care and sheltering.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Primary Agency:

The Animal Control Division in Oak Park will be responsible for the care of animals left behind or rescued during an evacuation or injured as a result of a disaster. Signed agreements and statements outlining how local organizations will assist the department in times of need are maintained in the Public Health Department by the Environmental Services Supervisor and in the EOC by the ESDA Coordinator.

Welfare Information: Support Agencies

Animal Welfare Societies will assist the Oak Park Animal Control Division with animal sheltering facilities and animal care and handling in general. Trained staff will assist with technical animal support.

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Volunteers will be responsible for staffing Animal Care facilities, rescuing animals as their expertise permits, feeding, medical care and administrative duties within shelter facilities. All volunteers whether trained or untrained will be at the direction of the Oak Park Animal Control Division. See Annex K2 on Volunteers.

Animal Clubs/Organizations will be responsible for assisting with animal rescues, as expertise permits, and assisting shelter volunteers as required. Animal Clubs and organizations shall also be responsible for distribution of Disaster Animal Care brochures and associated materials. Trained staff will assist with technical animal support.

Cook County Forest Preserve District will assist Oak Park Animal Control Division with technical assistance in the handling and care of County wildlife. The Forest Preserve District will also assist in capture of wildlife displaced from their natural habitat, distribution of food and water to wildlife, furnish trained staff to assist with large animals/wildlife and be available to answer any related wildlife inquiries.

Veterinarians will provide veterinarian medical care, treatment of sick and injured animals and will additionally provide technical animal support.

MAINTENANCE, REVIEW AND UPDATING THIS ANNEX

It is the responsibility of the Environmental Health Services Supervisor for the maintenance, review and updating of this annex.

CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

The following is the line of succession of individuals with responsibility for coordination, control, and continuity of the Village's Animal Mass Care System.

1. Public Health Director
2. Animal Control Officer
3. Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager

APPENDICES

Appendix H1 Animal Care Pre-emergency Operation Checklist
Appendix H2 Animal Care Response Operation Checklist
Appendix H3 Animal Care Recovery Operation Checklist

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PRIORITIES -INITIATE IMMEDIATELY

Included in this section are actions that the community may take to address immediate animal care needs within the first 2 hours of the disaster impact. Included are: determining the number of individuals/animals needing assistance, the types of initial assistance needed, transportation and/or accessibility to disaster relief center locations, requesting the Animal Control Division to contact the County EOC with list of needs, etc.

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APPENDIX H1 - PRE-EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CHECKLIST

Complete: Yes/No	Alert appropriate animal control personnel and report to the EOC to receive a briefing on the status of the incident.
Complete: Yes/No	Based on intelligence provided by the stricken municipality(s), determine any special requirements posed by the types of animals affected by the disaster.
Complete: Yes/No	Determine if a community animal shelter needs to be established based on the size of the incident.
Complete: Yes/No	Establish an animal disaster informational telephone number for inquiries.
Complete: Yes/No	Activate sufficient personnel to meet the identified needs.
Complete: Yes/No	(other –if any)

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SECONDARY PRIORITIES

Included are actions that the community may take through the end of the first 8 hours following the disaster impact, These may include such actions as: providing local input to County Department of Animal Control regarding the location of Animal Relief Centers, establishing shift staffing levels needed, identifying animal needs coordinating with the County to meet identified needs, etc.

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APPENDIX H2 - RESPONSE OPERATIONS CHECKLIST

Complete: Yes/No	Contact appropriate volunteers, support agencies/groups based on nature of disaster and needs.
Complete: Yes/No	Open and staff sheltering areas, if required.
Complete: Yes/No	Move stockpiled supplies to the center, if available, contact established resources for any needed supplies.
Complete: Yes/No	Dispatch rescue personnel to areas of possible animal entrapment.
Complete: Yes/No	Coordinate with the PIO to publicize the location of the animal shelters.
Complete: Yes/No	Continue to assess the situation and determine if additional resources are needed to meet the needs of the crisis.
Complete: Yes/No	Establish communication between shelter sites and the EOC for data dissemination.

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Listed are actions that will be considered from the 8th hour of the disaster until its conclusion. These may include: continuing to brief the CMT, responding to citizen inquiries, continuing to monitor animal care needs of community residents, establishing temporary feeding stations for animals/pets working on cleanup/recover efforts, coordinating with the Public Information Officer regarding the release of information related to evacuees pets, establishing temporary veterinarian stations in the affected area to support recovery efforts, coordinating the distribution of donated disaster relief supplies obtained from the bulk warehouse, etc.

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APPENDIX H3 - RECOVERY OPERATIONS CHECKLIST

Complete: Yes/No	Provide information and referral assistance to those attempting to locate their animals. Utilize animal location forms for entry into disaster animal inquiry system.
Complete: Yes/No	Establish a location to accommodate the receipt, sorting and distribution of donation foods and other supplies.
Complete: Yes/No	Develop a method to deal with the receipt and distribution of monetary donations related to the disaster.
Complete: Yes/No	Arrange for feeding of shelter workers and volunteers, if necessary.
Complete: Yes/No	Continue care and treatment of animals during the disaster.
Complete: Yes/No	Provide for disposal of waste and animal carcasses.