

Disaster Preparedness and Response Related to Animals

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Why Consider Animals in Disasters?

- Legislation
- Cultural and ethical values
- Life-Safety
- Protection of Animal Health



Cultural and Ethical Values

- Sense of responsibility and loyalty toward animals dependent on us for food, shelter, and safety.
- Pets are perceived as family members - abandoning them in harm's way is unthinkable



Protection of Life-Safety

- Pet owning households are significantly less likely to evacuate out of harm's way
 - AKC survey - 62% would defy mandatory evac. orders
- Citizens may refuse to leave, or go back into harms way to rescue their animals
 - 82% of individuals returning to a disaster site do so to care for animals
- First Responders recognize that rescuing pets supports life-saving for citizens, and minimizes the emotional trauma of the event



Individuals that ignore evacuation orders endanger themselves and the first responders called in to help them!

Pre-hurricane Katrina

- Red River flooding, Hurricane Andrew, Hurricane Floyd
- Very little Communication, Collaboration, and Cooperation between groups
- Even less between NGOs and feds and between states and NGOs
- Very turf oriented



Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (2006)

- “Colossal inadequacy” at federal, state and local levels.. to prepare for, respond to, and recover from large-scale incident.
- Strengthen FEMA’s preparedness and response capabilities.
- Modifies Stafford Act with PETS Act language
- New responsibilities on DHS/FEMA for coordinating implementation of the PETS Act.

Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act) 2006

- Amends Stafford Disaster and Relief Emergency Assistance Act:
 - “Ensure that State and local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.”



NYS P.E.T.S. Act

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- Amended Article 2-b of Executive law
- Requires state and local disaster plans to assist individuals with household pets and service animals following a disaster
 - with particular attention to means of evacuation, shelter, and transportation options.

Volunteer Opportunities

- ESART / CART Program



ESART

Empire State Animal Response Team

ESART Mission

Providing prevention, response & recovery for animal emergencies.





ESART

Empire State Animal Response Team

- Purpose
 - To produce a cadre of pre-trained volunteers that can assist Emergency Management in the event of an emergency involving animals





ESART

Empire State Animal Response Team

- **Volunteers**
 - ICS 100
 - ICS 200
 - IS 700 - National Incident Management System
 - HAZMAT Awareness
 - Code of Conduct



ESART

Empire State Animal Response Team

- Requirements:
 - Only deploy at the request of County Emergency Management
 - Volunteer database will be managed by the NYSDOH ServNY Database
 - Qualified volunteers are covered for worker's comp and liability under Article 26-A of Agriculture and Markets Law