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

• 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 Mission

Providing prevention, response & recovery for animal emergencies.
• Purpose

• To produce a cadre of pre-trained volunteers that can assist Emergency Management in the event of an emergency involving animals.
• Volunteers
  • ICS 100
  • ICS 200
  • IS 700 - National Incident Management System
  • HAZMAT Awareness
  • Code of Conduct
• 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