



**Cuyahoga County
Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster**

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

Animals Sub-Committee Meeting #4

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter

9500 Sweet Valley Road

Valley View, Ohio 44125

Notes

1. Attendance

Chief Johnny Brewington	Woodmere Village Fire Department
Mark Cline	American Red Cross
Deborah Conway	County Animal Shelter
Adam Griffith	County Office of Emergency Management
Bob Horwatt	Cleveland Office of Emergency Management
Sharon Nicasro	COAD
Donna Prease	LEAP
Karen Seidman	Cleveland Heights CERT
Serena Steele	County Office of Emergency Management

2. Continued Review of Concept of Operations

- Some items were moved to different sections to align with the formatting of FEMA's Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101. Content was not changed.
- Items were added to the *Authorities and References* section. Sharon Nicasro will work with the appropriate parties to identify additional authorities.
- Individuals whose pets do not survive an incident will be offered grief counseling. There is an organization at Big Creek Animal Hospital in Middleburg Heights that Sharon Nicasro will contact for more information. We will also seek other organizations that can provide the service.
- An *Administration, Logistics, and Finance* section was added to the draft. A suggestion was made to specify the month of the annual plan review. It will most likely be the month when the plan is approved.
- Roles and responsibilities still need to be assigned. This is likely to be an ongoing task as we discover more resources.
- The plan is complete enough to be sent to the County Office of Emergency Management for formatting and approval. Roles and responsibilities will be listed in generic form. Specific agencies/organizations will be listed when their agreement to participate has been secured.

3. Continued Review of Roles and Responsibilities

- Region 2 Urban Search and Rescue has agreed to participate in animal search and rescue efforts.
- Decontamination will be a challenge. Sharon Nicastro asked the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), which handles hazmat matters, if they could provide guidance on how animal decontamination could be handled. They could not, but it is clear that fire departments will not assume the role of animal decontaminators.
- Sharon Nicastro contacted the OSU Extension Service in Cuyahoga County and the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association for guidance but has not received replies.
- The following suggestions were made:
 - Check with FEMA about federal guidelines and resources.
 - Check with First Energy regarding plans for pets near nuclear power plants.
 - Investigate veterinary response teams.
 - Solicit veterinary advisors and volunteers from among Cuyahoga County veterinarians.
 - Check with emergency management agencies from neighboring counties.
 - Check with Sharon Harvey of the Cleveland APL. She speaks at conferences and could have valuable contacts.
 - Check with veterinary technician programs at Tri-C and Stautzenberger College.
- When the Red Cross surveys facilities for suitability to be a people shelter, they also ask if the facility will allow pets to be housed in a separate section of the building. Most facilities are non-committal. Debbie Conway stated that for sanitation reasons, floors where animals are housed should be tiled. Concrete is porous and can contribute to spread of disease. She said Zumro tents could be used if temperature can be controlled. If animals are housed in service garages, carbon monoxide levels would need to be checked. Chief Brewington said the gas company would be the best resource for testing because it has more up-to-date equipment than fire departments.
- The Subcommittee determined that the remaining option would be to train volunteers to be part of a decontamination team. Debbie Conway said that the County Animal Shelter and the Cleveland Animal Protective League have hundreds of volunteers that could be trained to decontaminate. Because these volunteers are already affiliated with an organization, administrative details would be easier than starting a new group. Sharon Nicastro will meet with the County Animal Shelter and APL to work out details. We will also need to determine level of training required and source of funding for equipment and supplies.

4. Subcommittee Chair and Vice Chair

- Debbie Conway volunteered to be the Chair of the Animals Subcommittee and said that Ed Jamison of Cleveland Animal Care and Control would be the Vice Chair. Sharon Nicastro will confirm with Ed.
- Debbie and Ed have the knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to continue the superlative work that the Subcommittee has started. We are grateful for their willingness to serve.

5. Next Steps

- Submission of the plan to the County Office of Emergency Management.
- Ongoing assignment of roles and responsibilities to appropriate agencies and organizations.
- Creation of an animal decontamination team through discussion with the County Animal Shelter and Cleveland APL.

6. Next Meeting

- The group determined that with the completion of the plan, a meeting of the entire subcommittee is unnecessary at this time. Meetings will be called as needed or at least once per year to review issues and determine if changes to the plan are needed.