

## Animals Sub-Committee Meeting #1

Wednesday, September 7, 2016  
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Independence Public Library  
6361 Selig Blvd.  
Independence, Ohio 44131

### Notes

#### 1. Attendance:

Jim Alunni	Chagrin Falls Fire Department
Andrew Arth	Woodmere Village Fire Department
Deborah Conway	Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter
Adam Griffith	Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management
Elaine Hearn	City of Lakewood
Sean Hinkle	Cleveland Heights Police Department
Bob Horwatt	Cleveland Office of Emergency Management
Ed Jamison	Cleveland Animal Care and Control
Mike Jarvis	City of Rocky River
Jody Kowalski	Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Barb Mills	Public Representative
Sharon Nicastro	Cuyahoga County COAD
Donna Prease	LEAP
Sheila Roman	Garfield Heights CERT
Karen Seidman	Cleveland Heights CERT
Serena Steele	Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management

#### 2. COAD: The Big Picture

Cuyahoga County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) is an umbrella organization that coordinates preparedness, response, and recovery groups for greater efficiency and effectiveness. COAD is an extension of the National and Ohio Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). Mass Care (feeding, sheltering, and bulk distribution of goods) is a COAD function. The Animals Sub-committee is part of the Mass Care Committee. The Animals Sub-committee will be a permanent committee that will meet periodically after the plan is completed to review/revise the plan as needed and discuss new issues as they are identified.

#### 3. Planning Presentation

Please refer to the *Presentation Handout* for details.

#### 4. Foundational Elements Discussion

The group determined the following:

- Purpose
  - The purpose of the plan is to coordinate services and resources before, during, and after disasters to ensure public safety and humane management of animals.
- Scope
  - The plan will address animals in disaster (animals affected by disaster). Another plan will address animals in disease (animals causing the disaster).
  - If a disaster receives a federal declaration, FEMA will reimburse for expenses involving only household pets and service animals, but other categories of animals will be included in the plan (e.g., livestock, emergency response, exotic, wild, zoo, commercial, and research). Potentially dangerous animals are already addressed in a separate County annex to the Emergency Operations Plan.
  - Household pets are defined by FEMA as dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, rodents, and turtles.
  - Service animals are dogs and miniature horses. Comfort or therapy animals are not considered to be service animals.
- Situation
  - All categories of animals exist in Cuyahoga County. See the *Animal Demographics in Cuyahoga County* spreadsheet for an estimated number of animals in various categories.
  - Animals are located in homes, farms, kennels, shelters, hospitals, parks, zoos, commercial facilities, research facilities, airports, and in the wild.
  - Animals have social, cultural, commercial, and public safety value.
  - Animals are regulated by local, State, and Federal laws.
  - Animals are subject to licensing, registration, and inspection.
- Assumptions
  - Animals are affected by the same incidents as humans.
  - Wild and domestic animals might be displaced.
  - Owners are responsible for their pets.
  - Owners might be separated from their pets.
  - Owners might not evacuate without their pets.
  - Owners might need preparedness training.
  - Owners might need community resources.
  - Only service animals will be permitted in people shelters.
  - Pet-friendly hotels might not be available or economically feasible.
  - Owners will rely on public announcements for information to guide decision-making.

- **Authorities**
  - The plan will be written under the authority of and in compliance with
    - National Incident Management System
    - National Response Framework
    - Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (PKEMRA)
    - Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (PETS)
    - Americans with Disabilities Act
    - State and Local laws to be identified

## **5. Next Steps**

- Outline Concept of Operations
- Outline Roles and Responsibilities
- Outline Plan Maintenance and Appendices
- Write, review/revise/finalize the plan and submit to the County Office of Emergency Management
- COAD membership – Sub-committee members are asked to join COAD. See attached *Application*.
- The plan should be completed by late 2016 or early 2017.

## **6. Training**

- For online training that will provide good background information for planning, see the attached handout.

## **7. Next Meeting**

- **Date:** Monday, October 17, 2016
- **Time:** 10:00a to 12:00p
- **Place:** The original venue was to be the Independence Public Library, but the room was already reserved. The new venue will be the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS), 4747 E. 49th Street, Cuyahoga Heights 44125.