

**PLEASANTS COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**  
**ANNEX O: ANIMALS IN DISASTER**

<b><i>Related Federal ESFs</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESF #5: Emergency Management</li> <li>• ESF #6: Mass Care, Emer. Asst., Housing &amp; Human Services</li> <li>• ESF #8: Public Health and Medical Services</li> <li>• ESF #11: Agriculture and Natural Resources</li> <li>• ESF #15: External Affairs</li> </ul> <p>Mass Evacuation Incident Annex</p>
<b><i>Related State Annexes</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annex W: Highly Contagious Animal and Poultry Diseases</li> <li>• Annex X: Animal Services</li> </ul>
<b><i>Purpose</i></b>	<p>The purpose of this annex is to outline the local organization, operational concepts, responsibilities, and guidelines to accomplish coordinated care of animals during emergency situations.</p>
<b><i>Primary Agencies</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pleasants County Humane Society</li> <li>• Pleasants County Sheriff's Office</li> <li>• Pleasants County Office of Emergency Services (PCOES)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Support Agencies</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-Ohio Valley Health Large Animal Rescue Team</li> <li>• Local Veterinarians</li> <li>• Pleasants County Schools Ag. Department</li> <li>• WV Dept. of Agriculture</li> <li>• WVEMD</li> <li>• US Dept. of Agriculture</li> <li>• US DHHS</li> <li>• US DHS</li> <li>• Volunteer Groups</li> </ul>

**Authorities**

- HSPD-5: management of Domestic Incidents
- Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006
- Americans with Disability Act of 1990
- WV Code, §9, as amended
- WV Code, §15-5, as amended
- WV Code, §16, as amended

**I. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS****A. Situation**

1. As outlined in the Basic Plan, Pleasants County is vulnerable to multiple hazards. These hazards could result in the destruction of or damage to homes and may make it necessary to evacuate or relocate the animal population of Pleasants County.
2. The American Red Cross generally does not allow pets in shelter facilities although some arrangement can be made for service animals.
3. Local animal shelters have limited capabilities.
4. The ADA defines “service animals” as any guide dog, or other animal trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability, including guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items. Under ADA regulations, service animals have access to the same facilities as the human they serve.
5. There is a distinction between pets and large animals. A household pet is a domesticated animal (cat, dog, bird, rabbit, rodent, or turtle) that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers, and be housed in temporary facilities. Household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, insects/ arachnids, farm animals, and animals kept for racing purposes. Large animals are generally considered to be livestock (cattle, pigs, and sheep) and horses.
6. Potential Number of Pets
  - a. Number of people: 7586 (2027 Estimate)

- b. Number of Households: 2688 (2017 Estimate)
- c. Estimated number of Dogs: 1032
- d. Estimated number of Cats: 682
- e. Estimated number of Birds: 75
- f. Potential Total number of Pets: 2283

[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org), [www.uscensus.gov](http://www.uscensus.gov)

- 7. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, the following agricultural estimates are available for Pleasants County.
  - a. Cattle and Calves: 1746
  - b. Hogs and Pigs: 155
  - c. Poultry: 811
  - d. Horses and Ponies: 291
  - e. Sheep and Lambs: - 49
  - f. Goats: 86

## B. Assumptions

- 1. The Pleasants County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) may be operational during emergency conditions.
- 2. Sheltering or evacuation will be coordinated through the EOC.
- 3. During emergency conditions, pet owners may not evacuate if they must leave their animals behind.
- 4. Conversely, many animals may be left unattended if an evacuation is sudden and owners lack a plan to take care of them.
- 5. Owners may try to return early to an evacuated area to retrieve or care for animals, risking their safety and the safety of the responders who may have to rescue them.

## II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### A. General

- 1. The Pleasants County Humane Officer is contracted by the County Commission through the Humane Society.
- 2. Under routine conditions, the Humane Officer handles all domestic and farm animal calls.

3. If situations exceed their capabilities, they request assistance through the Sheriff's Office. This process should be followed during emergencies also.

#### B. Animal Sheltering

1. Animal sheltering is among the most difficult considerations when planning for animals in disaster.
2. Existing Resources
  - a. Access to XX kennels at the Humane Society and 200 kennels of multiple sizes are stored in Wood County.
  - b. The Pleasants County Schools Agricultural Barn can be available to house larger animals.
  - c. Arrangements with local farmers have been made for emergency housing of larger farm animals.
  - d. Other arrangements can be made for "Foster Families" to provide temporary housing.

#### C. Coordination with On-Scene Responders

1. In many instances, on-scene emergency responders may be the ones that encounter abandoned animals or animal owners who are requesting care for them.
  - a. a). The Incident Commander (IC) should ultimately coordinate with the Emergency Management if field forces encounter a significant number of animals in the affected area, if sheltering (including pet sheltering) is necessary, etc.
  - b. b) Field emergency responders may conduct pet rescues. Such rescues are generally for small, household pets.
  - c. c) The Large Animal Rescue Team may be contacted for assistance with larger animals such as horses, cows, etc.
2. If such resources as pet rescue services, equipment (e.g., trailers, fencing, gates), etc. are necessary, the IC should procure those resources through Emergency Management as he/she would any resource that cannot be provided through mutual aid.

### III. DIRECTION, CONTROL, AND COORDINATION

- A. Generally, the overall coordination of animal issues would be accomplished through the incident command structure.
- B. If on-scene (e.g., rescue, corralling, etc. situations), animal care volunteers should report to the staging area and await assignments from the Incident Commander (IC). Upon issuance of an assignment, animal care resources should assume an appropriate role within the Incident Command System (ICS) General Staff.
- C. Staff at animal care shelters should designate someone to be in charge at that shelter. Overall coordination of shelter operations should be done in accordance with the management structure of the overall mass care function (see Annex F). If the animal care shelter is located near a Red Cross people shelter, coordination may need to occur between the two. (For example, pet owners in the people shelter can report to the animal care shelter to assist in the care of their pets.)

#### IV. INFORMATION COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND DISSEMINATION

##### A. Public Information

- 1. Pre-disaster public information can include: the importance of labeling homes to indicate pet occupancy, items to take with pets if an evacuation is necessary, general support for regular vaccinations and the maintenance of medical records for pets, and general pet safety information.
- 2. During emergency situations, owners need to know where to take their animals, what to bring with them, and how animal care facilities are organized. Owners should also be notified of pet visitation and access protocols (if any).

#### V. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Organization: As discussed above, animal operations conform to the incident command system structure. Further, the skills and responsibilities of specialty resources, such as veterinarians, would remain the same as routine operations (with a likely change in the frequency such expertise is needed).
- B. Assignment of Responsibilities
  - 1. Primary Agencies
    - a. The Humane Society of Pleasants County and the Pleasants County Dog Warden

- 1) Identify potential animal care facilities prior to hazard events.
  - 2) Maintain staff rosters for county-owned animal shelter facilities.
  - 3) Determine guidelines for feeding based on the types of animals housed at the facility.
  - 4) Coordinate with veterinarians to provide medical services.
- b. Pleasants County Office of Emergency Services and LEPC.
- 1) Ensure coordination between the American Red Cross and animal care facilities.
  - 2) Update status of animal care operations as a part of the overall incident response.
  - 3) Relay resource requests to the State EOC (SEOC).
  - 4) Periodically relay appropriate Situation Reports (SITREPS) to higher levels of government. MOUs for farm animal shelter with Pleasants County Schools Ag. Department.

## 2. Secondary Agencies

### a. Local Veterinarians

- 1) Provides medical care for animals in animal care facilities.
- 2) Supervises, in coordination with the dog wardens, the dispensing of basic medical and drug supplies at animal care facilities.
- 3) Recommends the euthanasia of sick/injured animals.

### b. Pleasants County Sheriff

- 1) Provide security for animal care facilities, especially if they are established near human shelters.
- 2) Provide traffic control during movement to shelters and support facilities (including animal care facilities).

### c. West Virginia Department of Agriculture

- 1) Coordinates with agencies at the local level to help maintain emergency operations.
- 2) Provides state assistance regarding the identification of animal disease.
- 3) Provides state assistance regarding the euthanasia of animals based on disease findings.
- 4) Assists the county during clean-up, if appropriate.

### d. West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

- 1) Receives supplemental resource requests at the SEOC.
  - 2) Relays resource requests to the applicable state agency.
  - 3) Coordinates the elements of the state-level response from the SEOC.
- e. United States Department of Agriculture
- 1) Deploys APHIS resources, if necessary.
  - 2) Assists, as necessary and contingent upon availability, during operations dealing with an outbreak of a contagious animal or zoonotic disease.
  - 3) Supports animal/veterinary issues during natural disasters.
  - 4) Coordinates with other federal assets as well as state and local assets responding to the incident, as necessary.
- f. United States Department of Health and Human Services
- 1) Assists in the provision of emergency veterinary care for sheltered and rescued animals.
  - 2) Assists in the performance of epidemiological monitoring and reporting of emergency-related animal health issues.
  - 3) Manages human bite/injury cases, as appropriate and in coordination with appropriate state and local authorities.
- g. United States Department of Homeland Security
- 1) Coordinates with state and local authorities, pet owner identification, tracking, reunification, and social support.
  - 2) Coordinates pet issues, including pet evacuation, care, and sheltering with the appropriate state and local government and nongovernmental agencies.
  - 3) Coordinates with state and local authorities to ensure that animal evacuation and response instructions and status updates are communicated appropriately and in a timely fashion.
  - 4) Coordinates the federal response from the JFO in accordance with ESF #5.
  - 5) Integrates, to the extent necessary and practical, state and local representatives in JFO operations.
  - 6) Coordinates the efforts of federal assets responding under ESFs 6, 8, 9, and 14.

## VI. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, AND LOGISTICS

A. Administration

1. Accurate records should be maintained regarding all animals housed in animal care facilities. Logs should be kept of owner visits for liability purposes.
2. Records are kept including the owner, contact information, medications, and identification number.
3. Accurate records should also be kept of shelter supplies and equipment requisitioned, delivered, used, and returned after the disaster. Other eligible expenses for reimbursement include man hours for pet rescue, supplies for facilities, and costs related to emergency veterinary services. These records should be turned into the WVEMD within 10 days of the conclusion of response operations.

B. Finance: See Section VIII.B of the Basic Plan.

C. Logistics

1. The Humane Society of Pleasants County, the MOVHD and the Large Animal Rescue Team should use normal communications channels throughout emergencies.
2. Following the emergency response, critique sessions may be scheduled to assess each agency's response for planning purposes. If animal care operations were active, representatives should participate in these critiques. Weaknesses in this annex should be identified and adjustments made to better handle future emergency situations.
3. State and Federal Involvement
  - a. State
    - 1) State authorities may be available should a large number of animals be at risk during a large-scale emergency. Such assistance includes the identification of emergency veterinary teams.
    - 2) Additional state assistance may be available for the identification of animal diseases and may assist in determining if euthanasia is appropriate. Such assistance is usually provided by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.
  - b. Federal



- 1) The United States Department of Health and Human Services (USHHS) may assist in providing emergency veterinary care for sheltered and/or rescued animals, epidemiological monitoring and reporting of emergency-related animal health issues, and management of human bite/injury cases.
- 2) Under Emergency Support Function (ESF) #11, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) can provide assistance regarding any highly contagious animal/zoonotic disease. • Efforts are coordinated by the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). • Animal/veterinary issues are supported in coordination with ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services). • All animal depopulation activities are conducted as humanely as possible while stopping pathogen spread and limiting the number of animals that must be euthanized.
- 3) The USDA can also, under ESF #11, provide support for the safety and well-being of household pets during an emergency response or evacuation situation. • Support is provided in accordance with ESF #6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services), ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services), and ESF #14 (Long-Term Community Recovery). • The USDA supports state and local efforts to the extent necessary.
- 4) The United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) can provide a myriad of services during emergencies affecting animals.
  - i. Through ESF #15 (External Affairs), USDHS can work with state and local authorities to ensure that animal evacuation and response instructions and status updates are communicated appropriately and in a timely manner.
  - ii. Through ESF #6, USDHS may coordinate animal owner identification, tracking, reunification, and social support. ESF #6, as it does with human evacuations, may also coordinate pet evacuation, care, and sheltering (with appropriate state and local government and non-government agencies). • Through ESF #5, USDHS may serve as a coordinator of federal assets through the Joint Field Office (JFO).

## VII.PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- A. The PCOES Director is responsible for updating this annex based on deficiencies identified through exercises or responses and changes in government structure and emergency organizations.
  
- B. The PCOES Director should coordinate with emergency organizations, NGOs, and VOADs in the maintenance of resource/service inventories.

## RESOURCES