



Veterinary Preparedness for Natural Disasters in Other Parts of the World – United States

Natural Disasters and One Health

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Overview



- History and overview of animal disaster response in the United States
 - Improving preparedness
 - Collaboration
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People and Animals



AVMA Pet Ownership & Demographics Sourcebook

- 56% of households own at least one pet
- Approx. 1.5 pets per household
- Animals in U.S. households
 - 70 million dogs
 - 74.1 million cats
 - 8.3 million birds
 - 4.9 million horses





Importance of Pets

“I consider my pet(s).....”

- family members (63.2%)
- Companions (35.8%)
- Property (1.0%)



Other Animal Populations



* The value of livestock and poultry and their products in the United States in 2008

Human-Animal Bond in Disasters



People may put themselves and others in danger to care for animals

– Refuse to evacuate

- 25% would NOT evacuate without animals
- 50-70% would attempt to rescue later

– Return to danger zone to rescue or care for animals



Animals in Disasters: Public Health Issues



- Refusal to evacuate
 - Animal carcasses – disposal issues
 - Shelter issues
 - Aggressive animals
 - Dog and cat bites
 - Emotional fatigue
 - Potential for unknown contaminants
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August 29, 2005



PETS Act: 2006



(Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act)

- Requires FEMA to support state and local governments in animal planning
 - Provides reimbursement to states for sheltering and care of household pets and service animals
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Results



- Increased state and local planning and preparedness
 - Formation of state and local response organizations
 - States are better prepared to manage disasters on local and state level
 - Work still needs to be done
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Disaster response – U.S.

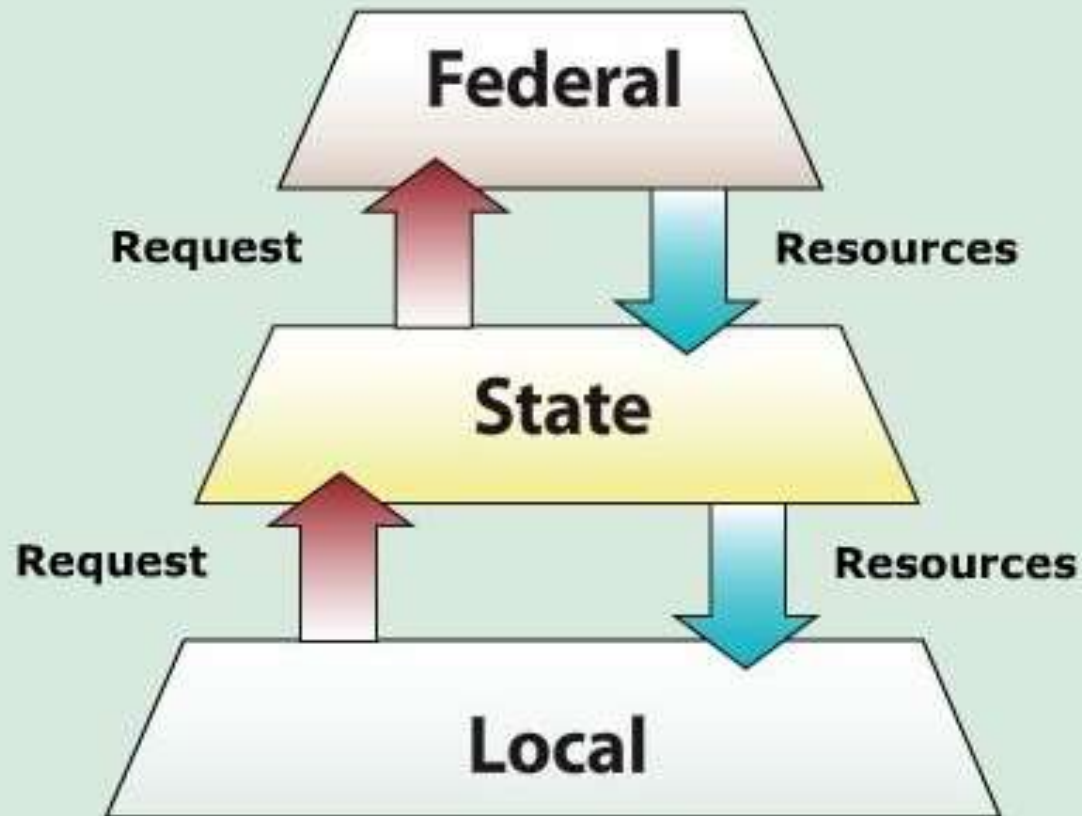
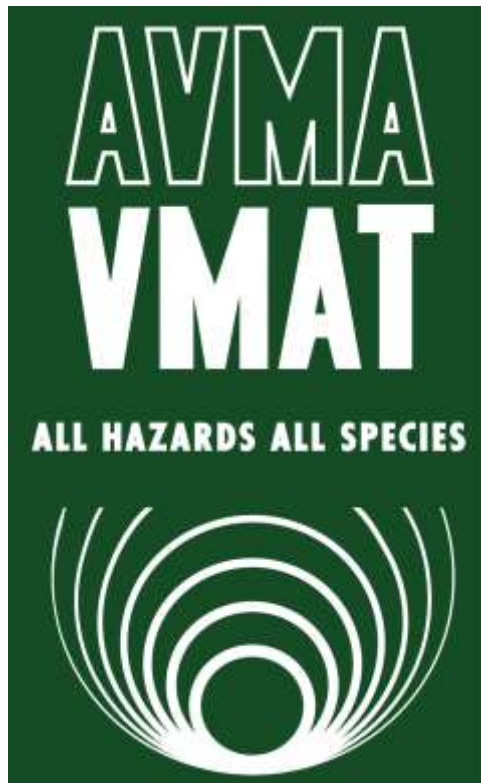


Image: A. Kingsbury, ISU, CFSPH

AVMA VMAT



- Resource for states
- Veterinarians, technicians
- 3 missions
 - Assessment
 - Veterinary medical care
 - Training

Black Forest Fire Colorado - 2013



Partnerships in Planning and Response



- Government agencies:
federal, state
- Regional alliances of
state agencies
- NASAAEP
- NARSC
- Response organizations
- NGOs



National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs



(NASAAEP)

- Association of State-level programs
 - Membership
 - Regulatory agencies (Agriculture, Public Health)
 - Emergency Management
 - SART & VMRC-type programs
 - Forum for communication, information-sharing and consensus among states
 - Best Practices working groups
 - www.nasaaep.org
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National Animal Rescue & Sheltering Coalition (NARSC)



- American Humane Association (AHA)
 - American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
 - Best Friends Animal Society
 - Code 3 Associates
 - International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
 - National Animal Control Association (NACA)
 - Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA)
 - Red Rover
 - American Red Cross
 - NASAAEP
 - Petfinder.org Foundation
 - Pet Smart Charities
 - AVMA
 - AVMF
 - www.narsc.net
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Maintaining Readiness



Exercises

- Opportunity to test plans
 - Find gaps
 - Familiarize personnel with roles and responsibilities
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National Level Exercise 2011



- Earthquake along New Madrid Seismic Zone
- Animal disaster response capabilities
- Federal, state and NGO participation

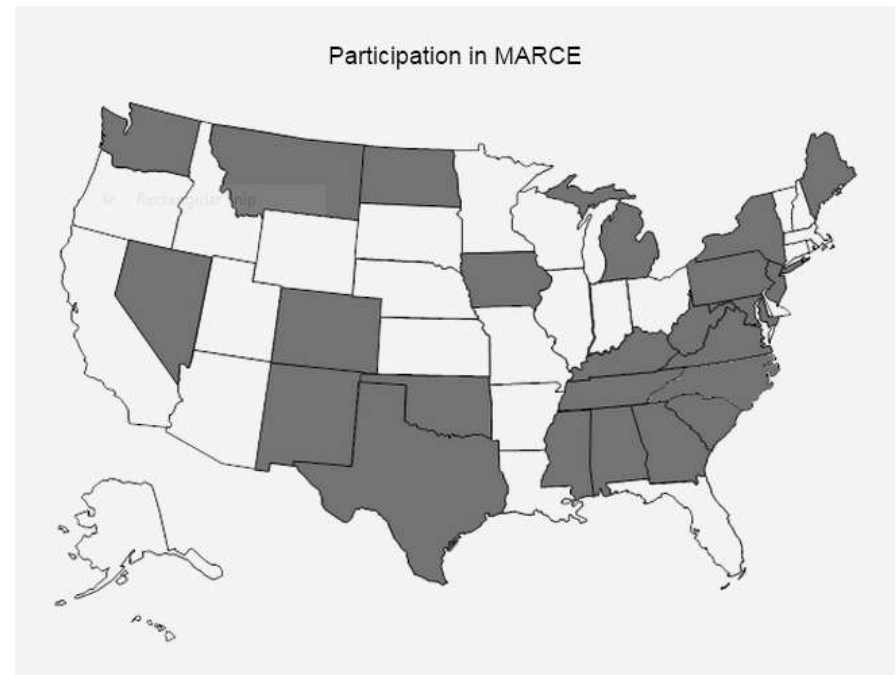


Multi-jurisdictional Animal Resource Coordination Exercise



(MARCE)

- Virtual Exercise
- 24 states participated
- Test states' abilities to request resources from various sources
- Resources for pets, large animals, captive wildlife, poultry and horses



Training



Superstorm Sandy: West Virginia



Photo: FEMA; N. Lemburg

Colorado Flood Event - 2013



- 1,750 people and 816 pets airlifted out of flooded locations
- Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps provided support for evacuated pets at the National Guard Helicopter landing zone
- Many different organizations involved in animal search and rescue





Thank you

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