Results: Of the impounded cats, 80% and 59% developed URI, 71% and 54% of cats developed diarrhea, and 91% and 83% of cats had at least one disease in 2011 and 2012, respectively. Uses of multiple drug administration (more than five drugs) was associated with prolonged URI and diarrhea. Multiple antibiotics, antihistamines, interferon, and steroids were associated with relapse of and prolonged URI.
Conclusion: The incidence of disease in cats at the shelter was high. Developing a standardized treatment protocol for commonly observed diseases at Japanese animal shelters to prevent and control diseases, to promote animal welfare, and to protect public health in the face of future disasters is overdue.
Prehosp Disaster Med 2017;32(Suppl. 1):s246-s247
doi:10.1017/S1049023X1700629X

Disaster Preparedness for Pets

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Study/Objective: The objectives of this study were to perform pet-owners' attitude survey to evaluate disaster preparedness for pets, and to perform questionnaires to investigate the effect of pets on the recovery of disaster.
Background: Almost all disasters involve people, animals and the environment in the affected area. People will evacuate from hazardous locations and the pets owned by people may be an issue in the evacuation process, if there was no planning for pets. Recent change in human-animal-bond, pet-owners see their pets as family members and risk themselves for the sake of their pets. Animals affected by disasters are also gaining more public attention, and the need for pet preparedness should be addressed and incorporated in the community emergency planning.
Methods: The pet-owner's attitude survey was conducted at pet shops and rabies vaccination sites (only for dogs), and the pet-owners were randomly assigned to answer 47 questions regarding on the perceptions toward pet disaster preparedness. Questionnaires to investigate the effect of pets were performed in the City of Sendai at a City Festival. Pet-owners and non-pet owners were randomly assigned, and the posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) by the earthquakes in 2011 were scored. Questions regarding the perception for pet evacuation were also recorded.
Results: Thus, 95% of the pet-owners wanted to evacuate with the pets, but only 26% of them knew the location of a pet-friendly shelter. Then, 20% had identification for their pets, and 96% of pet-owners and 88% of non-pet owners thought pets should be evacuated with people. Pet-owners had higher PTSD scores than non-pet owners within 1 month from the earthquakes, but the score was lower for the pet-owners after 5 years.
Conclusion: Addressing pet disaster preparedness is important for not only animal welfare but also for people's safety and mental health. Pets can be a risk factor during disasters but could act as profactor for recovery.
Prehosp Disaster Med 2017;32(Suppl. 1):s247
doi:10.1017/S1049023X17006306

Epidemiological Evaluation of Dogs Rescued in the Fukushima Prefecture Following the Great East Japan Earthquakes of 2011

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Study/Objective: The objectives of this study are to report characteristics, disposition, and health status of dogs rescued in the Fukushima Prefecture, and to perform a retrospective epidemiological evaluation of factors associated with disposition and disease incidence.
Background: Rescued dogs from the restricted area by the nuclear accident were initially housed at a temporary shelter in Ihno, Fukushima Prefecture. This first shelter operated under chaotic conditions: dogs were kept in individual cages proximate to each other, poor husbandry was maintained by unfamiliar/untrained staff, and lack of exercise was associated with deterioration of the mental and physical health of the impounded dogs. Secondary shelter was newly built in Miharu with better housing and trained staff, and all the remaining dogs at Ihno shelter were transferred.
Methods: All dogs rescued from the Fukushima Prefecture from March 2011 to July 2015 were included. The data including medical records, intake data and disposition (adopted, reclaimed by owners, or died in shelter), were retrieved and evaluated for the factors associated with disease and disposition.
Results: Five hundred and twenty-nine dogs were admitted to the Ihno and Miharu shelters, including 179 that had detailed medical records. Seventy-six percent of dogs admitted to the shelters were mixed breed. Twenty-six percent of dogs had verified ownership, and almost 16% of dogs were reclaimed by their owners. Sixty-six percent of dogs developed diarrhea, and 17 different antibiotics were used to treat it. Using three or more different antibiotics was associated with prolonged signs of diarrhea.
Conclusion: To improve the welfare of dogs in disasters, responsible owner education, a well-organized registered volunteer training program for care of animals at shelters, proper disease management protocols, and enrichment strategies to prevent stress in shelter setting are essential.
Prehosp Disaster Med 2017;32(Suppl. 1):s247
doi:10.1017/S1049023X17006318