

by having an awareness of commonly occurring flood related diseases, adequate veterinary resources, and early recognition and treatment will result in a more positive outcome.

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Goat Evacuations During the 2012 Oklahoma Wildfires

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Study/Objective: Evaluate Goat Owners' Responses to a Wildfire Threat with regard to Shelter-In-Place vs Evacuation Decision-Making.

Background: Much of Oklahoma's economy is dependent on animal agriculture; Oklahoma also suffers disasters such as wildfires. Livestock are at-risk from disasters, such as a wildfire, because numbers, dispersal, and handling requirements make movement from a threatened area difficult. In disasters, a typical response of livestock owners is to choose between shelter-in-place or cutting fence to turn them loose. In 2012, a group of goat owners were able to arrange successful ad hoc evacuation of goats from wildfire-threatened farms.

Methods: Using a triangulated research design of in-depth interviews, observations, documents, spatial mapping, and visual data, we gathered information from affected counties. We focused on variables that influenced the ability to evacuate goats vs shelter-in-place, such as the availability of transportation resources, an evacuation location, assistance with animal handling, the size of the herd, dispersal (pastured vs penned/stabled), and the rapidity of wildfire onset.

Results: In all, 470 goats were evacuated. Some goats suffered injuries and were treated post-evacuation. The average evacuation distance was 15 miles. The majority of evacuation coordination and resource-sharing occurred via social media and cell phones. Residents worked hard to evacuate animals threatened by wildfire, but ran into difficulties in transporting large numbers of livestock to safety, particularly with regard to dispersal and trailer availability.

Conclusion: Our findings emphasized the necessity for emergency plans to include safeguarding livestock. As social networks were found crucial in successful animal movement, such networks should be mobilized as a means of developing and testing evacuation plans for livestock. Animal owners should create and practice an animal evacuation plan, and permanently identify their animals. Finally, we recommend that owners have a priority list for evacuation. We have also identified avenues requiring further investigation, including highlighting goat-specific concerns during and following wildfires.

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Emergent Planning for the Veterinary Care and Short-Term Housing of Companion Animals Evacuated due to a Wildfire in Alberta, Canada

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Study/Objective: This case study describes emergent planning for the veterinary care and short-term housing of companion animals evacuated due to a wildfire.

Background: In response to a wildfire, 88,000 residents of Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada were evacuated from their homes. The short-notice evacuation and immediate threat of fire prevented many residents from retrieving companion animals before leaving the city. Measures for interim animal care, including shelter in place, retrieval from homes, examination by a veterinary professional, and staging at a local facility were instituted. Animals were then to be transported to the nearest metropolitan center for temporary housing. Representatives from the government of Alberta, the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association were called upon to plan and implement solutions for veterinary care and short-term housing of animals in Edmonton, Alberta.

Methods: Over the course of one weekend, organizations worked collaboratively to secure and establish a facility, equipment, supplies, veterinary professionals and auxiliary volunteers. With the assistance of a commercial realtor, a vacant warehouse was chosen as a suitable facility. A local registered charity that offers animal wellness services to First Nations communities, provided support with experienced personnel, equipment, and supplies. Protocols for animal intake, triage, housing, veterinary care, and treatment of sick and injured animals were created. Roles for veterinarians and veterinary technologists were defined. Medical records, including examination, treatment, and housing forms were developed. In order to provide continuous oversight of all aspects of animal care, requests for volunteer veterinarians and veterinary technologists were disseminated.

Results: Within 56 hours of request, and without a prior plan or a secure source of supplies or equipment, the short-term housing facility was operational and received the first intake of animals.

Conclusion: Over an 11-day period, 1,192 animals were examined, provided with medical treatment as necessary, and housed.

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A Risk Based Algorithm for Managing the Companion Animals of Medically Vulnerable Disaster Evacuees

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Study/Objective: This presentation describes a risk-based algorithm for managing the companion animals that present at a shelter of convenience with their medically or mentally impaired owners. A case study will be presented implementing this algorithm for the evacuees of Hurricane Ike to College Station, Texas in 2008.

Background: Special medical needs patients with pets present unique challenges when they are evacuated in disasters. The human animal bond is critical to these individuals who are often

socially isolated. This presentation describes a risk-based approach to analyzing the factors that should be considered when managing the companion animals of this special population. The application of these principles will be demonstrated through discussion of a US Public Health Service veterinary mission, in a US Health and Human Services Federal Medical Station established for evacuees of Hurricane Ike, which struck the US Gulf coast in September 2008.

Methods: A structured approach was applied to develop the most effective method for managing each pet that presented, which included a hazard identification based on owner, pet, environmental, and animal interaction factors. Based on an analysis of these factors, a method was developed to manage each animal, which could include hospitalization, quarantine, or regular on-site visits. An unforeseen byproduct of this approach was an improvement of morale for shelter residents and medical personnel.

Results: Approximately 300 evacuees presented with about 30 companion animals (dogs and cats). The mission resulted in 100% rabies vaccination, 100% reunification, veterinary care as needed, zoonotic disease risks identified and mitigated, and the human animal bond maintained for the duration of the evacuation.

Conclusion: The case study demonstrated that public health pet management is important to the animals, patients, and staff in a disaster scenario. A structured hazard identification process requires a team approach including medical, mental health, veterinary, sanitarian, and community partners.

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The Promoting of Wellbeing Before, During, and After an Animal Health Emergency Response

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Study/Objective: Animal health disease responses can expand to become emergencies that affect responders and agricultural workers differently. The effects of stress from long days, uncertainty, decision making or new duties can manifest themselves during and well after an event is concluded. As many emerging and notifiable diseases are zoonotic, the use of One Health principles are required for effective leadership and decision making to protect human and animal health.

Background: Utilizing the pillars of emergency management, the preparedness phase is to assess response needs and to develop protocols that should include human resources that minimize risks to responders for their safe return to normal duties. Also part of the assessment is the continuation of business, and decisions will be required for the prioritizing of tasks. Wellbeing is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as 'a state of mind in which an individual is able to realize his or her own abilities, cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community'.

Methods: During preparedness and tabletop disease simulations, all potentially affected parties should be included for the sharing of knowledge, discussion, modelling, and prioritization

for response and business continuity. The sharing of responder experiences is an effective method to introduce the topic of wellbeing and good practices that support resilience. Additional time should be scheduled for group discussion and good practices, for the development of protocols that support wellbeing as part of responder health and safety.

Results: Normally well-being may be taken for granted; however, during an extended response it is necessary to support and encourage good wellbeing practices for all of those affected the response.

Conclusion: The self-monitoring of staff during and after a response is a good practice to be supported by awareness training.

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An Emergency Exercise in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory - Preparing for a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak

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Study/Objective: The objectives of this simulation were to design and conduct an operational exercise to test the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for management of a suspected Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) case in the postmortem laboratory, and to evaluate joint coordination and communication networks between the veterinary diagnostic laboratory and regulatory agencies involved in outbreak response.

Background: In this era of heightened awareness of the risks of emerging and transboundary diseases, postmortem facilities remain a problematic site for potential exposure and spread of high-risk pathogens. A producer experiencing high mortality on a farm is likely to bring a carcass to a laboratory for postmortem examination. Should this animal be infected with a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) such as foot and mouth disease, the biosecurity and notification procedures implemented in the first few hours following a tentative diagnosis by the pathologist will assist in containment of the disease, and limit potential spread to other clients using diagnostic laboratory facilities.

Methods: Employing templates developed by the Justice Institute of British Columbia, exercise and evaluation guides were developed to describe scope, objectives, expected actions, and desirable timelines during the simulation.

Results: This FAD simulation was deemed a success, based upon formal feedback provided by the evaluator. All exercise participants fulfilled their respective roles and worked as a cohesive team, remaining calm and handling challenges as they arose. An informal "hotwash" networking session held immediately following the exercise included partners from several animal health regulatory agencies. A gap analysis was performed, and after-action plans were developed to resolve the identified deficiencies.

Conclusion: A well-designed operational exercise ensures a successful outcome, measured by an opportunity to practice