

**The Community Preparedness Webinar Series Presents...**

**Preparedness Considerations for the Pets, Livestock, and Animals in Our Homes and in Our Lives**

**Recorded September 22, 2011**

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*Please note that this is a closed captioning transcript, and may contain typing errors.*

**Presenters:**

**Shawna Lanczycki**

National Preparedness Month Campaign Specialist

FEMA Welcome and Introduction.

**Dick Green**

Emergency Relief Manager for Disasters at the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

Overview of Animal Emergency Management & Role of Non-Governmental Organizations

**Nick Sleptzoff**

FEMA, National Planning Coordination and Assistance Branch of the National Preparedness Directorate

National Response Framework and Animals Overview

**Elissa Fontenot**

Policy specialist, FEMA's Public Assistance Division in the Recovery Directorate

Policy, Reimbursement, and Guidance

**Dr. Allan Hogue**

Associate Deputy Administrator of Animal Care in USDA/APHIS

Animal Care Emergency Programs Update, including Response Activity in 2011

## Transcript

>>Welcome everyone that is here. We will start in about 10 minutes. Thank you for your patience, we will start in five minutes. Thank you for joining us, we are hosting today's webinar on preparedness for pets and animals.

>>I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the speakers today. Dick Green, is from animal welfare. This team has rescued thousands of animals. Typhoons in Taiwan and in Australia. Earthquakes in China and Japan.

Nick has responded 200 emergency's throughout the year. This year, marks his 40th year. We will talk how to request for assistance in --.

She has been with FEMA, for five years. She was involved with the development of the sheltering program.

Alan Ho -- Dr. Hodge works as a small well their advocate. And the pet owning population. For sheltering, search and wreckers -- rescue, and has worked with other government agencies to have a comprehensive a plan in place for pets and service animals.

We will conclude today's seminar with a question and answer. It is being recorded, it will be for public view.

>> Thank you Shauna. I need to apologize, my voice is raspy I am fighting a cold. It is a difficult task, to shape the events that has faced us today. Everything that was pre-Katrina and post between a your -- Katrina. What I think, were the key advance that led us to where we are today. Everything we could lump into pre-Katrina and into post-Katrina. We responded in a animal welfare way. The top up the list would be Hurricane Andrew. And the flooding in 1997. Hurricane Floyd was before Katrina. There was not a communication or collaboration that we would like to see as we do today. Communication between states, the government -- we can laugh about it today, during that time we would follow and track a disaster. We would race out the door, with permission sometimes without. At times it was a race to see who would get their first. The red river and 97, it is something we can laugh at today. We could actually see the other group a cross the river. All of that changed when Katrina hit. We were forced to work together. We had to move 10,000 animals in Katrina. This was the largest ever in the world. We rescued, transported and sheltered. We have re-homed about 40% of those. We did a poor job of getting the pets back to their owners. We have never managed a large-scale incident before. You could account the number of people that understood the command and on the response I. It was a wake-up call. We need to make sure it that animal rescue groups are working at the same level as the human rescue. We formed the national animal rescue foundation. I would place the development -- these are things that have shaped the animal response world as we know it today. We formed shortly after the Katrina. I want to set the stage for you, this was typical for us in the animal well for -- welfare. There were two pieces of legislation that were -- changed us today. The pet act. What it said, that local and state jurisdiction need it to include animals in their plan. Now it allows us to go to our counterparts on the state and local level. We wanted to let them know we were here to help. From that legislation we

have calm a long way. The second legislation, -- we knew we had done a horrible job in Katrina, not only with animal side but also with human. This legislation said let's fix it, do not do the same as before. From an animal perspective, it gave us a federal agency that we could go to. Someone that could help us not only national, but perfect -- pre-pairing. The other related document, that disaster system policy. I know a list of will talk about it later. This was a huge thing for us. Often times communities were hesitant to set up a shelter, simply because they could not afford it. They did not have the financial ability to handle it. This legislator helped to have a fighting chance for this to occur. It was geared to providing a opportunity of networks, state emergency programmers that were dealing with animals. To communicate amongst themselves, their federal planning partners. They have a successful group over the last year. The biggest achievement, that development of the best practice working groups. We have eight groups, they have representatives from the Mount and USDA, they found subject matter experts that could help them developing policy. Look at protocol an official paper and what is the best standard to have out there. They are in the process to -- I think if I could summarize all of what we have, obviously I have too much time on my hand when a, if you look at all of what influenced the animal disaster today, it would be easy to miss someone. The bottom line, today we are in a better position to handle a major disaster. Shauna, would you like need to go into the next slide question Mark -- ?

>> As I mentioned, Norris was formed right after Katrina. As you see from the slide, -- we housed 7000 dogs in about 50 days. That was labeled as the largest animal shelter in the world. That did not count the cats, snakes and the various exotics. We had a large number of horses and goats etc. etc. It looks key out at -- chaotic, but we did a good job there. Considering the amount of resources we had. We decided that we wanted to address those lessons learned. The lack of the number of people in -- that new and practiced the system. After that we meant every month the first year. We meet quarterly now, and have seminars every month. We now added a category of associate, affiliated. This is a list of the agencies. Not only do we have the national organization that you are familiar with, we have coalition that are within Norsk. NASAP. The amount of improvement that we may, the way we communicate and collaborate is quite impressive. I expect to grow over the next couple of years. We do have a website, it is on the slide. It is still under construction. We have a resource sharing agreement so that various agencies can share. The thing I am most proud of, we now generate 8MOU -- a MOU. We were able to provide the sheltering system for about five weeks in North Dakota. You can see a picture of the team. The other groups, took a turn to handle that. It is hat -- it is exciting for that state, that if they need help they have 3000 volunteers that they can call upon. The other thing, we really strive for collaboration. Last October, we hosted a national tabletop conference. You can see the local representation, state agriculture, FEMA a very impressive group. They sat down, and look at ways that we could collaborate effectively for larger crisis. This states that were impacted on the oil spill, they could look at what was going on with the other states. Two weeks ago, during hurricane Irene, we had 12 state representative on the call. We could anticipate and help coordinate the request for resources that all came in. These were a group of individuals and agencies that could assist and cooperate when a disaster hits speed --.

>> Good afternoon everyone. I appreciate being here, and without seeing Dick slide it was interesting he laid out how we got to where we were. I want to present, how Steve responded -- FEMA responded. FEMA has put together national response framework. This is a one-time a national response to plan.

This was a document on how the federal government would respond. A number of years ago, we looked at it and said it is more than just a plan. It is a framework, how do we embrace all of the resources and agencies to help communities. How to help get them back on their feet. I would like to point out, the national framework that I have on my slide, it says how we as a nation will respond. How we encompass anybody that has responsibility. The national response framework, legally identified the facilities we see right here, the laws that have been put in place. As Dick was talking about, the relief back. There is to up down that he has pointed out, I have also highlighted here. Those are pieces of law that we have to go by. This is how Congress wants us to respond. Just as a sidenote, in all of the legislation -- this is the only piece of legislation where we have a requirement for an evacuation for animals. This is a site point. How do we approach this and how do we do this? We have the framework, and the emergency support functions. These functions perform during disaster, to either local or federal. These are what people need to look at for their operation plans. The pet community, the emergency assistance -- this is where you would find the Red Cross, Salvation Army and different organizations that respond to disaster. They are non-government agencies. ESF is a natural cultural resources. What is their role and -- when I talk about emergency assistance, it is where the Pats we acquired immense along. 11, is the department of aquaculture. This is a SX six again. You can see how I have it bolded, and how does -- to deal with service animals. They will deal with most household pets and service animals. But it does not go how it includes agricultural and large animals. There it is eight organization, -- there is a body of animals that does not necessarily have a legislation attached to it. It does have to be addressed in the community you're in a disaster. The way we do that, he now puts together -- FEMA puts us -- together a national response training document. We have a guide, CPG 101. Most have read. This is the one that will actually help to provide guidance to the community and along with their disaster plan. This is where, you can sit in. They have to cover all of the ESS. They need to hit all of the things that needs to be hit and develop during a disaster plan. What we stress than 101, that everyone should get involved in the process. We put together information, we put together with people in the business. When we look at the Pats -- pet with people who have expertise in planning. Like Dick, and the organization that he represented. The organization for animal response in planning. The last slide I have, this is references for documents that I spoke of. If you download them, and you can burn the documents and look at them. FEMA does have a independent study for Graham which is free -- if you are interested, it is free of charge and online. You can get a better feel for what we spoke about. How we do things. Thank you.

>> Alyssa will talk about policy, reimbursement and guidance.

>> I will briefly discuss public guidance and reimbursement. It assist in the restoration of the community and a supple lentil -- supplemental. It will be awarded to the grantee. This will be for the sap -- I will briefly describe the public assistant process. It begins after a disastrous event. Preliminary damage assessment, and once they are conducted they cement a request to the government. And they present the request to the president. Once it is decorated, the applicant briefing -- the applicant must submit applicant -- assistance within 30 days. After that point, FEMA will have a kickoff meeting. The applicant has 60 days, the damages to be in a peer -- FEMA. There are project worksheets where these grants are written. Once the funding is approved, it is to -- this priest -- this a grand jury would be the animal control or animal welfare. We divide our work into two main categories. In emergency these are actions

taken by the community before or after a disaster. And E. -- emergency household pets come -- this would be category be were. On October 6, that Pat act was signed. It would provide shelter and needs for Pats -- pets and service animals. This is for emergency pet. This slide identifies the grantees. The state and local government, for sheltering animals area contractors art nonprofit. It can only be reimbursed through a state or local government. More of these are outlined in nine point outlined in 9.23 outlined in 9.2399. State and local government may conduct rescue for household pets or they may contract outside help. These are for -- state and local government have state -- the sum of the costs are category be. Facilities, or the brand port facilities, generator cost, shelter, safety. Food, water, creates. These are some examples. I want to hammer in, that record creep -- keeping is critical for reimbursement. It is critical to keep good records, itemize cost, real cost, volunteer cost, receipts. It is important to receive full in person. The final slide, these are areas that you can go to to get more information. We have our policies, plus guides and forms. And that is it.

>> Thank you. My agency is animal care. We are part of the animal pet inspection for the USDA. I want to talk about our role in how we fit in. Our day job, to regulation the welfare of animals used for commercial purposes. One might ask, why are we involved in emergency management. We have a field force of 200 that can -- that Nehring's. That Nehring's

It is a logic extension of our mission. This is the well-being of animals during a disaster. As Nick talked about, that enter -- emergency response framework, we volunteer to assist FEMA. We show the different ESS 11. It was a assignment for her agency to ensure the well-being of Pats -- pets and service animals. I mentioned are set -- that Tottori role. We have animal where fear -- welfare your this includes research facilities, dog and cat dealers, exhibitors, zoos and transporters of animals. That is our group that we regulate. Part of our role, -- there are cases where we deal with the confiscation of animals or we assist to regulate during a disaster. We provide basically, expertise, leadership and staffing to FEMA. We organized ourselves, into project response teams. In order to meet our mission. These response team can respond in a intimate command response. I want to give you a overview, of our current projects. We are doing a lot of partnership and outreach. There are many organizations involved in this mission. It helps if you know who the partners are. If you have any understanding of your partner's role during a disaster response. We have funded and supported a number of activities. To bring a different routes together, and to understand each other's roles. And to help coordinated our activity. Another thing, we organized a demonstration pet shelter. In this picture here, you see stuff dogs but we have used live animals in a number of settings. State fairs, FEMA conferences, AMA, and other groups. This is to show the value. It is a visible way to see Pats -- pets and people can be sheltered under the same roof. The best practice working groups was mentioned previously, we do support this as well. We work on date authorized equipment list. It works in the background, paid for by FEMA peer --. This latest project should help with state territories and jurisdiction. It will not automatically ensure funds, but it could help. We supported exercises, state conducted exercises as far back as 2008. In 2011, we are planning three different proposals. We also been involved in exercises, the main point I want to make -- in response activities in 2011. The slide that Dick showed in his presentation, the bubbles with the animal of the disaster -- and all the surrounding bubbles with the abbreviations. It is all the organizations feeding into that. There are many organizations involved. How do you make a request? To the bubble in

the right-hand corner and down to the bubble in the lower left-hand corner. There are layers, so what we hope to do is to improve the ability to request and to receive the one asset they requested. We are organizing at FEMA headquarters next week, and many of our partners will be representative there. We want to hammer out the details on providing a support. Eight efficient way to get things where they need to get. That is for me, thank you.

>> I would like to take this time to talk about our national preparedness month. Each year are the president has each -- the month of October. We have eight opportunity to educate the public. Many disasters across the US, we have had flooding, hurricane Irene have heightened the public awareness. Why can we do to help? And the answer to that is to be prepared. We have been working with organization, and individuals like these on the webinar, it takes less than two minutes. We have information, posters and resources and much more you can use throughout the year. We have 8000 members, and we hope you will join us as well. Once you are signed up, you can search for ideas and connect with all our members. To see what is happening in your community and throughout the country. The important thing to remember, everything you do will make a difference. Whether spreading the message or action in your community. No action is too small or too large. At pet stores throughout the country we have -- they have preparedness for emergency for the pet. We have ready to use messaging. E-mail's, new letters -- newsletters, and different messaging that you can use. Another easy way to get the message to your community, tapped into a event that is already planned. State fair, parade, whether it is passing out information, or inviting a local firefighter or a local canine emergency. This could make a difference. I would like to highlight one success story. We had a local canine -- they teamed up with their police and fire department to coordinate collaboration. They got a lot of great publicity out of this. I want to remind everyone where they can find more information, and resources that are available. The next two slides will provide more links. We have the coalition site cock -- ready.gov. Ready is a program that read run at FEMA. There are tons of ready to use checklist, these are tailored to Pats -- pets. The American red cross does have information. The American red cross helps organizations to take steps to be prepared for emergencies. We also provide links, public-health website. These will assist the general product -- public to help for disasters. I want you to know, next month pets Mart -- you are invited for those conversations. It will be found on pet Smart website. I encourage you to check the -- of that for webinars. Thank you for joining us today. I want to thank all of our speakers. I hope everyone will join us for our national preparedness. There is a chance -- chat box where you may type in your question. Please bear with us, it can take a few minutes to respond to your questions.

>> Where will this presentation be available to view? We will post this webinar, and you will have a link to today's webinar.

>> We will post the link right now.

>> Are there any recovery programs for individual or family?

>> We have a lot of information on recovery. We have more detail, and we hope to have more information. At this time I do not have where we can get the specific information. We will see that

Shauna gets it, so that you can we to it -- link to it here --. Working with the states and the local community and getting that process.

>> This is Alan, pets and people can be sheltered in the same facility. It has been Red Cross policy not to shelter humans and pets in the same shelter. There are efforts to change or modify that. We found it works well to shelter pets in a facility next door or nearby. That allows the people to maintain, bond with their animals. It also helps relieve the volunteers if the pet owners can take care of their own animals. This goes a long way in a very practical way. This can show that animals can be house rate where the animals are. There is additional information -- I cannot be more specific. Search of the web. There is one group in Florida that actually has a kit or eight outline on how to set up a shelter in a hallway of a school. The information is out there, I encourage you to look for it. Thank you.

>> Local plans referred to household animals reverse -- versus household pets.

>> They are at the same, they are both household pets. They differ with the self-help dogs. Or a animal that will help any individual with their -- if they say household pets, it does not include other pets. What is covered and what isn't.

>> Is there a way to reach out to the farm community. There is a resistance to leave animals on a farm during a disaster.

>> There is a trading website on FEMA, and you are representing firm, -- farm. This would be a great link for you to pursue.

>> We have a question for the local level. How do you deal with the insurance dealing with workers?

>> Being a local manager for 20 years, there is were being done by adult local community is generally the liability and the legal responsibility as well -- it is generally covered when you have a emergency response.

>> Are there guidelines for household pets. Such as shots, crates etc.?

>> There are a couple of different resources. The best practice working groups, it will address most of these issues. We hope to have those on the website in the late fall. You could also check into the website. We have established recommendations for shelters in the United States.

>> How will pet and pet owners be reunited?

>> That is a variable depending on each state. In the best situation, if the animals are identified with their owners at the time of evacuation. Do they have a tag, or a color -- collar or a chip, this will help get the animal back to the owner. It varies from state to state.

>> Is there a agency that would help local pan -- plan.

>> Developing a local plan, and the whole thought process, you are part of the process of the one-to-one. It would not necessarily be a standalone policy. It would incorporate with the general emergency

plan. It would be a response as a whole. You should sit down with your local manager and ask them. There are certain top -- tools. These can help. The process of being part of the emergency plan and what needs to be done, --

>> Thank you for being a part of the webinar. This webinar has been recorded. Thank you again.