

Wildlife Rehabilitator's Role in a Disaster

Presented by
Barbara Acomb-Hollands, LVT, MS
Northeast Regional Director
United Animal Nations
Emergency Animal Rescue Service
NYSWRC Board of Directors

Objectives for Rehabilitators

Before a disaster

- Prepare for evacuation or the event
- Network with New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (NYSWRC)
- Network with an alternative facilities

During a disaster

- Assist in rescue or transfer of wildlife
- House and care for injured/displaced wildlife
- Expertise

What is the first step to preparing for a disaster?



Considerations

What type of disaster?

- Natural or manmade
- Types in NYS

Emergency Situations

What if no electricity

- no heat
- no water

Evacuation Supplies

Transport Gear for all weather considerations

- Diets
- Medications and first aid supplies
- Cleaning supplies
- Switch caging
- List of animals
- Diet requirements
- Feeding and medication schedule



Equipment

Capture equipment

Special carriers

- Appropriate sizes
- # of animals in transport carrier
- Species
- Collapsibility and storage
- Sterile or cleaning

Species compatibility

Transport vehicle



Cleaning

- Safety
- Non-toxic
- Disposable
- Absorbent
 - Bedding
 - Washing



Emergency Kit



- Basic animal first aid book
- Include one week worth of medication for each patient
- Bandages & Gauze
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Alcohol (sterile)
- Nolvasan (skin Ph neutral)
- Thermometer

Buddy System

- Experience level
- Facility Size
- Mutual Aid Agreement
- Written Agreement
- Keys/Access
- Disaster Mode Thinking



Cannot Evacuate

- Dangerous Animals
- Large Animals
- Rabies Vector Species
- Large numbers
- Pre-release stage
- Humane Euthanasia

Precautions



- Need alternative plan
- Additional staff
- Exposures
- Poisonings
 - Environmental
 - Food
 - Water
 - Carbon monoxide

Stress

- Rehabilitator
- Animals
- Community

Just remember...

There is an end to every event !!!!!

Wildlife Victims



How are you going to evacuate or prepare for an event for these species?

Coyotes

Fawns

Raptors

Ducklings

Chipmunks

Opossums



↑ What is this?

Professional Networking

- EMPIRESART
- NYSWRC
- EARS
- Train Opportunities
- Local Emergency Management Organizations
 - Fire
 - Rescue
 - ACO
 - ASPCA/Humane/City Shelters
