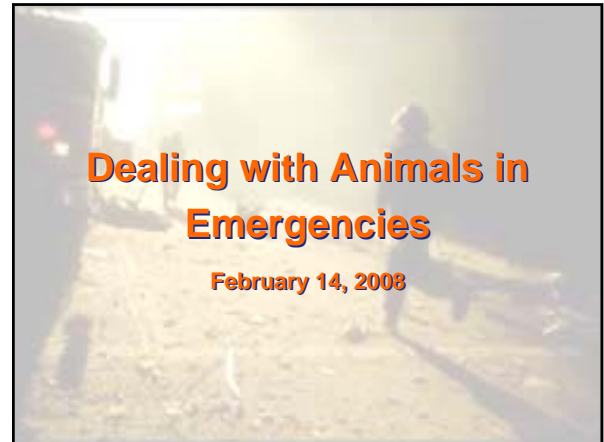




SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

**University at Albany
Center for Public Health Preparedness**

Grand Rounds Series



**Dealing with Animals in
Emergencies**

February 14, 2008

Speaker

Kelly Jo Nilsson

Member – Empire State Animal Response Team
Consultant - NYS Department of Ag & Markets;
Planning - NYS Emergency Management Office

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Member – Empire State Animal Response Team;
Disaster Assistance Officer, Operations - NYS
Emergency Management Office

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Evaluation

www.UAlbanyCPHP.org/evals

**Nursing Contact Hours,
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Why Address the Needs of Animals?

- Public Safety
- Moral and Ethical Issues
- Legal Issues
- Demographics
- Statistics

NYS Statistics

- > 2 Million Dogs
- > 2.3 Million Cats

Formula to Estimate the Number of Animals in a Community

- Number of dog-owning households = $0.361 \times$ total # of households
- Number of cat-owning households = $0.316 \times$ total # of households
- Number of horse-owning households = $0.017 \times$ total number of households

Public Safety



- Refusal to evacuate
- Risks for human health and safety

Public Health Risks Posed by Abandoned Animals

- Injury (e.g., bites)
- Increased spread of infectious (zoonotic) diseases
- Increased number of homeless animals

Zoonotic Disease

Diseases transmittable from animals to humans:

- Of the infectious organisms known to be pathogenic to humans, approximately 60% are zoonotic
- Of the recent emerging and re-emerging pathogens, 75% have originated from animals (e.g., SARS, West Nile Virus, Monkeypox and Avian Influenza)



Moral and Ethical Issues



- The Human-Animal Bond
- Cultural Values

Legal Aspects

Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act

- Federal P.E.T.S. Act
- State P.E.T.S. Act



State PETS Act

Disaster plans required to incorporate evacuation, shelter and transportation options for household pets and service animals.

Sheltering



Marion County Florida



Personal Preparedness

- “All emergencies start and end locally”
- Plan at Home
 - Supplies
 - “Buddy System”
 - Records/Documentation
 - Communication
 - Where will you go?



Personal Preparedness

- Contact Info: local emergency response agencies & animal care organizations
- Post ‘Pet Inside’ stickers
- Develop pet evacuation kit



Pet Evacuation Kit

- 3-day supply of food & water
- Medication
- Leash, collar and harness (include ID and contact info)
- Crate or carrier, if possible
- Kitty litter and pan for cats
- Pet’s medical records & vaccination certificates (proof of rabies)

Pet Evacuation Kit

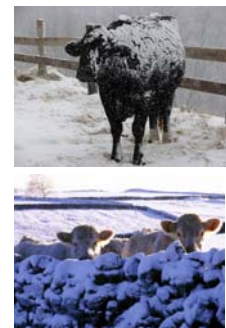
- Picture of self with pet
- Roll of paper towels & plastic bags
- Consider special needs of other animals (e.g., reptiles and birds)



Community Preparedness

- County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Assess Community Vulnerability
- Identify Community Partners
- Identify Community Resources
- Training
- Exercise and Evaluate

Assess Local Vulnerabilities



Who Are Our Community Partners?

- Animal Related Businesses
- Industry Partners
- Animal Welfare Organizations
- Professional Associations
- Governmental Entities
- Private Citizens

Specific Examples of Community Partners

- Feed & supply stores
- SPCA/Humane Society
- Veterinary organizations
- Dog/Animal Control officer associations
- Wildlife rehabilitators
- State & county emergency management
- Department of Agriculture employees

Why Collaborate with Community Partners

- Builds community involvement and awareness
- Gains buy-in
- Identifies resources
- Subject matter experts
- Enhances communication and readiness
- Facilitates organization

Resources



Organizing Community Partners



Organizing Community Partners

- The SART/CART concept
- Coordination with County Emergency Management
- Integration into existing response structure



State Animal Response Teams



<http://nc.sartusa.org/>

State Animal Response Team (SART)



The Empire SART (ESART) was established to strengthen and support NY State's capacity to respond to animal emergencies by supporting the development of local plans and response teams.

Current ESART Members

- NYS Department of Ag & Markets
- NYS Emergency Management Office
- NYS Veterinary Medical Society
- Animal Health Diagnostic Center, Cornell University
- Cornell Cooperative Extension

Current ESART Members

- University at Albany School of Public Health
- Dutchess County Animal Response Team
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)
- National Dairy Council

Specific ESART Goals

- Establish state-wide communication & coordination system facilitating rapid & effective response to emergencies affecting animals
- Decrease threat to health & safety of humans and animals in emergencies



Specific ESART Goals

- Minimize economic impact of emergencies affecting animals
- Prevent/decrease spread of disease during emergencies affecting animals
- Minimize loss or separation of animals from their owners



Potential CART Members

- Veterinarians
- Veterinary Technicians & Assistants
- Animal Control Officers
- Dog Control Officers
- Wildlife Rehabilitators
- Farmers
- Pet Groomers
- Dog Trainers

Potential CART Members

- Emergency Service Personnel
- Cooperative Extension Educators
- 4 - H Groups
- Humane Organizations
- Boarding Kennels
- Breed Clubs, Fanciers and Associations
- Horsemen's Associations
- Farm and Cattle Associations

Potential CART Members

- Interested Individuals
 - Teachers
 - Social Service Workers
 - Emergency Services Personnel

Help the Partnerships Thrive

- Hold frequent meetings
- Provide preparedness training and outreach events to bring partners together
- Involve partners emergency preparedness planning
- Recognize the involvement, input and contributions of community partners

Training Our Partners

- National Response Framework / NIMS requirements
- Need for training
- Availability of specialized training
- Team Building
- Placement of trained individuals into defined roles
- Exercising with other emergency responders

How You Can Help

- Be personally prepared - at home
- Volunteer
 - Attend ESART Orientation (web-based)
 - Complete introductory CART course developed by the CPHP, NYCEPCE and the ESART:
<http://www.ualbanycphp.org/learning/default.cfm>
- Donate supplies, equipment or facilities – contact ESART or your local CART

Web-based CART Course

What is a CART? » Topic 3: What do CARTs do? » Page 10 of 11

Topics:
Emergency Response at the Local Level
What is a CART?
What do CARTs do?
Who are CART volunteers?
Code of Conduct
CART Activation
Summary
Testing Your Understanding

How do CART volunteers help after a disaster?

After the emergency has passed, volunteers may still be needed. CART volunteers may assist in:

- **Clean up**
 - Disasters are messy. Many volunteers are needed to clean up waste and debris.
- **Carcass removal and disposal**
- **Reuniting lost animals with their owners**
- **Continued animal care**

Reunited with pals after Katrina (from ASPCA)

What is a CART? » Topic 3: What do CARTs do? » Page 10 of 11

Resources

www.EmpireSART.com
www.semo.state.ny.us
<http://emergencypreparedness.cce.cornell.edu/>
www.SARTUSA.org
www.RedCross.org
www.ASPCA.org
www.UAN.org
www.HSUS.org

CART/SART Contact Information:

NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets
Division of Animal Industry
Attn: David Chico V.M.D.
10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235
518-457-3502
Email: David.Chico@agmkt.state.ny.us
www.EmpireSART.com



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March 13, 2008

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