ANIMAL WELFARE IN DISASTERS

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ROLE OF ANIMALS IN SOCIETY

“When the herds are dead, the end for human beings is not far.”

African Proverb
WHY ANIMAL WELFARE IN DISASTERS?

To promote the physical and behavioral wellbeing of animals

To support humane values across stakeholder domains

To safeguard the health of human survivors/responders- physical and mental
WHY ANIMAL WELFARE IN DISASTERS?

- To support response effectiveness
- To support recovery physical, economic, emotional
- To maintain public confidence and support
Disaster Types

Natural- Wide Spread

Environmental
drought, flood, tsunami

Transboundary Infectious
Avian Influenza, Nipah, Foot and Mouth Disease

Complex Humanitarian Emergency

Manmade- chemical/radiological
EFFECTIVE ANIMAL DISASTER RESPONSE

Chengdu Panda Base Disaster Preparedness

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Begins with effective planning
ANIMAL WELFARE IMPERATIVES

OIE Standards
Ethical and cultural frameworks
Five Freedoms
LEGIS Standards
Economic issues - trade, perceptions
ANIMAL CATEGORIES

Production
- food animals
- working animals

Companion

Wildlife
ANIMAL CATEGORIES

Special categories

Laboratory animals
Zoo/aquatic
Endangered/ highly visible species
Search and Rescue Dogs
ANIMAL WELFARE DIFFERENCES IN DISASTERS

Direct public involvement

Intense media scrutiny

Direct political engagement

Speed of decision making

Challenges to capacity
DISASTER PRINCIPLES

- Timely
- Appropriate
- Sustainable
- Feasible
- Social/Cultural Acceptability
- Environmentally Neutral-Enhancing
- Integrated Coordinated
- Defined Endpoint
ANIMAL WELFARE IN TRANSBOUNDARY DISEASE

Livestock Owners

- More readily support depopulation activities if animals are humanely destroyed and remains handled with dignity

- Decreases probability of post event behavioral health issues
  - Post traumatic stress disorder, depression, and suicide
OIE Guidelines
Killing of Animals for Disease Control

Article 7.6.1.

Animal welfare is integral to OIE guidelines and is addressed throughout the document.
HUMANE DESTRUCTION AND CARCASS DISPOSITION

- Increases Compliance
- Decreases disease spread
- Minimizes environmental impact
- Restores aesthetic surroundings
The social and cultural impact of foot and mouth disease in the UK in 2001

Experiences and analyses

Edited by
Martin Döring & Brigitte Nerlich
Kenya- Pastoralists in the Rift Valley region moved cattle to Mt. Kenya region to pasture. Of 20,000 cattle moved approximately 100 miles only 6,500 survived.
Welcome to the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) website

Latest news from LEGS:

- Six LEGS Regional TOT courses have been completed, in the Horn of Africa, South East Asia, South Asia, West Africa and Southern Africa
- Two more TOTs are planned for May 2011 - in Pakistan/Afghanistan and anglophone West Africa - click here to apply
- The graduates of the completed TOT courses have already carried out 29 LEGS Trainings between them, in 12 countries of Africa and Asia - click here for more details
- Twenty of these graduates are now fully accredited LEGS Trainers - see here for more
- A special LEGS Training was carried out in Pakistan to support the flood response

Order LEGS now:

Download LEGS as a PDF file here
Download the LEGS electronic...
OWNERS AND ANIMAL WELFARE IN DISASTERS

Companion Animal Owners

- More readily support evacuation and movement when welfare of evacuated or remain-in-place animals are addressed

- Decreases probability of post event behavioral health issues, post traumatic stress disorder, depression, suicide,
HURRICANE ANDREW 1992
HURRICANE ANDREW: 1992

- 100’s – 1000’s of displaced animals
- Large number of carcasses
- Potential zoonotic disease transmission
- Severely damaged veterinary community
- No animal disaster plan
ANIMALS IN DISASTERS

Dr. Sebastian Heath
1999
HURRICANE KATRINA

PETS Act
National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition
ANIMAL SHELTERING

The National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition

- In US required by PETS Act
- Provide routine treatment
- Assist in coordination of sheltering activities
STAKEHOLDERS AND ANIMAL WELFARE IN DISASTERS

- Donors and public stakeholders maintain the financial and political support when humane processes are followed
POLITICAL AND RESPONDER LEADERSHIP

Maintains moral high ground, trust and increases response effectiveness.

Removes the distracter of addressing animal welfare issues in the face of overwhelming response and recovery issues.
JAPAN EARTHQUAKE, TSUNAMI, NUCLEAR EVENT

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE
ANIMAL RESCUE AND SUPPORT
NOT WITHOUT MY ANIMALS
PANDEMIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

Enemy at the gate
Saving farms and people from bird flu
CONCLUSIONS

• Animal welfare is an critical integral element in disaster response.

• Addressing animal welfare issues provides benefits to both animals and society.

• Effective animal welfare in disasters begins with planning.

• OIE guidelines on animal welfare are an important tool to support effective response and maintain public trust.
You ask me
What is the most important thing
My reply must be
It is people
It is people
It is people