Disaster Sheltering

Module 1 - Site Selection
This training was created under a 2013 Grant from The National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) to PetAid Colorado & The Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps
Facility Considerations

- What are the potential threats?
- What type of sheltering?
- What types of animals?
- What types of facilities?
  - What is the facilities availability?
- What is the facility accessibility?
Facility Considerations

- What are the available amenities?
- What is the floor type?
  - What modifications need to be made?
- What’s the layout for a healthy and safe environment?
Potential Threats

- Natural Disaster
  - Flooding
  - Fire
  - Tornado
  - Earthquake
  - Blizzard
  - Ice storm
Potential Threats

- Technological and Accidental
  - Nuclear accident
  - Chemical spill
  - Blackout
Potential Threats

- Terrorism
- Biological
- Chemical
- Nuclear
- Explosion
Types of Sheltering

- **Colocation**
  - “Pet Friendly” – Owners and animals shelter close
  - Cohabitation – Owners and animals share space

- **Temporary Evacuation**
  - Strays or displaced from owner
  - Owned animals – owners sheltered elsewhere

*Multiple shelters?*
Colocation Shelter

**Benefits**

- Supports the Human-Animal Bond
  - Owners are primary caretakers
  - Healthier for animals
  - Healthier for families
Colocation Shelter

Challenges

- Large number of people
  - Harder to control the environment
  - Harder to protect animals from intruders and theft
- Volunteers?
  - Fewer needed – in theory
Colocation Shelter

Challenges

- Owner caretakers – untrained and unskilled
  - Unreliable
  - Unable – physical restrictions
- Unintended interactions between unrelated animals
  - Dog park mentality
  - Escapes
  - Higher potential for disease spread
Colocation Shelter

Challenges

- Owner caretakers unavailable
  - Working
  - Maintaining daily routines
  - Minor children
Temporary Evacuation Shelter

**Benefit**

- Easier to control the environment
  - Only authorized people enter
- Caretakers trained, skilled, credentialed
- Decrease risks
  - Disease spread
  - Escape
  - Theft
- Unwanted interaction between unrelated animals
Temporary Evacuation Shelter

Challenges

- Owners and animals separated
  - Could impact the human-animal bond
- Higher stress for animals
  - Care provided by strangers
- Maintaining the volunteer pool
- Reuniting procedures critical
Temporary Evacuation Shelter

**Day Care**

Temporary care throughout the day to allow owners to attend to daily needs in response and recovery.
Types of Animals

- Companion Animals
  - FEMA definition?
  - Exotics
  - Wildlife
- Farm/Large Animals
Types of Animals: FEMA Definition

“a domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent, or turtle that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers, and be housed in temporary facilities.”
Types of Animals: FEMA Definition

“Household pets do NOT include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses) and animals kept for racing purposes.”
Types of Animals: Exotics

- Not defined as “companion animal”
  - No federal reimbursement

- Do you take them?

- Do you have the expertise and ability to provide care?

- If you don’t take them, what happens to them?
Types of Animals: Exotics

- Exotic experts
- Specialty stores
- Zoos
- Exotic rescues and sanctuaries
Who is the wildlife authority?
- Colorado Parks & Wildlife Division of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.

Safe handling
- Rabies
- Never handle directly
- “Rescuer” places directly into carrier
- Contact wildlife authority or rehabber
- Keep in safe place away from shelter population
Types of Animals: Farm/Large Animals

- Types of species
  - Horses
  - Goats
  - Sheep
  - Chickens
  - Pigs
  - Llamas
  - Ponies
  - Mules
  - Donkeys
  - And more
Types of Animals: Farm/Large Animals

- Not defined as “companion animal”
  - Often viewed as by the owners
  - No federal reimbursement

- Sheltering
  - Specialized sheltering
  - Each species requires specialized care

- Higher owner involvement
Types of Facilities: Temporary Evacuation

- Fairgrounds
- Warehouses
- Agricultural facilities
- Animal care facilities/shelters
- Schools and churches
- Tents
Types of Facilities
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Facilities Accessibility

- Entrance and Exit
- Parking
- Truck and trailer access
  - Deliveries
  - Large animals
Facilities Availability

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for facility usage
  - Available or not available
  - Timeline for availability
Facilities Amenities

The needs of the shelter to provide care

- Water
- Power
- Lighting
- Restrooms
- Waste disposal
- Security
- Temperature Control
Facilities Amenities: Water

- Hot and cold running water
- Cleaning equipment
- Drinking water for the animals
Facilities Amenities: Power & Lighting

- Power
  - Electric
  - Generators

- Lighting
  - Supplemental – Veterinarian
  - Turn down
  - Turn off
  - Security lighting
Facilities Amenities: Restrooms

- Staff and volunteers
- Public access
  - Not in the shelter
  - Portables outside the shelter
Facilities Amenities: Waste

- Daily cleaning
  - Paper towels
  - Feces
  - Towels
  - Food bags

- Trash cans inside & out
- Dumpster
  - Outside facility
  - Easy access
  - Not too close to entrance
Facilities Amenities: Waste

- Carcasses
  - Consult Jurisdictional Authority or Health Dept.
  - Plan for owner ID
- Only animals expiring in the facility
  - Not bringing in carcasses from the field
Facilities Amenities: Security

- Animal escapes
- Theft of animals or supplies
- Crowd control
- Overnight security
  - Lock down
  - Staffed
Facilities Amenities: Temperature Control

- Air conditioning
- Heat
- Fan
  - Temperature control
  - Airflow
Floor Types & Modifications

- Concrete or tile
  - Cool/Cold
  - Slippery when wet
  - Easy to clean and sanitize

- Modifications
  - Cardboard under crates
  - Blankets over the kennels
  - Newspaper or blankets in the kennels
Floor Types: Pros and Cons

- Dirt
  - Hard to clean and sanitize
  - Dusty
  - Dirty/Muddy

- Modifications
  - Shavings
  - Plastic tarps
  - Plastic
Floor Types: Pros and Cons

- Carpet
  - Found in schools or office buildings
  - Must be covered

- Modifications
  - Plastic tarps
  - Plastic
Floor Types: Pros and Cons

- Wood
  - Gyms
  - Should be covered

- Modifications
  - Plastic tarps
  - Plastic
Shelter Layout

- Animal housing
- Veterinarian
- Cleaning and sanitation
- Intake
- Donations and Supplies “Warehouse”
- Volunteer care
Facility Assessment Wrap-up

- Possible disasters you may face
- Types of sheltering your going to be doing
- Species you will need to house
- Facility capability and what modifications you will need to make
Facility Assessment Wrap-up

- It’s a Disaster!
- Can the facility work
- Can it be adapted to work better
Facility Assessment Wrap-up

- It’s not going to be perfect but you can make it work
- Plan ahead
- Find a site
- Practice
Always: Be Flexible

Questions in Colorado?

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