

ANIMAL HEALTH

RESPONSIBILITY: The Johnson County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (JCEMHS) Department is responsible for coordinating animal care in disaster situations. Disaster animal care includes coordinating animal evacuation, sheltering, emergency health care, foreign animal disease (FAD) issues, and euthanasia & disposal. Agencies, groups, or individuals providing support for animal care in disasters include:

- **County Agencies:** The Extension Office, Public Health Department, Environmental Department, Public Works, and the Sheriff's Office.
- **Local Veterinarians:** Individually, or through the Kansas City Veterinary Medical Association (KCVMA), the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA), or the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA).
- **Other Agencies & Organizations:** The Humane Society, Midwest Response, Johnson County Livestock Association, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Animal Control Officers Association, and other similar organizations.
- **State & Federal Agencies:** The Kansas Animal Health Department (KAHD), the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE), the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) should be consulted to determine jurisdiction relative to:
 - Contamination Assessments: Assessment of chemical, biological and/or radiological contamination.
 - Disposal: Procedures for disposal of contaminated animals or large numbers of carcasses.

ANIMAL HEALTH CARE: The county has a significant local capability for providing expedient health services to injured response animals, pets and livestock, that includes over 80 veterinary hospitals & clinics. Operation Wildlife, 11218 W. 75th St., Shawnee, KS is a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation service located within Johnson County. While the county has no zoos or wild animal parks, care for such exotic animals would be available from the Kansas City Zoo, in Kansas City, MO.

CRITICAL RESOURCES:

- **Transportation:** Animal control services, both county and city, have a very limited capability to transport injured animals to veterinary relief facilities. Assistance with animal transportation may be available from surrounding counties through established mutual support agreements. Local & state Veterinary Medical Associations may also be able to provide listings of available transportation resources. In addition, local chapters of the Humane Society can coordinate with the American Red Cross to pick-up any animals arriving at Red Cross shelters and transport them to kennels or other temporary holding facilities.
- **Emergency Support of Specialized Facilities:** Specialized facilities (i.e., animal shelters, veterinary hospitals & clinics, boarding facilities, etc.) are responsible for making their own arrangements for emergency energy sources to provide proper environmental conditions, food & water to highly vulnerable animal populations. To the extent possible, JCEMHS will coordinate efforts to meet any additional or unforeseen emergency requirements.
- **Supplies:** In most circumstances, critical supplies will be available either locally or within the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Should additional critical supplies be needed, local & state Veterinary Medical Associations can provide listings of resources available and assistance with their procurement and delivery. These organizations can also help coordinate donations management of such supplies.

RADIOLOGICAL INCIDENTS: JCEMHS will coordinate the efforts of locally certified radiological monitors in determining whether or not a radiological incident has resulted in any animal exposure. JCEMHS will rely on the following agencies for additional assistance:

- **Exposure:** KDHE to determine the levels of radiation exposure of effected animals and the proper methods of providing treatment and care.
- **Emergency Information:** The USDA, KDHE, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM), and the Extension Council to develop and provide emergency information to the agricultural community for the protection and/or disposition of livestock for any peacetime radiological emergencies. Established public information channels will be used to the extent possible. (See also Annex C: Public Information)
- **Sampling:** KDA to collect and transport the samples.

DOCUMENTATION: The Emergency Management Department will coordinate the documentation of injuries and deaths of animals for insurance, Small Business Administration (SBA), & statistical purposes. Documentation from Animal Control offices, the Extension Council, local & state Veterinary Medical Associations, and other agencies and/or individuals, as appropriate, will be included.

ANIMAL POPULATION: There are no high density animal populations in the county such as large horse/cattle ranches or feed lots. The 2002 Census of Agriculture identifies the following numbers for livestock in Johnson County: 20,421 cattle / 1,499 horses / 3,436 hogs / 508 sheep. Many of these animals are maintained outside of the county limits for much of the year. The

more significant animal population in the county is comprised of pets. Pet ownership corresponds, for the most part, with general population density.

EUTHANASIA POLICIES: In general, physical methods of euthanasia will be in accordance with established city and county Animal Control office guidelines. Where large numbers of livestock or pets are involved, these procedures may have to be modified, but will adhere, to the extent possible, to guidelines for humane euthanasia of animals.

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE (FAD): A FAD outbreak could result in unprecedented economic consequences locally and for the nation. As such, specific response procedures are required to control the spread of FAD. Annex U (Foreign Animal Disease) of this plan addresses the authorities, procedures, and roles and responsibilities related to a FAD affecting Johnson County.

STRAY PETS & LIVESTOCK: Unclaimed animals or situations where the owners are unavailable require special consideration.

- **Control:** To the extent possible, local Animal Control offices will retain this responsibility within their own jurisdictions. Should the problem exceed local capability, assistance may be available from surrounding counties through established mutual support agreements. If additional resources are required, local & state chapters of the Veterinary Medical Association and the Humane Society may also be able to assist with locating & obtaining these services.
- **Care:** Animal Haven, 9800 W 67th St, Merriam, KS is one of many animal shelters serving the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. Local & state Veterinary Medical Associations will be relied upon to provide lists of kennels & other boarding facilities for pets.
- **Identification:** Animal Control offices and others involved in the rescue and/or recovery of stray pets & livestock will be responsible for establishing an identification system to record pertinent information & tag the animals.
- **Disposition:** Animals that have not been claimed within a reasonable period of time will be offered up for adoption and otherwise handled in accordance with existing policies regarding stray animals. The KCVMA can establish a Pet Hotline to assist owners with finding and claiming their pets.

SHELTERING OF ANIMALS: For large scale events, JCEMHS will rely on local and state chapters of the Veterinary Medical Association and the Humane Society to help coordinate pet shelter activities, and on the Extension Office and other farm related agencies or organizations for issues regarding livestock.