



This document outlines the response expectations of Yolo County for Animal Services during emergencies and serves as a Support Annex to the Yolo County Emergency Operations Plan

Yolo County Animal Services Annex

Annex to the Yolo County
Emergency Operations Plan

Version 1.0

December 2024

PROMULGATION

This Emergency Support Function Annex to the County of Yolo Emergency Operations Plan describes how Yolo County will manage an emergency incident or disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and restoration related to this Emergency Support Function. All Primary and Support agencies identified as having assigned responsibilities in this Emergency Support Function shall perform the emergency tasks described, including preparing and maintaining Standard Operating Guidelines and Procedures and carrying out the training, exercises, and plan maintenance needed to support the plan.

This Emergency Annex plan was developed using the Comprehensive Planning Guide 101 version 3 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and California's emergency planning guidance documents. Adoption will occur following the established maintenance schedule; however, the plan may be modified in the interim without prior approval and formal adoption under the direction of the Director of Emergency Operations. The revised plan will be relayed digitally to all Primary and Support agencies with assigned responsibilities in this Emergency Support Function. The Primary assigned agency will coordinate the review and update of the plan with the Support agencies as needed at least every three years. This Emergency Support Function plan supersedes any previous versions.

This Emergency Support Function Annex applies to Primary and Support agencies within Yolo County who are assigned responsibilities by Emergency Support Function of the All-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan and identified within the Emergency Support Function Annex.

This plan replaces previous annexes of the same or similar title.

The County of Yolo Board of Supervisors chairperson will formally promulgate this annex. The County Ordinance empowers the County Board of Supervisors to review and approve emergency and mutual aid plans.

Lucas Frerichs
Chair of the Board of Supervisors

Date:

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SECTION 1.0: INTRODUCTION

Yolo County is home to a wide array of disaster possibilities such as fires, floods, and severe weather. It has become widespread knowledge from past disasters that often people will not evacuate their homes unless they can bring their pets and livestock with them. For many people, pets are considered a member of the family. No one wants to leave animals behind, and when asked to do so, many owners will risk their own lives and the lives of others to save their animals. When people are unwilling to enter a shelter or refuse to evacuate during an emergency, they remain at risk, could be arrested, and place rescue workers at risk. Additionally, many who own livestock are not prepared with specialized transport and holding areas, which may be difficult or impossible to arrange during a sudden disaster.

Disaster preparedness strategies for pets and livestock safety must be in place before a disaster occurs. Disaster preparedness for animal safety can reduce undue loss and suffering of animals, which lessens additional trauma to victims already suffering from the disaster. State and local governments are increasingly realizing that planning for the evacuation and sheltering of animals in any disaster is essential to the well-being of all residents.

The Yolo County Operational Area (YOA) Animal Services Annex describes the basic concepts, policies, and procedures for providing a coordinated animal control response to any disaster and serves as a supplement to the Yolo County Emergency Operation Plan (YC EOP). This annex serves as the unifying document for emergency plans of throughout all six YOA jurisdictional areas (four incorporated cities, one unincorporated area, and one Tribal Nation), and numerous special districts, sates, and private agencies. It will also provide guidance to animal care and control agencies working in support of or in coordination with this Annex during an emergency.

1.1 PURPOSE

The Animal Services Annex is designed to aid Yolo County and its OA partners in preparing for animals before, during, and after a disaster. This Plan will provide guidance on addressing the needs of owners and their animals during a disaster, including guidance for the rescue, transport, sheltering, care, disease control, euthanasia and disposal of pets, livestock and service animals during emergency situations. This plan is not intended to address the normal day-today emergency or well-established emergency procedures.

The purpose of this Plan Element is to:

- Organize a coordinated multi-agency effort to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from any emergency affecting the health and safety of animals, both wild and domestic, in Yolo County.
- Provide the standards and procedures used to initiate the activation of an emergency animal shelter that are consistent with the Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Provide direction for the coordination and set-up of emergency animal shelters. This may include the shelter location, resources, and staffing needs.

- Identify and coordinate with other key players and resources that will be used for evacuation, sheltering, and caring for animals during a disaster.

1.2 SCOPE

This Annex has been developed to address the needs of the OA regarding the evacuation, sheltering, and general care of animals during a disaster's response and recovery operations. This Annex addresses the needs of a foreign animal disease response or the needs of exotic or wildlife animals. The Animal Services Annex focuses and provides guidance on the companion animals, service animals, livestock, and other large animals. This annex provides the following information:

- Authorities and references for the implementation of animal care during disasters
- Concept of operations to carry out animal care during a response
- Agencies and organizations involved in supporting the animal care
- Roles and responsibilities of jurisdictions and agencies regarding animal care during a disaster
- Guidance to provide a coordinated animal response that is compliant with both Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and all relevant County, State and Federal laws

This Annex generally does not apply to service animals, as service animals should remain with their owners at all times. However, services animals will be cared for under the same protocols, and all efforts will be made to reunite an owner with their service animal as soon as possible.

For the purposes of this Annex, animal services include:

- Rapid needs assessment
- Evacuation/Transportation
- Search and rescue
- Care and sheltering
- Animal Identification System
- Livestock Management
- Disease Control/ Decontamination
- Veterinary care
- Reunification
- Carcass disposal

As an operational plan, this Annex does not cover response tactics. Tactics are described within the subject or threat-specific plans and procedures that guide detailed response activities created and maintained by the relevant agencies. Such documents are referenced within the text and are listed in the references section. During the use of this and other plans and procedures, the overall emergency management concepts, policies, and procedures contained in the OA EOP remain in place.

1.3 GOALS

This Annex is intended to provide guidance on the processes and procedures established for providing support to emergency animal response operations within the Yolo County Operational Area. The following are the goals of the Annex:

- Protect the health and safety of the community.
- Activate animal care and shelter unit leader
- Provide for the immediate care, control, and safety of animals.
- Minimize animal suffering, loss of life, and potential disability by ensuring a timely and coordinated assistance.
- Create and understanding of roles and responsibilities of individuals, NGOs, private sector agencies, and governmental agencies in response to an incident.
- Provide for the care of animals brought to shelters or housed at staging areas and evacuation sites.
- Provide a system for returning animals to their owners after the event.

1.4 PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

In disasters, the first priority is the protection of life, property and the environment. This has not historically always included planning for the coordinated response for the evacuation, care and sheltering of animals. This section contains a description of the following assumptions that were used in the development of this plan regarding animals in disasters.

- Activation of this Annex will occur for all hazards which could necessitate animal services in response to emergencies and disasters involving all or parts of Yolo County. The need to implement specific actions outlined within this Annex will be determined based on the specific hazard, degree of vulnerability, and projected area of impact.
- The sheltering and protection of animals is the primary responsibility of the animal owners.
- Most pet owners do not make evacuation plans and have not stockpiled resource and supplies to care for their pets;
- Many pet owners will arrive at human care shelters with their pets;
- Some pet owners, especially livestock, will leave pets behind due to lack of transportation equipment;
- The inability to evacuate animals is a leading cause of evacuation failure in disasters. Failure to evacuate may endanger both the responders and the citizens. In addition, people will frequently try to re-enter an area to retrieve animals left behind, putting them and emergency personnel at risk.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that all service animals must be treated as an extension of a disabled person and must receive all needed services.
- While some animal owners will be able to evacuate and shelter their animals during a disaster, many people will not have the resources to do so, including those with access and functional needs, mental and/or medical health conditions, limited mobility, and language or cultural barriers.

- Other local, county, and state agencies may have jurisdictional responsibilities for the care and treatment of animals. This Annex will be implemented with the coordination and cooperation of all necessary jurisdictions and organizations

1.5 WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH

The Yolo Operational Area is committed to achieving and fostering an emergency management system that uses a Whole Community Approach and is fully inclusive of individual needs and circumstances. The Whole Community Approach creates an engaged and resilient communities by which residents, emergency management practitioners, community leaders, and government officials can understand and assess the needs of their respective communities and determine the best ways to organize and strengthen their assets, capabilities, and interests.

By engaging communities, we can understand the unique and diverse needs of a population including its demographics, values, norms, networks, and relationships. Yolo County is committed to ensuring that considerations are made for persons with access and functional needs (AFN) at every stage of the emergency management process.

1.6 TYPES OF ANIMALS

For the general purposes of responding to animal issues during emergency events, the County of Yolo accepts the California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) Committee definition of animals. The California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) defines “animals” as “affected commercial livestock, companion animals, exhibition animals, and exotic pets”. This definition excludes non-captive wildlife.

FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.19 defines companion pet as 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. Companion pets do not include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses), and animals kept for racing purposes.

Service animals, defined by the American with Disabilities Act as guide dogs, signal dogs and other animals trained to aid individuals with disabilities are exempt from restrictions with regards to facility and transportation access. Service animals aid people with a variety of disabilities to include: alerting people who are deaf or hard of hearing to sounds; pulling wheelchairs; carrying or retrieving items for people with mobility disabilities or limited use of arms and hands; assisting people with disabilities to maintain their balance; and alerting people to, and protecting them during medical events, such as seizures.

For the purposes outlined in this Annex, animals will be categorized as follows:

- Dogs and cats - Reptiles & amphibians
- Horses/equine
- Small mammals (i.e. rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, rats, etc.)
- Livestock/farm animals
- Domestic & exotic birds / Fowl

- Other exotic pets
- Wildlife

SECTION 2.0: CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

The concept of operations describes specific organizational approaches, processes, responsibilities, coordination, and incident-related actions required for animal service functions, assets, networks, and systems within the OA. Emergency response is built on the concept of layers, in adherence to the principles of SEMS and NIMS. This Annex is designed to manage incidents locally with assistance provided from partner agencies, neighboring jurisdictions, and state and federal support if needed and as available.

2.1 GENERAL

Response Priorities

In any incident, the OA conforms to the following priorities during response:

- Protect human life including the timely dissemination of warning information.
- Save human lives and prevent further injuries.
- Rescue those in immediate danger.
- Maintain the continuity and sustainment of essential government operations.
- Safeguard and maintain critical infrastructure operations.
- Protect public and private property.
- Provide for the needs of survivors and those directly impacted.
- Restore essential services.
- Provide emergency public information.
- Restore normal operations and assist with recovery.

Response Objectives

- Protect the health and safety of the community.
- Provide for the immediate care, control, and safety of animals.
- Minimize animal suffering, loss of life, and potential disability by ensuring timely and coordinated assistance.
- Provide for the care of animals brought to shelters or housed at staging areas and evacuation sites.
- Provide a system for returning animals to their owner(s) after the incident

Critical Tasks

- Take decisive action based on all available information; be prepared to pivot as more information becomes known and/or as necessary.
- Provide public alert and warning messaging that is timely, actionable, and accessible to all populations served.
- Coordinate with Yolo County EOC, law enforcement, and fire departments for safe and efficient evacuation of animals remaining in disaster-impacted area.
- Coordinate with Mass Care and Shelter to provide cohesiveness between sheltering of residents and visitors and animal sheltering.

2.2 PLANNING AND COORDINATION

The lead agency for animal services planning and response operations is the Yolo County Animal Services.

2.3 PUBLIC INFORMATION

Effective risk communication regarding animal services is critical to the protection and preservation of the life of the animals. Ongoing education about disaster preparedness for companion animals and livestock, evacuation zones, transportation routes, and pet-shelter facilities can help prepare the public ahead of time to ensure a more efficient and effective implementation of protective actions when needed.

The objectives of public information are to:

- Disseminate accurate information promptly to key target audiences that are appropriate to the level of the disaster.
- Facilitate coordination of public information activities among all involved parties, including neighboring jurisdictions and representatives of diverse populations, to ensure consistency of key messages.
- Correct false or misleading information.
- Promote informed decision-making about the acceptability of known risks.
- Persuade and direct the behavior of individuals or communities. More information about public warnings can be found in the *Alert and Warning Annex*.

OA EOC Public Information Officer (PIO)

Information for the public is disseminated through several mechanisms under the control and advice of the Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIO handles inquiries from the media, the public, and elected officials, emergency public information and warnings, rumor monitoring and response, media monitoring, and other functions required to gather, verify, coordinate, and disseminate accurate, accessible, and timely information related to the incident, particularly regarding information on public health, safety, and protection. The specific responsibilities of the PIO and are listed in the EOC position checklist and the *Alert and Warning Annex*. Public information specific to animals in disasters can include:

- Provide preparedness information concerning pet evacuation
 - Delivering instructions to the public to prepare their pets for an impending emergency and instruction for minor medical responses (first aid) for injured pets.
 - Notifying the public of appropriate animal or pet friendly shelters—locations, regulations, contact personnel, etc.
 - Initiating a system to direct inquiries on lost pets to appropriate shelters.
 - Additional information pertaining to the emergency and recovery operations.

2.4 ANIMAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Rapid Needs Assessment

Rapid Needs Assessment includes the identification of animal needs such as evacuation, transportation, feeding, sheltering, medical care and humane euthanasia. A needs assessment may include triage as well to identify the appropriate level of care based on medical needs and temperament. Animals in need of medical care may be transported directly to a veterinary facility.

Evacuation/ Transportation

Evacuation and transportation services include the removal of animals in preparation for a disaster, or in response to a disaster-affected area. Evacuation/transportation operations will coordinate with shelter operations.

Animals evacuating with their owners will likely be transported in personal vehicles and brought to a shelter location. Animals transported during search and rescue operations will be transported by Animal Services personnel. The number and type of vehicles needed for transport will be determined on an ongoing basis based on the scope and scale of the disaster. Requests for additional transport vehicles will be coordinated between the Animal Services and the Yolo OA EOC. For additional information regarding evacuation protocols, please refer to the *Evacuation Annex*.

Search and Rescue

The Yolo County Animal Services identifies rescue needs and coordinates with local and state agencies to rescue animals remaining in the disaster area. Rescues may be conducted using passenger vehicles/trucks, four-wheel-drive vehicles, or boats. A technical rescue team is also available as needed.

Search and rescue operations will be done in coordination with evacuation/transportation operations. Animals will be brought to shelters, provided medical care as needed, and reunited with their owners where possible.

Care and Sheltering

Care and sheltering includes the short- and long-term care of companion animals, large animals and livestock. Shelters will be identified in a safe location, away from the threat area. Sheltering operations will be conducted in coordination with the Care and Shelter Branch and coordinated with the Yolo EOC.

Shelters will be set up and organized in accordance with the applicable standard operating guidelines and checklists for small and large animal shelters. Additional protocols will be in place for aggressive animals or those in need of medical care.

Upon arrival to the shelter, animal intake will follow operating procedures and all animals shall be registered. Animals without owners should be marked as “stray” with the location of where the animal was found. Individual identification numbers are assigned to each animal and documented on the intake form.

Animal Identification System

This includes the physical identification of animals and the documentation of owner information for reunification.

Livestock Management

This includes coordination with the state agriculture resources for the care of livestock.

Disease Control/ Decontamination

This includes a response to a foreign animal disease and the need for the decontamination of animals. Disease control/decontamination will be coordinated with the County Agriculture Commissioner and California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) as needed.

Veterinary Care

Veterinary care is provided for all animals with the need by volunteers. All veterinarians must be licensed in the State of California to provide care. All veterinarians are screened and approved through UC Davis VERT and Animal Services. Care will be provided for illness and injuries, including burns in the case of wildfire.

Reunification

All efforts are made to reunify animals with their owners. Animals brought to the shelter by their owners will typically be claimed by them following the disaster. Information is verified from the Animal Intake Form to verify owner and pet information.

Owners claiming animals brought in as strays will be asked to verify ownership through pictures or records, such as veterinary records.

Carcass Disposal

The presence of animal carcasses are a public health and safety risk. Decaying carcasses can contaminate water sources or lead to outbreaks of diseases such as cholera or anthrax. Timely carcass removal is critical. The methods for environmentally acceptable disposal of animal carcasses are limited and become particularly difficult and expensive when there are many large animal carcasses.

The Yolo County Department of Community Service- Environmental Health Division, is responsible for the identifying appropriate and regulatory methods for disposal of mass quantities of animal carcasses.

Yolo County will follow the guidance set forth by the California Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Food and Agriculture such as the: Regulatory Guidance for Disposal and Decontamination; Emergency Animal Disposal Guidance; Agriculture and Carcass Disposal.

For the disposition of animal carcasses, every resident, occupant or operation of any real property situated in the County shall, upon reasonable notice given by the Environmental Health Division, follow County guidance of the disposal of all carcasses of dead animals which have died or are upon any part of such real property.

2.5 ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Yolo County Office of Emergency Services recognizes that no two disasters are ever the same; yet, virtually all incidents disproportionately affect individuals with access and functional needs (AFN) Support of individuals with access and functional needs (AFN) is a critical piece of the OA's whole community approach. For this Annex, AFN is defined as populations whose members may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident. Individuals in need of additional response assistance may include those who have physical or intellectual disabilities, live in institutionalized settings, may be children or elderly, have limited English proficiency, or are transportation disadvantaged. Impacts on critical infrastructure systems may

disproportionately impact people with AFN. Impacts may occur since people with an AFN may be unaware of an alert, may not receive the information, or may be overlooked.

There are both practical and legal implications for disability inclusive planning. Local government has an obligation under Title II of the American's with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other Civil Rights laws to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to use and enjoy government services, benefits, facilities, and activities. This includes access to emergency communication and disaster services such as accessible shelters and transportation, reasonable modifications to shelter policies and procedures, and the right to remain united with service animals. The policies and procedures contained within this document are consistent with State and Federal Law.

Service Animal Policy

Service animals must be allowed to accompany the individual with the disability in all areas of the disaster shelter where the public is allowed including dormitories, case management offices, dining room etc., unless the animal is out of control or behaves inappropriately.

Currently the updated 2010 Federal ADA standards define a service animal as a dog of any breed or size, or a miniature horse that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, or other mental disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, guiding individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. Under the law, these dogs are allowed entry into the shelter when the prospective shelter resident with a disability reports to staff that: "this is my service / assistance/ disability dog".

In situations where it is not obvious that the dog is a service animal, staff may ask only two specific questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability? and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform?"

All animals admitted into the shelter due to an individual's disability must be trained to behave appropriately and remain under the owner's control at all times in order to remain in the shelter. Service animals allowed in shelters are to be accommodated, including feeding, watering, and providing access to a relief area.

2.6 CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

Cultural considerations are defined as customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular social group, people, or nation. Cultural considerations include cultural boundaries, population density, and social events. The Yolo OA should identify and map cultural areas and populations surrounding critical infrastructure and account for any potential impacts. Integrating a community liaison from the Yolo OES into cultural planning special events is recommended.

2.7 LARGE SCALE OPERATIONS

The California Emergency Services Act (ESA) requires the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) for managing multiagency and multijurisdictional responses to emergencies in California. Largescale operations will likely exhaust local resources and will require outside support. Mutual aid will be requested through the appropriate mutual aid coordinator (fire, law, medical, public works, or emergency management) and will be reported to Yolo County’s EOC Logistics for tracking. Resources should first be sought within the region and if unavailable, can be sought through the state. Any resources obtained from outside the region or any State resources utilized (including use of real property) should be assigned a mission task number which can be requested through California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). The OA may consider requesting an incident management team for ongoing or complex largescale operations.

Requests for state level resources are coordinated through the California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES). Requests will be made through the Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) following standard SEMS protocols.

2.8 ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

The County, cities, and community agencies within Yolo County may provide resources and services such as communications, animal care services, or volunteer coordination to assist with County wide response efforts.

The primary and support agencies to this Annex will act as a team to address animal service functions. Yolo County Animal Services will be the lead in initiating these procedures.

Roles and Responsibilities		
Department/ Agency	Responsibilities	Coordination and Emergency Management
County Administrators Office	The County Administrator’s Office is responsible for ensuring public safety and the welfare of the people in Yolo County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain authority for the activation of the EOC. • Maintain working relationships with local partners throughout the operational area. • Implement overall policy decisions and direction. • Implement laws and regulations that support emergency management and response. • Proclaim local emergency • Allocate County resources

<p>Office of Emergency Services (OES)</p>	<p>The Yolo County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is charged with emergency management for the County, and responsible for maintaining situational awareness of threats that may necessitate an evacuation of citizens. In cases where an emergency or disaster exists, OES will coordinate the County's role in response to and recovery from the disaster. OES fulfills the County's requirements. Furthermore, OES will work in partnership with the emergency management of the cities within the County to provide overall coordination at the EOC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate an Information Coordination conference call or meeting that will include essential stakeholders. The purpose is to determine increase situational awareness of the threat, the seriousness of the threat, and what next steps may need to be taken, including beginning public alert, press releases, activating the EOC, etc. • Activate the EOC, in coordination with the County Executive, to the appropriate emergency level. • Serve as the EOC Director. • Notify staff of pending EOC activation, and/or to current activation levels, and coordinate staffing of all needed positions. • Approve release of warnings, instructions, and other emergency public information related to the evacuation effort. • Receive and verify situation reports from a variety of sources and identifies/estimates needs for evacuation transportation. • Request mutual aid assistance from support agencies, and communication resources, as appropriate. • Maintain coordination and communication between the EOC, local jurisdictions that may be affected by the evacuation, and support agencies. • Communicate with Cal OES and keep them apprised.
<p>Operational Area Emergency Operations Center</p>	<p>When activated, the County EOC will provide support of incident operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish communications between the OA EOC, local government EOCs when activated, and field incident command posts. • Collect, develop, and distribute SitReps vertically and horizontally to provide a common operating picture. • Support and coordinate evacuation or shelter-in-place operations, including traffic management and transportation planning. • Coordinate the procurement and allocation of OA and mutual aid animal service resources at the OA level. • Coordinate the procurement of additional resources through the state's REOC and SOC when needed. • Coordinate the assistance of private-sector and CBO resources at the OA level. • Consolidate, verify, and disseminate public information.
<p>Yolo County Animal Services Division</p>	<p>Animal Services Section is responsible for the operation of the Yolo County Animal Services shelter and animal control services to the cities, unincorporated areas of the county, and the property of the University of California at Davis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yolo County Animal Services Division is responsible for the coordination evacuation and sheltering operations of the large and small animal movements within the Yolo Operational Area • Maintain a system to identify and track animals received during a disaster • Assist with the coordination of training and plan development exercises with other animal related agencies. • Maintain liaison with the coordinators of other emergency functions such as fire and rescue, law enforcement, health, and care and shelter • Maintain liaison with the volunteer agencies, and other representatives with the county to provide staffing assistance with animal related issues within the groups • Coordinate the transportation of animals to animal care facilities within its jurisdictions and to other areas as requested.
<p>UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT)</p>	<p>The VERT team is a volunteer group consisting of faculty and staff veterinarians that may assist in providing veterinary care at emergency animal shelters and assist in animal search and rescue operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When deployed, VERT will disaster response assistance and training during an emergency situation

Animal Services Annex

Public Animal Control Agencies	Any animal related service organizations within Yolo County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in direct disaster operation within the Operational Area (OA) • Respond to requests for mutual aid within the county • Maintain liaisons with Yolo County Animal Services • Assist in the recovery, rescue, care, and sheltering of animals when local resources are exhausted. • Provide additional available resources if needed
American Red Cross	The American Red Cross provides shelter and mass care services to residents throughout Yolo County. American Red Cross generally assumes the responsibility to help government with care and shelter operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially in a disaster, some shelters may be opened by American Red Cross and some may be opened by the city or county staff and then turned over to ARC as additional resources become available to help with local response. • American Red Cross will have a liaison in the Yolo County Op Area Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and provide coordination with other agencies. • American Red Cross maintains their respective care and shelter policies, specifically regarding pets and services animals. • American Red Cross communicates with the Animal Care and Shelter Unit Leader to co-locate animal shelters with human shelters when possible.
Health and Human Services Agency		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is responsible for enforcing biosecurity measures during emergencies.
Yolo County Agriculture Department	Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner's Office serve as the primary local enforcement agents for State agricultural laws and regulations. Their primary duties were related to the control and eradication of pests harmful to agriculture. Agricultural Commissioners have a unique and important role in the promotion of agriculture, farm worker health and safety, the protection environmental resources, and the assurance of a fair marketplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Commissioner's Office is not a regulatory agency for foreign animal diseases or zoonotic diseases impacting livestock or poultry; however, due to the nature of their relationship with the agriculture and farming community, they may assist in coordination with stakeholder groups, such as cattle farmers. • Support livestock transportation, care, and management at evacuation sites.
Department of Community Service-Environmental Health Division	Maintains hazardous materials emergency response capability within the unincorporated and incorporated areas in the County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is responsible for assisting coordination of response to hazardous materials incidents involving permitting, ensuring compliance with regulations, and inspecting facilities that handle solid waste, such as animal carcasses, animal shelters, landfills, transfer stations, and compost facilities. • Provide services to control injuries, bites, and diseases related to the protection of animals
Law Enforcement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize and oversee evacuations and re-entry, including the designation of evacuation routes • Support efforts to designate transportation routes and provide traffic management. • Support on-ground notification and evacuation efforts for vulnerable populations. • Assist local agencies in identification of animals in need of transport or evacuation.
Fire Departments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support efforts to designate transportation routes and provide traffic management. • Support on-ground identification and evacuation efforts for companion animals and livestock.
Public Information Officer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with State, local government, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and others to provide consistent, effective messaging in response to the incident. • Provide incident-related information through the media and other sources in accessible formats and multiple languages to individuals, households, businesses, and industries directly or indirectly affected by the incident, including those with disabilities and others with access and functional needs. • Support public affairs activities by planning, organization, and executing press conferences and public meetings, and by preparing and briefing officials involved in such meetings. • Monitor communication channels for misinformation and provide rumor management.

2.9 DIRECTION, CONTROL, AND COORDINATION

This section describes the framework for all direction, control, and coordination activities. It identifies the tactical and operational control of response assets. Additionally, the section explains how multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency coordination systems support the efforts of organizations to coordinate efforts across jurisdictions while allowing each jurisdiction to retain its own authorities.

General

- Activation
The Yolo OA is organized under the SEMS that is compliant with the NIMS. SEMS requires emergency response agencies to use basic principles and components of emergency management, including the Incident Command System (ICS) multi-agency or inter-agency coordination, the OA concept and established mutual aid systems. The Animal Services Annex will be activated by the EOC Director, or their designee for a disaster or an emergency incident that poses an imminent threat to public health and safety, of animals and individuals.
- Termination
Termination of this annex shall take place after the announcement to secure from the disaster situation and normal phase-down and deactivation operations have been completed, and the local animal control agency indicates no further need for this annex to be activated.

Operational Area (OA) Emergency Operation Center (EOC)

Animal Services is coordinated by the Animal Care and Shelter Unit under the Agriculture Branch within the Operations Section of the EOC to support on-scene Incident Commanders with information and resources. Animal Services will operate from the operation center and provide a Liaison to the OA EOC. The liaison will attend all EOC briefings and meetings.

The Animal Services Branch will usually be activated following an emergency that results in evacuations and sheltering or other incidents with a threat or the involvement of animals during an emergency incident.

PREPARATION

The County Animal Coordinator is the individual who will act as the single point of contact on animal issues in the OA. This person will staff the EOC for the OA during a disaster. This individual should be trained in SEMS and the Emergency Management Mutual Aid (EMMA) system, should be knowledgeable in local animal issues and in the local animal response plan. In Yolo County, the County Animal Coordinator is a designee from Yolo County Animal Services.

Identification of Resources

The preparation stage of disaster response allows local groups to plan response activities before a disaster occurs. The most important part of this is identifying local resources available. Following are lists of resources that were identified in the development of this plan:

- **Animal Confinement and Shelter Facilities**
 - Small Animals
 - Kennels/ commercial Boarding facilities
 - Local fairgrounds
 - Veterinary clinics
 - Rescue organizations
 - Large Animals
 - Local Fairgrounds
 - Equestrian arenas and stables
 - Producers/ Ranchers/ Private Individuals
- **Animal Food Sources**
 - Pet supply stores
 - Food banks
 - Grocery stores
 - Commercial animal establishments
 - Hay brokers
 - Producers/ Ranchers/ Private Individuals
- **Supplies**
 - Search, Rescue and Evacuation supplies
 - Animal identification tools
 - Handling and restrain equipment
 - Personal protective equipment
 - Search and rescue equipment
 - Communication equipment
 - Transportation supplies
 - Vehicles/ Trailers
 - Animal service vehicles
 - Animal handling and restraint equipment
 - Personal protective gear for volunteers
 - Boats
 - Sheltering supplies
 - Housing
 - Food/water
 - Cleaning
 - Records management
 - Animal identification
 - Veterinary supplies

- **Volunteer Resources**

Volunteers are an important part of a response plan that will work. When animals are in danger, you will find many willing volunteers. It is important that volunteers understand the response system, are trained, and are registered Disaster Service Workers. To volunteer, it is

highly recommended to become a registered Disaster Service Worker (DSW), prior to deployment. Being a registered DSW will allow volunteers to receive workers compensation should they be injured while volunteering. It will also ensure that volunteers are trained in SEMS and are aware of where they fit within response operations.

Dealing with animals, particularly in stressful or chaotic situations such as disasters, requires special skill. Volunteers who handle animals need to have experience and specific training in this area. Several national, state, and local groups offer training programs. This plan recommends just-in-time training on use of ICS in the OA, as well as OA resources, for out-of-county responders the use of spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers is not recommended. The following is a list of groups that could supply volunteers and help gather other needed resources:

- Sheriff's Posse
 - UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT)
 - Northern California Association of Equine Practitioners
 - California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps
 - CERT Volunteers
 - Local Philanthropy Groups
- **Confirmation of Resource Availability**

In addition to the identification of local resources, it is important that the availability of resources be periodically confirmed with the guardians or suppliers of these resources. In some cases, it may be necessary for the OA to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with resource providers to ensure resource availability in the event of a disaster. It is important that plans be made for gathering needed resources during a disaster. Multiple routes to shelters and areas where resources are kept should be planned.

For any agreements made with organizations that provide resources, a written and signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) should be implemented and routinely confirmed. If a jurisdiction makes agreements with neighboring cities or counties to share resources, a Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) stating the terms of the arrangement should be implemented and routinely confirmed. Yolo OES shall receive copies of all known MOUs and MAAs that apply to animal disaster response activities.

RESPONSE

To ensure a smooth response, three animal caregiver actions to consider are:

- **Animal Evacuation and Transportation**
 - In the event of an emergency, most pet owners will evacuate and take their pets with them. Some pet owners will not have the transportation resources to evacuate their animals during an emergency or if they were away from home when the disaster occurred, they may not be allowed to enter the evacuation area to take their pets with them.
 - Authorization to enter evacuated areas is at the discretion of the incident commander. Animal control, law enforcement, fire, and volunteer groups will coordinate with each other to search for and rescue animals that are lost or trapped within the disaster area.

- The Animal Services will coordinate for the care and feeding of any animals that remain within the evacuated areas.
- Transportation of animals out of the disaster area will be primarily executed by the local animal control agency which will coordinate transportation resources with volunteer groups. The animals will be transported to an appropriate facility that can provide veterinary care and shelter for them according to their needs or injuries.
- **Protocols for Animal Shelters**
 - If an emergency animal shelter has been activated, people who have evacuated and arrive at the human shelter with companion animals will be directed to take their animals to the emergency animal shelter for intake purposes.
 - If an emergency animal shelter has not been activated, a human shelter representative will contact County OES to relay information that companion animals are being brought in by the evacuees.
 - Receive and care for animals.
 - Register, tag, and establish accurate records of all animals.
 - Maintain effective communication with the local Emergency Operations Center, and field personnel.
 - Provide food, water, and waste disposal for animals.
 - Provide medical care for sick and/or injured animals.
 - Identify, control, and if necessary, euthanize animals that pose hazards to the well-being and safety of citizens.
 - Identify and properly dispose of dead animals.
 - Establish detailed records of costs, including but not limited to supplies, employee / volunteer hours, animal care, housing, animal disposal, and veterinary care.

Service Animals

Service animals are required to remain with the human they support at all times. Service animals are legally defined as a dog or miniature horse and are required to be allowed inside all congregate care shelters. As with caretakers of any other animal, it is critical that individuals responsible for the care of service animals have adequately prepared for the need to shelter in place, evacuate to a Temporary Evacuation Point, or Shelter or to evacuate out of the region. Service animals in Yolo County are required to be registered and licensed by the Animal Services provider.

Companion Animals

Companion animals – also referred to as pets - should remain with their guardians for as long as reasonable accommodations may be made. Dependent of response variables, the preferred approach is to allow pets inside designated areas within congregate care shelters. It is critical that individuals responsible for the care of companion animals have adequately prepared for the need to shelter in place evacuate to a Temporary Evacuation Point or Shelter or to evacuate out of the region.

Horses

Per California Civil Code Section 3080, horses are considered livestock. Due to significant differences in the circumstances of care, potential for evacuation, and practical use, this plan separates horses from other livestock. In the instance of a threat from wildfire or other potentially rapid incident it is critical that caretakers of horses are prepared for early evacuation. Some horse caretakers are aware of specific challenges to their ability to evacuate early, or at all. Challenges include loose horses, horses which are not trained to load onto a transport trailer, and the inability to mix certain horses based on their behavior, age, or gender. Due to the complexities involved in horse evacuation, and the limited number of destinations outside of the potential hazard area, horse caretakers should consider destinations outside of the region or develop plans for properly sheltering in place.

Livestock

Livestock in Yolo County are generally in the care of ranchers who have extensive, often multi-generational experience in ranch operations and livestock husbandry. Due to the nature and frequency of off-site livestock transportation, most operations have many more heads of livestock than transportation carrier space. Additionally, the loading of livestock onto trailers may be a protracted task which may expose humans to undue risk during an emergency. Due to these considerations, shelter in place of livestock is likely preferable to attempted evacuation. In this circumstance, re-entry to a disaster zone in which there are livestock ranches should be considered as a priority over resident and other re-entry. Study and consideration of Ag Pass and Right of Entry programs is underway in the County. The proposed Ag Pass program details will be provided once it has been finalized.

Wildlife

Wild animals often seek higher ground which, during floods, eventually become submerged (i.e., island) and the animals become stranded. If the island is large enough and provides suitable shelter, individuals can leave food appropriate to the species (i.e., sunflower seeds for squirrels). Animals have a flight response and will flee from anyone approaching too closely. If the animal threatens to rush into the water, back away from the island or you may frighten the animal into jumping into the water to escape from you. If there is an injured or stranded animal in need of assistance or require assistance with evicting an animal from your home, please contact your local animal control office or animal shelter.

RECOVERY

Animal Reunification, Shelter Closures and Redistribution of Supplies

It is important that guidelines be developed to decide when closure is appropriate and how it will be done. This is often coordinated with the closure of human shelters. Animal shelters can usually be closed 48 hours following the closure of human shelters. Guardians who need to make special arrangements can do so on a case-by-case basis. Guidelines on distribution of remaining supplies should be agreed upon by all responding groups. Also, a plan for the demobilization of volunteers should be developed.

Removal and Disposal of Animal Carcasses

Guidelines should be developed for disposal of animal carcasses in a safe and timely manner. Some disposal methods have negative environmental impacts. Proper disposal methods will be implemented for both small and large animals depending on the nature of the emergency and available resources. Rendering and cremation services for small and large animals may be available in Yolo County and can be expanded during an emergency.

Animal Disposition Procedures

Procedures for determining the proper final disposition of abandoned or unclaimed animals following a disaster are in place pursuant to existing local animal services ordinances and state statutes. During a disaster, sometimes holding periods are adjusted and lengthened to facilitate every opportunity for reunification.

Collection of Data

In the recovery stage, data should be collected on the response activities. This data should include financial information about the response effort as well as damage assessment information. Aside from financial data, animal services response partners will be expected to participate in an After-Action Review – Improvement process led by the County OES. Animal Services will provide data on services done for people including the number of animals served either through rescue or sheltering. All activities will also be documented on the required forms for potential reimbursement.

SECTION 3.0: INFORMATION COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND DISSEMINATION

Obtaining situational awareness is one of the most critical tasks following an incident or catastrophic disaster. Information collection consists of the process, procedures, and systems to communicate timely, accurate, and accessible information on the incident's cause, size, and current situation to the public, responders, and additional stakeholders (both directly affected directly or indirectly). Information must be coordinate and integrated across jurisdictions and across organizations among the Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, the private sector.

3.1 INFORMATION COLLECTION

Information is collected during and after an incident or catastrophic disaster to gain situational awareness. Information is gained from field-level responders such as law enforcement and fire departments, windshield surveys, status calls, situation reports from human and animal shelters, 2-1-1 Yolo, and other agencies at all levels of government and other critical service providers.

3.2 ANALYSIS

All information acquired by Yolo County Op Area EOC Animal Care and Shelter Unit should be analyzed and confirmed prior to disseminating it further and prior to providing direction to staff or making other decisions based on the information. As part of the analysis information should be dated, given a credibility rating, and compared to other information collected for the same or similar subject matter.

3.3 DISSEMINATION

Once information is gathered and its accuracy confirmed, it can be shared with response partners and released to the public when appropriate. The Animal Care and Shelter Unit leader is responsible for working with the OA EOC PIO to coordinate all media activities and press releases in association with animal response activities.

Messages intended to be disseminated to the public or to other agencies or organizations may be developed by in collaboration with Environmental Health Unit and Animal Care and Shelter Unit and/or subject matter experts working in support the County's response efforts.

3.4 COMMUNICATION

Notification:

Alert

Standby Mode: When a jurisdiction has information indicating that this annex may need to be activated, that jurisdiction will contact Animal Services. It is not necessary to make a commitment of resources at this time; however, it is the time to start planning and preparing an appropriate response.

Activate

When the need to activate this annex is confirmed, the affected jurisdiction will notify their law enforcement agency, and they will contact Animal Services. Pertinent information such as the nature of the emergency, the location, the type of animals involved, and the anticipated number of animals should be provided. Animal Services will make the following notifications:

- Notify the closest Animal Services unit to respond to the scene and report directly to the animal control authority on scene, or law enforcement representative, to provide direct communications between the scene and Animal Services.
- Notify animal shelters in the area of the incident.
- Notify all other agencies as needed, which may include:
 - UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Teams
 - Other Public Animal Control Agencies
 - Non-Government Organizations
 - Private Animal Care Shelters
 - Veterinary Medical Association
 - State Fish and Wildlife
 - Office of Emergency Services
 - American Red Cross
 - American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
 - California Department of Food and Agriculture (lead agency for the California Animal Response Emergency System)
 - California Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11 (Food and Agriculture) Coordinator

SECTION 4.0: PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Animal Services Annex was created as a support annex to the Yolo County Emergency Operations Plan, and is intended for the Operational Area which includes the County and all governmental jurisdictions contained within. Copies of this plan, when complete, will be distributed to all Yolo County Operational Area response partners and stakeholders with roles in animal care and shelter operations in the County. It will also be available on the Yolo County OES website for public view.

4.1 PLAN UPDATES

The Yolo County Office of Emergency Services (OES) will review and update this plan accordingly following its adoption and after plan activations/exercises. Changes will reflect improvements identified from activations/exercises, and/or to correlate this plan with changes that are made to the County's Emergency Operations Plan or Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Standard Operating Procedures during the prior years. Record of changes, approvals, and dissemination of this annex will also apply.

Updates to this annex can be made before such time for multiple reasons, including but not limited to changes in policy/procedure, improvements and recommendations based on real life events or exercises, etc. Recommended changes should be submitted to Yolo OES.

4.2 PLAN TESTING, TRAINING, AND EXERCISES

Yolo County conducts drills and exercises pertaining to all-hazards relevant to the Yolo County Operational Area (OA). To the extent practical, elements of this Plan may be incorporated into those drills and exercises that include an animal element.

4.3 AFTER-ACTION REPORT

Yolo County conducts all after-action reviews of drills, exercises, and events in compliance with the FEMA Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program. Information from these AARs will inform Improvement Plans (IPs) which serve as guidance for increasing capability and capacity for response. In addition, SEMS regulations and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, § 2450 require any city, city and county, or county proclaiming a local emergency for which the Governor proclaims a state of emergency to complete and transmit an AAR/IP to Cal OES within 90 days of the close of the incident period.

4.4 AUTHORITIES

California Government Code Section 8608 requires that the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) shall approve and adopt, and incorporate the California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) program developed under the oversight of the Department of Food and Agriculture into the standardized emergency management system.

The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (H.R. 3858) amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Services Act to ensure that State and local emergency preparedness operation plans address the needs of individuals with household pets or service animals following a major disaster or emergency.

- California Government Code § 8593.3 (2016) – Accessibility to Emergency Information and Services
- Telecommunications Act of 1996
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2, 2022
- Yolo County Emergency Operations Plan, 2024
- California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement
- California Emergency Services Act, California Government Code § 8550-8668
- California Government Code § 8593.3 – Accessibility to Emergency Information and Services California Government code § 8608 - CARES
- California Health and Safety Code § 34070-34072
- California Penal Code § 409.5
- National Incident Management System (NIMS) Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)
- The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 100-707, as amended. (42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206)
- Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act (H.R. 3858, Oct 6, 2006), an amendment to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.
- FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.19

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990

APPENDIX A: TERMS AND ACRONYMS

Access Control Point: The point of entry and exit which regulates access to and from the control zones.

Ambient Air Quality: Quality of the surrounding atmosphere or circulating air.

Assessment: To determine the nature and degree of a hazardous material or a hazardous materials incident from a safe vantage point by any means possible.

California Fire Mutual Aid Plan: An established agreement made up of all fire jurisdictions in the state to respond and assist in the event of any incident which has been determined to be outside the local fire jurisdictions capabilities.

California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Plan: Establishes the state policy for law enforcement mutual aid and outlines the procedures from coordination of alerting, dispatching and utilization of law enforcement personnel and equipment resources.

California State Emergency Plan: The plan established pursuant to Section 8568 of the California Government Code that addresses the State's response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incident and war emergency operations.

CalOES: California Office of Emergency Services.

Catastrophic Incident: An event that significantly exceeds the resources of a jurisdiction.

COMM CTR: The Marin Consolidated Communication Center / Public Safety Access Point – The primary dispatch center for coordinating response to emergencies.

Command Post: The location from which all incident operations are directed and planning functions are performed.

CUPA: Certified Unified Program Agency

Decontamination: The physical and/or chemical process of reducing and preventing the spread of contamination from persons and equipment used at a hazardous materials incident.

DFW: California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

DHS: California Department of Health Services.

DPR: California Department of Parks and Recreation.

EBS: Emergency Broadcast System.

EMS: Emergency Medical Services. EOC: Emergency Operations Center.

EOC: An EOC is a facility designated for emergency incident support activities at the local, OA, State levels. In Yolo County, local EOC's (city) through their Incident Management Teams (EOC Staff) coordinate local jurisdiction response efforts. When an incident exceeds the capabilities of local resources, the Yolo County Office of Emergency Services activates and staffs the County EOC in the role of OA EOC to provide support and coordination of local government assistance from the OA, State, and Federal governments.

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency.

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Hazardous Material: A substance which by its nature, containment and reactivity has the capability of inflicting harm during an accidental occurrence; characterized as being toxic, corrosive, flammable, reactive, an irritant or a strong sensitizer and thereby posing a threat to health and the environment when improperly managed.

HAZMAT: Hazardous Materials.

HAZWOPER: Hazardous Waste Operation and Emergency Response.

IC: Incident Commander.

ICS: Incident Command System.

IDLH: Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health.

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding.

Mutual Aid: An agreement to supply specifically agreed upon aid or support in an emergency situation between two or more agencies, jurisdictions or political subdivisions.

National Incident Management Systems (NIMS): National Incident Management System describes the incident management structure used by the Federal government for response to disasters. It includes the Incident Command System (ICS), as well as programs and frameworks for managing emergencies throughout all phases of the disaster cycle.

OA: Operational Area

OES: Office of Emergency Services.

PIO: Public Information Officer.

SEMS: Standardized Emergency Management System. Adopted by the State of California under Government Code Section 8607(a), the SEMS provides guidance on the response to emergencies and the sharing of resources across multiple jurisdictions and agencies. SEMS consists of five operational levels which include: field response; local government; operational area; regional; and the State.

SOP: Standard Operating Procedures

APPENDIX B: RECORD OF CHANGE

(Note: File each revision transmittal letter behind this record page.)

Version Number	Implemented BY	Date	Approved By	Approval Date	Description of Change
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

APPENDIX C: VERSION HISTORY

Change Number	Section	Date of Change	Individual Making Change	Description of Change
1.0	All	10/3/2023	Yolo OES	New Draft