

Community Emergency Response Team




Pet Response and Preparedness


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Lamorinda CERT

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Community Emergency Response Team


 Personal safety is ALWAYS the number one priority


 Show up prepared


➤ Wear appropriate clothing and footwear, have WATER


➤ Wear PPE – your personal protective equipment ...gloves, helmet, goggles, mask, boots, etc.

➤ Have at least one communications device: cell, radio, etc.

 Work as a team

 Size-up - maintain situational awareness

 The CERT goal is to do the
Greatest Good for the Greatest Number

 *Hope for the best but plan for the worst!*

Visual PETS.1


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CERT Pet Encounters are Frequent



67% of U.S. households own pets

- Dog
- Cat
- Fish
- Bird
- Small animal
- Reptile



In a CERT search and rescue operation, you are likely to encounter household pets

(2019-2020 Study APPA National Pet Owners Survey)

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Pets Impact People in a Disaster


2005
Hurricane Katrina




Pets viewed as non-essential



44% of residents refused to obey the mandatory evacuation because of their pets



100,000 pets were separated from families and 70,000 perished



Separated pets impact health and safety during a disaster

Visual PETS.3

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Pets Impact People in a Disaster

2006
PETs Act

**Pets Evacuation & Transportation Act**
makes it mandatory for states and local governments to include plans for pets in their emergency procedures

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Pets Impact People in a Disaster

2017
Hurricane Harvey

**Humans and animals welcomed at evacuation centers or pets housed in adjacent facilities**
**ASPCA expanded disaster response divisions**
**Responders viewed animals as part of the family unit, improving evacuation success**

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Safe CERT Pet Handling

What you will learn:

 The importance of responder safety when CERTs encounter animals while conducting light search and rescue operations

 Knowledge needed to perform CERT tasks that may involve handling dogs and cats

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Why CERTs Train in Animal Handling

 Following a disaster, abandoned and stressed animals create risks for responders

 Infectious disease risk increases when abandoned pets roam freely following a disaster

 Animals help reduce owner trauma, sense of displacement, and long-term post traumatic stress

 Evacuation operations are more effective when families and pets are treated as an intertwined unit

 **Pets Matter, Because People Matter...**

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Approaching an Unknown Animal

When confronted with non-aggressive animals:

 Size up the situation

- What is your objective
- Is the injured owner able to help you talk to or direct the animal?
- Assess whether you can contain the animal (capability, your team size, available time, supplies)
- How will you keep your egress clear?
- How is the animal behaving?
- What will you do with the animal once contained?

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Approaching an Unknown Animal

When confronted with non-aggressive animals:

 Maintain a relaxed, controlled environment

- Avoid prolonged direct eye contact
- Do not show fear
- Always use a soft, calm voice – try to gain their confidence
- Do not reach out to the animal, let them come to you
 - Tip: tap on a food can or use treats if available
- Do not loom over an animal or grab it by the collar

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Approaching an Unknown Animal

When confronted with non-aggressive animals:

- Approach with your body turned sideways, minimize your profile to the animal
- Use a slip leash to control a dog, use a towel or pillowcase to pick up a cat
- Always wear your PPE – gloves and eye protection
- Use the least restraint force needed

IMPORTANT: Never attempt to approach or restrain an **aggressive** animal. Report the location of pets left behind so their welfare can be monitored by others later.

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Approaching an Unknown Animal

When encountering –

Frightened animals:

- Seek assistance unless you are experienced
- Don’t approach unless others can assist you
- Move slowly, try to get the animal to come to you

Aggressive animals:

- Do not approach, back away slowly
- Notify your CERT supervisor

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Keeping Pets With Owners - Documentation

 Before transporting:

- Ensure you have the proper transportation capability
- Know the location of your organization’s animal intake center
- Complete documentation including owner’s information and intake number, pet information and intake number

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Transport Decisions

 Preparation begins before the disaster strikes. Pet owners should make advance preparations for alternative care of their pets should the need arise

 Both the owner and the driver must feel comfortable and safe in transporting the pet in the driver’s private car

 If a pet is left behind, CERTs should document its location and condition using SAR markings and/or follow your jurisdiction’s protocols


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Transporting Animals - General


 Make sure crates are of adequate size


 Allow only one animal per crate

➤ Exception in case of mother and babies

 Control climate within vehicle

➤ Keeping any animals in stationary vehicles in hot weather can result in death

 Cats should always be in a carrier

 Dogs may be tethered if not in a crate; *do not use slip leads to secure the animal*


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A Warning about Transporting Pets

 Car temperatures can be deadly!

 How hot is my car (degrees Fahrenheit)

 At 120° the pet may suffer irreversible organ damage or die

Outside Temp	Inside 10 Minutes	Inside 30 Minutes
75	94	109
80	99	114
85	104	119
90	109	124
95	114	129


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Search Marking

 If you must leave a pet behind, remember to note them in your Search Marking

MAIN ENTRANCE
SEARCH MARKING

4-15-09
14:45

DATE AND TIME
SEARCH TEAM
LEFT STRUCTURE

HAZARDS
RATS
BROKEN STAIRS
AGGRESSIVE DOG

SEARCH TEAM
NAME AND
DATE / TIME
ENTERED
STRUCTURE
CERT-A
4-15-09
14:30

USE TRIAGE COLORS
B = BLACK, DEAD
R = RED, IMMEDIATE
Y = YELLOW, DELAYED
G = GREEN, MINOR
2 - B
1 - R
2 - Y
1 - DOG Y
1 - CAT G

TOTAL VICTIMS
STILL INSIDE
STRUCTURE
X or 0 = NO VICTIMS


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Animal-Inflicted Injuries


 In the event of any animal attack, report to your CERT supervisor

 If facing an aggressive dog, try basic commands, such as sit, stay, or down

 If possible, put an object or distance between yourself and dog

 Back away; do not run away

 If you fall, curl up and cover your head

 Do not scream or yell

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Animal-Inflicted Injuries

 Wash any animal scratch, bite, or injury immediately with soap and water

 Administer first aid as appropriate

 Seek immediate attention for any bite

 Report all injuries to your CERT supervisor immediately and seek professional medical attention



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Personal Pet Preparedness

 Plan for your animals, your home may be compromised

 Create a controlled environment

 Have kennels/Evac-Sacs in a safe, accessible place

 Assign retrieval tasks to family members

 Have a Buddy System

- Exchange Keys / Plans With Neighbor / Pet Sitter (in possession of your pre-authorization letter)

 Identify safe outdoor holding area

 Obtain materials to create a holding area



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ID Your Animals **and** Yourself



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ID Your Animals **and** Yourself

- Take photos of yourself with your pets
 - In wallet
 - In emergency kit (go-bag)
 - With loved ones outside local area

- LOST Poster
- Animal license (copy)
- Last veterinary invoice showing vaccination dates

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Travel ID Baggie

LOST

Please help us find this animal:



Species: Canine	Breed: Brittany	Sex: Female, spayed
Colors: White / Orange	DOB: 03/2013	Collar/Tags: Patterned nylon collar with ID, Rabies tag and license
Weight: 29 lbs	Micro Chip: AVID*014*017*782	

Last seen:

If you have any information pertaining to this animal, please contact:

Name: Lorem and Ipsum Dolor

Address: 1234 Consectetur Ln
Blandit CA 90909

Phone Numbers: (625) 123-4567
(529) 766-9876

Please **do not** remove this poster. Write down the information.

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Evacuation

 Evacuate with your animals

➤

PETS Act: Mandatory evacuation of companion pets with humans

 If you are not home

➤

You may not be home when the evacuation order comes; find out if a trusted neighbor would be willing to take your pets and meet you at a prearranged location

 Leave a letter with your trusted neighbor or sitter, authorizing them to retrieve and/or care for your pet



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Identifying Evacuation Locations

 Safe distance from home

 Coordinate with neighbors

 Identify and confirm pet friendly hotels:

- bringfido.com or 877-411-FIDO
- dogfriendly.com or 888-281-5170
- doginmysuitcase.com or 888-0254-0637
- pet-friendly-hotels.net or 866-966-3046
- pets-allowed-hotels.com or call 800-250-1625
- petswelcome.com
- tripswithpets.com

 Identify Boarding Kennels and Ranches

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Keep Your Animals Alive

 Store animal food (2 weeks)

- Airtight, waterproof containers
- In secure area

 Store extra water (2 week supply)

- Not in direct sunlight
- Water that is unfit for human animals is unfit for ALL animals

 Food and water bowls

 Paper towels, dish soap, disinfectant



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Keep Your Animals Healthy

 Pet first aid kit

 Medications

 Blankets

 Toys and treats

 Protective Booties (infant socks)

 Plastic poop bags or cat litter and litter trays

 Ask vet about his/her disaster plan



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Provide a Clean, Safe Place

 Dogs and cats

 Collapsible crate or kennel

 Harness, leash, muzzle, cable screw / stake

 Horses, swine, cattle

 Halter and lead rope

 Bedding material

 Manure fork

 Birds, reptiles, rabbits

 Cage liners

 Evacuation cage or carrier

 Fish?



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Pets Left in Cars

Section 597.7 of the Penal Code Signed into law 26 Sept 2016

- (a) A person shall not leave or confine an animal in any unattended motor vehicle under conditions that endanger the health or well-being of an animal due to heat, cold, lack of adequate ventilation, or lack of food or water, or other circumstances that could reasonably be expected to cause suffering, disability, or death to the animal.
- (b) (1) This section does not prevent a person from taking reasonable steps that are necessary to remove an animal from a motor vehicle if the person holds a reasonable belief that the animal's safety is in immediate danger from heat, cold, lack of adequate ventilation, lack of food or water, or other circumstances that could reasonably be expected to cause suffering, disability, or death to the animal.
- (2) A person who removes an animal from a vehicle in accordance with paragraph (1) is not criminally liable for actions taken reasonably and in good faith if the person does all of the following:
 - (A) Determines the vehicle is locked or there is otherwise no reasonable manner for the animal to be removed from the vehicle.
 - (B) Has a good faith belief that forcible entry into the vehicle is necessary because the animal is in imminent danger of suffering harm if it is not immediately removed from the vehicle, and, based upon the circumstances known to the person at the time, the belief is a reasonable one.
 - (C) Has contacted a local law enforcement agency, the fire department, animal control, or the "911" emergency service prior to forcibly entering the vehicle.
 - (D) Remains with the animal in a safe location, out of the elements but reasonably close to the vehicle, until a peace officer, humane officer, animal control officer, or another emergency responder arrives.
 - (E) Used no more force to enter the vehicle and remove the animal from the vehicle than was necessary under the circumstances.
 - (F) Immediately turns the animal over to a representative from law enforcement, animal control, or another emergency responder who responds to the scene.

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Questions







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Takeaways

-  Pets matter because people matter
-  Only assist in evacuating a companion animal if you can do so safely
-  Keep your own animals safe
 - Secure your animals
 - ID your animals **with** yourself
 - Identify evacuation locations
-  Get additional training

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