

Animal Emergency Response Plan



October 2011

Developed by the Burbank Animal Shelter Staff & Volunteers

CITY OF BURBANK ANIMAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Below you will find an excerpt but the document is over 100 pages in its entirety.

1.0 HISTORY

In October 2006, then U.S. President George W. Bush signed the federal law known as the ***Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards*** (PETS) Act. This law stipulates that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should include the individuals' requirements as well as the needs of their service animals and companion pets. This Act also specifies that the funding required for evacuation rescues during emergency or disaster must be budgeted for by the Federal Government as well as in local disaster plan budgets. This Act permits FEMA to help in rescuing service animals and dogs prior to, during and after the occurrence of disaster.

In order to ensure the safety of animals whenever disaster occurs, the States also participate in this effort and this apart from the Federal PETS Act. To facilitate this, individual States have passed their own new pet evacuation laws or modified existing ones to incorporate such a clause...

1.1 California Animal Response Emergency System 8608 (CARES) program

Incorporation into standardized emergency management system: (1) The Office of Emergency Services shall approve and adopt and incorporate the ***California Animal Response Emergency System*** (CARES) program developed under the oversight of the Department of Food & Agriculture into the standardized emergency management system established pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 8607. (b) No later than January 31, 2007, the Department of Food & Agriculture shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the office of Emergency Services (OES) and other interested parties to incorporate the CARES program into their emergency planning.

2.0 INTRODUCTION & DOCUMENT AUTHORS

The Burbank Animal Shelter staff and volunteers recognize a need for pro-active disaster planning for its facility and that of city agencies, kennels, stables, businesses and individual citizens. This animal disaster plan has been developed primarily for the safety of the City of Burbank residents and visitors. It also supports the continuance of vital operations, promotes responsible animal care and companionship, and reduces harmful interactions between humans and non-domestic animals in the event of a disaster. It is intended to organize a system to allocate proper and much-needed resources.

Failure to plan for the animal population will affect the viability of disaster plans for people. For instance, if the disaster warrants an evacuation, many people will not evacuate without their animals or will delay their own evacuation to first make preparations for animals they must leave behind. These refusals or delays begin a chain reaction that can seriously jeopardize the overall disaster plan.

Further, failure to plan for animals prior to an emergency may lead to serious public health concerns during an incident. Injured, ill or dead animals can pose disease and injury hazards to the public, which may add strain to an already over-taxed emergency medical system. It is the Burbank Animal Shelter's belief that it is vital for animal facilities to prepare for disasters, not only for the animals housed inside, but so that the facility will be viable in the aftermath.

The following guidelines have been developed by staff, volunteers and experts in animal care fields to help determine which dangers the BAS and Burbank Animals may be vulnerable to and what plans must be made to mitigate danger and downtime.

Those involved in the development of this plan include:

Brenda Castaneda, Burbank Animal Shelter Superintendent

Brenda Castaneda joined the City of Burbank in August of 2000 as an Animal Control Officer. Gaining experience in the field, she quickly rose within the department and was named Animal Shelter Superintendent in 2009. She oversees Animal Shelter operations and works closely with the Volunteers of the Burbank Animal Shelter and other community groups to ensure the goals in line with helping the animals are achieved. Brenda is also an instructor for the Burbank Unified Animal Care Regional Occupational Program and a member of the California Animal Control Directors Association and the National Management Association. She earned a B.A. in Public Sector Management from the California State University of Northridge (CSUN) and is currently attending the Master's program in Public Administration through CSUN.

Stacie Levin, Senior Animal Control Officer

Stacie Levin studied for two years with the Administrative Justice Program at Valley College. She spent 2 years working at Star Crest Kennels in La Tuna Canyon as a Kennel Manager/Behaviorist/Trainer and 7 years with Loss Prevention Company as an Editor/Proof Reader. She holds an Animal Care Specialist Degree and holds certifications in Dog Behavior, Cat Behavior, Euthanasia, Wildlife Paramedic 1+2, American Human Disaster Preparedness and is a trained Wildlife Rehabilitator. Stacie has spent the last 10 years with City of Burbank Animal Control Division where she currently serves as the Senior Animal Control Officer.

Denise Fleck, President, Volunteers of the Burbank Animal Shelter

Denise is a Pet First-Aid & CPR Instructor and author of several animal care books. She recently received the Volunteer of the Year Award given by the Burbank Police Department and has won the Maxwell Medallion (Dog Writers Association of America) for her work in magazines relating to dog health and a Muse Award by the Cat Writers Association. Denise has been a member of the Surf City Animal Response Team since 2005 and a rescue volunteer since 1998. She has trained with seven organizations in animal life-saving skills and continues to attend conferences and seminars on anything animal related along with teaching ROP Animal Care through the Burbank Unified School District. Most comfortable as a large dog wrangler, Fleck has worked with cats, rabbits, horses, llama, goats, pigs, cows, chickens and raptors. She is a CERT member and has participated in applicable FEMA, HSUS (Humane Society of the United States), AHA (American Humane Association), Noah's Wish courses as well as assisted U.S. Homeland Security with their Pet First-Aid program for K9 Border Patrol Handlers.

Tiffany Victory, Volunteer

Tiffany has been a volunteer with the Burbank Animal Shelter for 3 years and a life-long animal lover. She has trained with Noah's Wish in Pet Disaster Preparedness and considers herself a large dog handler.

2.1 Purpose Statement

To protect the public health, the public food supply, domesticated and wild animal resources, the environment, the agricultural economy, and to ensure the humane care and treatment of animals in case of an emergency, including earthquakes, floods, severe storms, drought, fire, explosion, building collapse, train derailment, commercial transportation accidents, chemical spills, power outages or other situations that can cause animal suffering.

2.2 Scope

This plan is intended for use by the City of Burbank Animal Shelter, government and agencies as a guideline for implementing immediate action to provide care and control of animals, thereby minimizing animal suffering in the event of a significant emergency. In the event of an emergency, care and control measures outlined herein will apply to all animals, wild and domestic, regardless of ownership.

This plan addresses planning and response with regard to all-hazards, however incidents which are due to significant animal disease will require oversight by the California State Veterinarian and/or the Department of Agriculture based on established laws and response plans. If incidents of this nature come to light, for safety and biosecurity reasons, do not attempt to move or handle sick or dead animals that may have been affected by an animal disease.