



# Collaboration: Key to Response for Pets in Disaster

Presentation to West Virginia  
Conference on Threat Preparedness  
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Joan Willoughby  
Distributed Learning & Workshop Curriculum Director,  
Humane Society University



# Why do we need to plan for pets in disaster? Shouldn't "people issues" come first?





# Animal Issues ARE People Issues

- In a 2010 study, 62% of U.S. households – or 73 million households - included at least one pet - for a total of 377 million animals
- Pets are considered part of the family
- 7 in 10 said they would bring their pet with them if asked to evacuate a dangerous area





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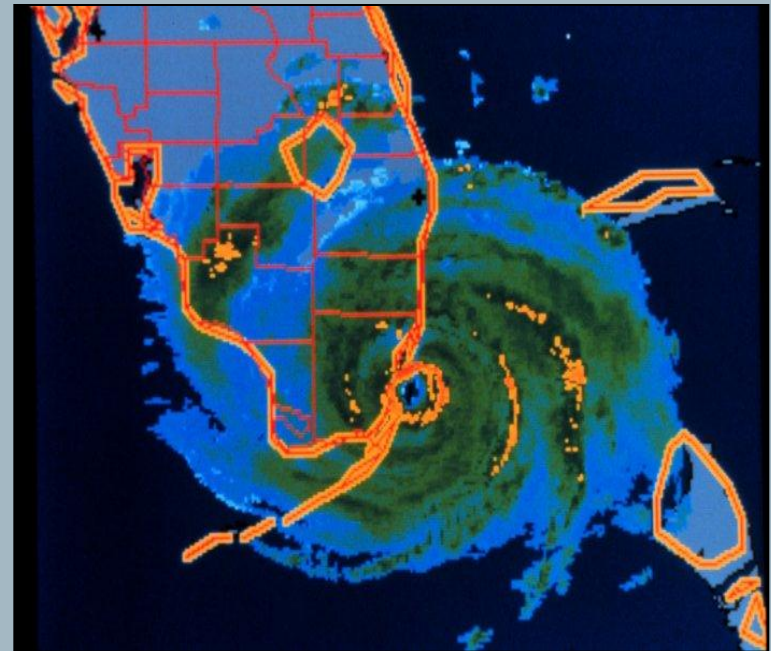
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# Hurricane Andrew - 1992

- First major animal disaster
- People told to leave pets behind
- Homes destroyed, pets escaped in fear
- Disoriented wandering pets, no system to ID and reunite
- First collaborate effort





# Beginnings of Organized Disaster Response for Animals

- Animal shelter housed 600 animals for six weeks
- 2000 animals seen by vets
- Volunteers, with support of the Army, Red Cross
- All vowed to train and organize

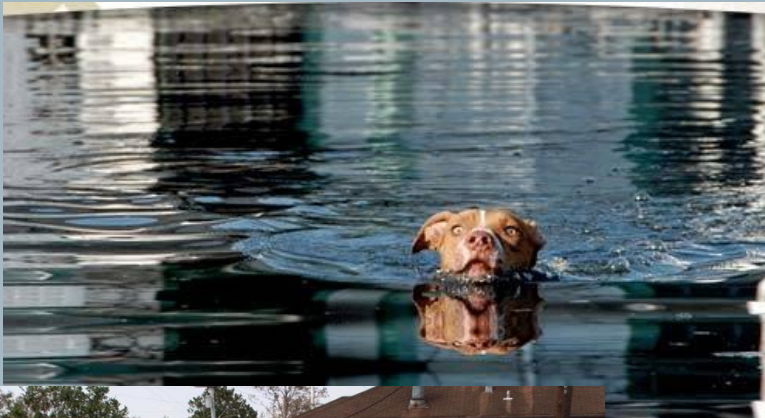




- National VOAD Movement
  - Began in 1970
  - Built on “Four C’s” – Cooperation, Collaboration, Communication and Coordination
  - HSUS joined as member in early 1990’s
  - In 2013, NARSC members joined as partners



# 2005....KATRINA



Please Help  
my Cats  
I took all  
I could they  
are my lively ho





Joplin tornado  
2011



COLORADO SPRINGS GREAT ESCAPE RANCH

Colorado wildfires 2012



Hurricane Irene 2011



Minot flood, 2011



## Moore, Oklahoma May 20, 2013





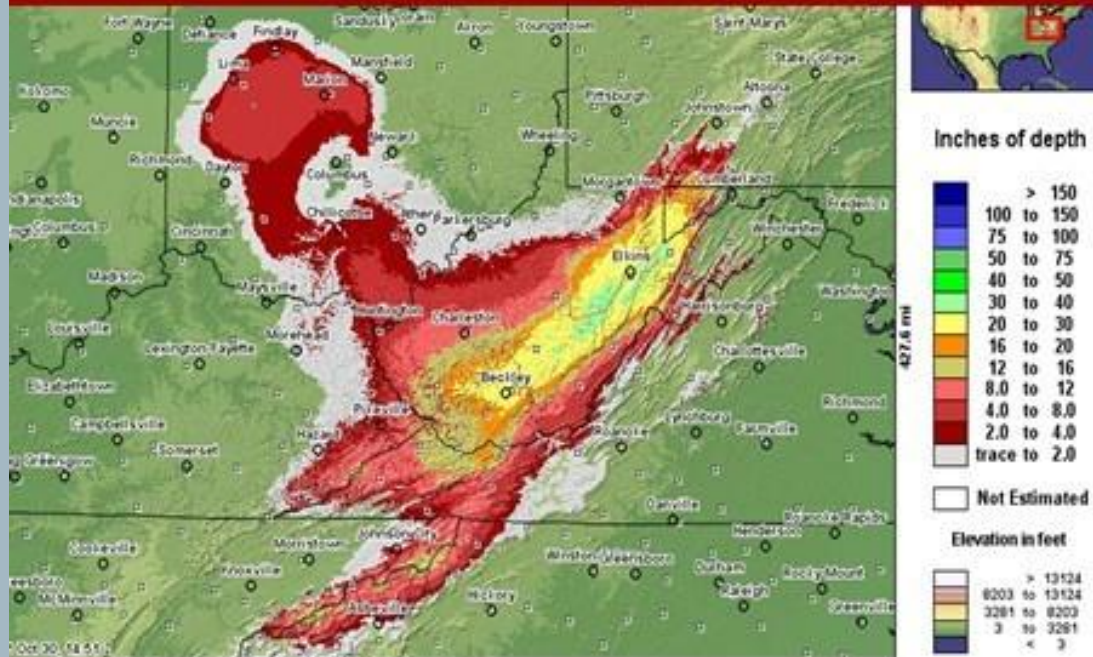
# Case Study: Sandy





# SNOW DEPTH ANALYSIS

## 2 pm October 30, 2012



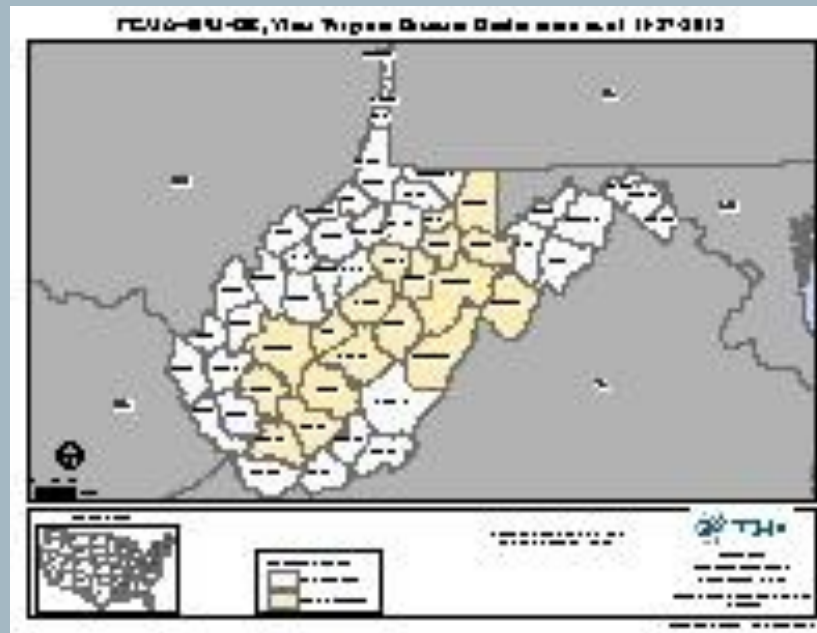


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# West Virginia Animal-Related Activities

Collaboration between

- State Agriculture Department
- State Emergency Management
- PetSmart Charities
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- West Virginia National Guard



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# HSUS Activities:





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# Attitudes, policies and public messaging have changed!

**NEW MESSAGE:** If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your animals. When you evacuate, take them with you! Consistent public messaging works!





## So...having established that plans for animals are needed in a disaster: Who needs to do it?

- Every individual and family with animals
- Every facility that houses or cares for animals
- Each community's Emergency Management Agency
- All state and federal officials





# It starts with every individual or family with a pet or pets





# Are you and your family (including pets) ready for disaster?

- Do you have a plan?

(More than half of respondents in a recent poll in the D.C. area said “no”)

- If you had to shelter in place, do you have what you’d need?
- If you had to evacuate, where would you go?
- What’s your “Plan B”?





# What if you have to evacuate?

- Why evacuate?
- Where would you go?
- Do you have friends or family that you could stay with?
- Can you fit your animal(s) in your vehicle?





## Shelter in place?

- If you have to shelter in place, do you have enough food, water, medicine and other essentials for your animal(s)?





# Do you have a “Go Kit”?

- Start simple, then add to it
- Specific to your pet and family preferences and needs
- Three-day portable supply to take if you evacuate
- Ten-day supply at your house
- Rotate perishable items







# Do you ever practice your plan?

- Do all members of your family know the plan?
- Will they remember it when necessary?
- Do you ever practice evacuation drills?





# What if you're at work when disaster strikes?

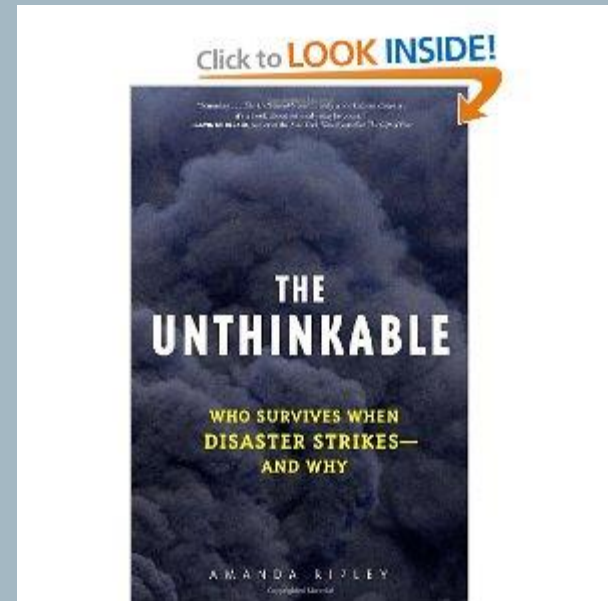


- Do your neighbors or friends have a key to your house?
- Is your disaster kit ready to “grab and go”?
- Do you have a kit in your car or office?
- Does your family know where to meet or how to contact each other (what if the cell phones are out of service?)



# Individual Preparedness & Resilience

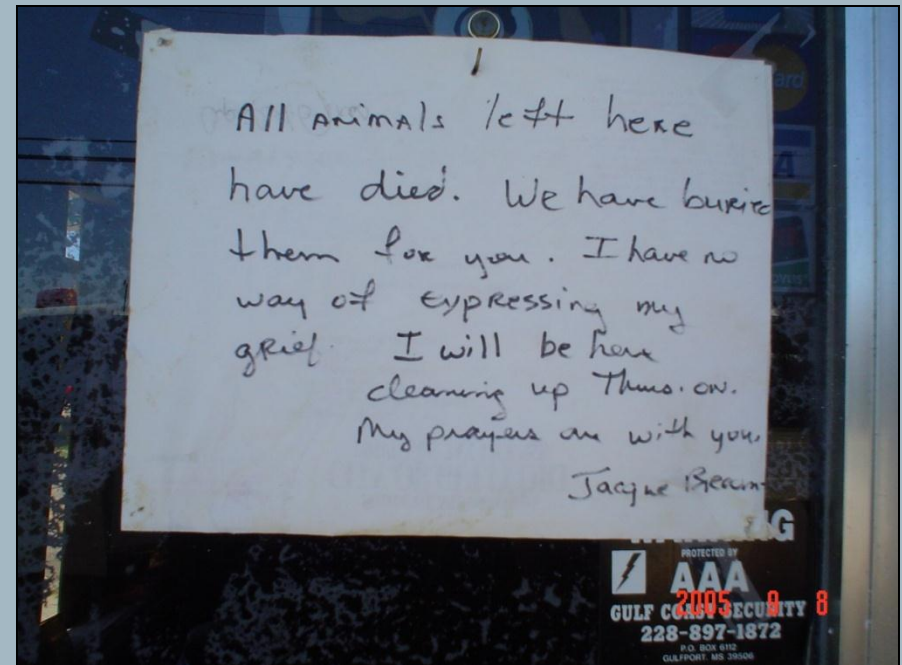
- “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.” Charles Darwin
- Resilience, or the ability to adapt to changing conditions, will often be a major factor in survival in disasters
- “The Unthinkable”, Amanda Ripley





# What about Animal Care Facilities?

- Animal shelters
- Boarding facilities
- Groomers
- Stables
- Zoos
- Veterinary practices
- All should have their own plans





# Disaster Risk for Communities

- Depends, to some extent, on where you are (no ice storms in Hawaii)
- Prepare for the most likely disaster scenarios
- What can happen here?  
Well.....





New vocabulary  
word: DERECHO!





# What else could happen in West Virginia?

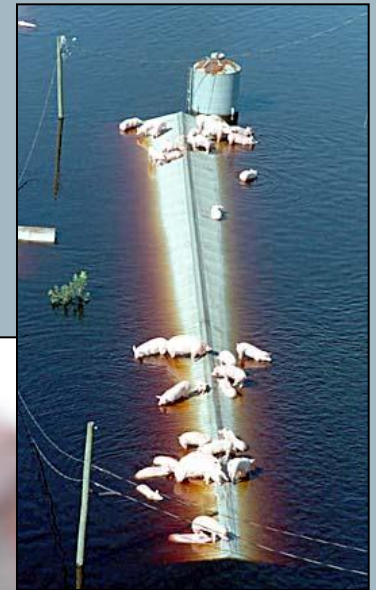
- Blizzards, ice storms
- Tornadoes
- Wildfires
- Floods
- Drought
- Nuclear incidents
- HazMat Incidents
- Terrorism





# Why should emergency managers and public health officials care about pets?

- People will die if they stay in unsafe areas because they can't take pets with them
- Animals left behind can quickly become a public health hazard
- PETS Act (2006)







# The PETS Act of 2006

- Passed by Congress and signed into law in October 2006
- Mandates that states and local emergency management agencies must include families with pets in their disaster evacuation and sheltering plans in order to qualify for FEMA grants



# FEMA, USDA, many states are committed

- FEMA has developed collaborative relationships with non-governmental organizations and states
- 16 states and the District of Columbia have required the inclusion of animals in disaster planning protocols
- Hurricane Irene, many Governors and State Agencies urged people to evacuate **WITH** their pets; animal agencies coordinated and worked with American Red Cross and other response agencies





# National Organizations Committed

- Major national animal response agencies have all committed to work together to standardize training, credentialing, and forms
- All agencies are training staff and volunteers to use the Incident Command System
- HSUS has strong commitment to train communities and build local capacity to deal with manageable local disaster situations.





# Community Planning for Animals: Where do you start?

- Work Cooperatively with Emergency Management Agency
- Get trained! (ICS, CERT, Disaster Animal Response, Emergency Animal Sheltering, etc.)
- Create a Planning Team
- Be inclusive and professional
- Meet with all appropriate stakeholders
- Create a plan
- Could you be a “host” Community?





# Plan for both natural and human-caused disasters





# Don't reinvent the wheel!

- Other communities have written plans – and are happy to share!
- Take what they've done and customize it to your needs –
- Some states have added ESF's specifically for pet issues





# Upshur & Lewis Counties

- Great examples of good plans and creative funding for training and resources
- Emergency managers have been proactive in identifying needs and seeking partnerships
- They will share their work and experiences!





## Upshur & Lewis Counties (cont.)

- Trailer of supplies for setting up an emergency animal shelter
- Purchased through grant money available to county EMA's
- Available to both counties

Item	Qty	Status	Remarks
1. Crate	10	Delivered	
2. Water bucket	10	Delivered	
3. Food bucket	10	Delivered	
4. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
5. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
6. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
7. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
8. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
9. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
10. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
11. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
12. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
13. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
14. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
15. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
16. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
17. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
18. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
19. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
20. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
21. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
22. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
23. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
24. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
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26. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
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43. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
44. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
45. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
46. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
47. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
48. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
49. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	
50. Stain repellent	10	Delivered	







# Will you need to open an emergency animal shelter?

- If the incident affects many people and human shelters are opened, you may need an emergency animal shelter.
- So.....what then?





# Partnering and collaboration

- Authority must come from lead agency for animal issues
- Work with American Red Cross/lead for human sheltering under ESF 6 to co-locate animal shelter
- Involve all stakeholders and key players: emergency management; animal control; shelter and humane groups; veterinary professionals; volunteers...
- What about resources? (PetsMart Charities)





# Decide what your capabilities are

- What kind of facility do you have available?
- Is it available for the time you need it?
- What staff and/or volunteers do you have to run the shelter? What are they trained to do?
- Who will provide veterinary care?
- How will animals be tracked and returned to their families?



## Capabilities, continued

- Do you have the facility, resources and expertise in your planning or operations group to shelter any species beyond dogs and cats?

***Hint: If not, find partners who DO!***





- What type of shelter will you set up?
  - Animals and humans together?
  - Animals in separate but close-by area?
  - Animals and humans apart
  - Temporary shelter, taking in animals with and without families?
  - Host shelter?





# Legal and Financial Considerations of Emergency Animal Sheltering

- What are the liability issues?
- How will you pay for the operation of the animal shelter?
- Are the costs reimbursable, and how will you document?





# Training options

- General ICS training (IS100b, IS200) available online for free
- CERT Training and exercises
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) training grants can be used to get nationally-recognized training for animal disaster preparedness and sheltering (including HSUS DART and EAS workshops)
- Cross-train with emergency services, fire department, other first response agencies



# Options for additional assistance

- MOU's with neighboring community resources
- EMAC
- National groups like HSUS, ASPCA







# Putting it all together

- Personal responsibility & planning
- Community planning for evacuation and sheltering of families with animals
- Incorporating and coordinating animal plans into larger disaster response plan
- Training and building capacity to respond
- Coordination and cooperation with other disaster response agencies (governmental and VOAD)
- Public messaging to include animals when evacuating



# Reuniting families with pets is the goal!





## Contacts

- HSUS West Virginia State Director Summer Wyatt:  
[swyatt@humanesociety.org](mailto:swyatt@humanesociety.org)
- Upshur County Emergency Manager Jim Farry:  
[Upshurcoem@hotmail.com](mailto:Upshurcoem@hotmail.com)
- Lewis County Emergency Manager Bill Rowan:  
[lcoem@lewisoe.com](mailto:lcoem@lewisoe.com)
- To schedule DART and EAS training: Frances Gaeta  
[fgaeta@humanesocietyuniversity.org](mailto:fgaeta@humanesocietyuniversity.org)
- Questions about presentation: Joan Willoughby  
[jwilloughby@humanesocietyuniversity.org](mailto:jwilloughby@humanesocietyuniversity.org)



# Questions?



# Thank you!