

ANIMAL DISASTER / ANIMAL CARE PLAN

See also:

State of Rhode Island Emergency Operations Plan, especially “Annex VI: Emergency Support Function 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services” (2013).

[Animal Disease Plan](#), Section 6-9 in the RI DEM [Emergency Response Plan](#) (ERP).

[State of Rhode Island Regional Disaster Shelters Coordination Plan](#) (August 2012).

[Help for RI Cities and Towns in Preparing for Emergency Animal Care](#).

[ICS Forms/Job Aids, Tools and Templates](#) at the FEMA [ICS Resource Center](#).

[ICS Forms](#) (Word fillable) from the FEMA EMI.

[Animal Health Resources](#), Typed Resource Definitions (FEMA 508-1, 2005).

[Animals in Disasters](#) (NIH DIMRC).

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Support Materials On-line:

APPENDIX (6-8-App)

[Large Animal Sheltering](#) (6-8-App01)

PRESS RELEASES (6-8-PR)

[Preparedness Phase Press Release](#) (6-8-PR1)

[Response Phase Press Release](#) (6-8-PR2)

[Remediation Phase Press Release](#) (6-8-PR3)

[ADVICE FOR ANIMAL OWNERS IN AN EMERGENCY](#) (6-8-A)

[Prepare Pets for RI Emergency](#) (Tri-fold brochure)

[Where Do We Go?](#) (6-8-A9)

[Motels](#) (6-8-A10)

[Kennels](#) (6-8-A11)

[Preparedness for Pets](#) (6-8-A1)

[Preparedness for Livestock](#) (6-8-A2)

[Preparedness for Horses](#) (6-8-A12)

[Preparedness for Birds and Exotics](#) (6-8-A3)

[Pet Emergency Information Sheet](#) (6-8-A8)

[Equine Emergency Information Sheet](#) (6-8-A15)

[Response for Pets](#) (6-8-A4)

[Response for Livestock](#) (6-8-A5)

[Response for Horses](#) (6-8-A13)

[Response for Birds and Exotics](#) (6-8-A6)

[Remediation for Pets](#) (6-8-A7)

[Remediation for Horses](#) (6-8-A14)

[Lost Pet Flyer Template](#) (6-8-A8)

[Ten Tips on Coping With the Loss of Your Pet](#) (6-8-A16)

[Rhode Island Guide to Operation of Emergency Pet Shelters](#) (6-8-SOM)

Purpose

Priorities

Services That Emergency Pet Shelters Provide

Incident Severity and Response Levels

Organization

Roles and Responsibilities

Animal Owners

Volunteers in an Emergency Pet Shelter

Enrollment

Training

Code of Conduct

Common Tasks of Volunteers

Safety

Injuries

Stress

Animal Response Team Leader

Shelter Manager

Liaison

Operations
Safety Officer
Planning
Logistics
Communications
Animal Health
Transportation
Standard Operation Procedures
Inspect Facility
Configure Space in the Facility
Set Up the a Facility Command Post
Post Signs
Establish Registration and Intake Area
Establish Kennel Areas
 All Areas
 Dog Area
 Cat Area
 Birds
 Ferrets
 Small Mammals
 Reptiles
 Arachnids
Housing Animals Off-site
Working Off-site
Animal Fatalities
 Notifying the Owner
 Disposal of Deceased Animals
 Thoughts for Staff and Volunteers
Disposition of Animals During Recovery
Contingencies for Threats to the Facility
 Assess the Threat
 When Threat to Health and Safety is Clear, Present or Imminent
 When NOT an Immediate Threat to Health and Safety
Long Term Sheltering
Closing the Shelter

FORMS (6-8-F)

[Pet Owner Sheltering Agreement](#) (6-8-F01)
[Animal Record](#) (6-8-F02)
[Equine Record](#) (6-8-F03)
[Animal Daily Care](#) (6-8-F04)
[Animal Sign-out and Sign-in](#) (6-8-F05)
[Bite Report](#) (6-8-F06)
[Bite Protocol](#) (6-8-F07)
[Authorization for Emergency Veterinary Care](#) (6-8-F08)
[Shelter Release to Veterinary Care](#) (6-8-F09)
[Failure to Comply Notice](#) (6-8-F10)
[Animal Sighting and Rescue Request](#) (6-8-F11)
[Permit to Enter Property for Recovery](#) (6-8-F12)
[Truck Manifest for Emergency Evacuation](#) (6-8-F13)
[State of RI General Release of All Claims](#) (6-8-F14)

[Volunteer Duty Roster](#) (6-8-F15)
[Staff Sign-in and Sign-out](#) (6-8-F16)
[Log of Volunteer Hours](#) (6-8-F17)
[Phone Log](#) (6-8-F18)
[Shift Situation Report](#) (6-8-F19)
[Shelter Situation Report](#) (6-8-F20)
[Supply Request](#) (6-8-F21)
[Donations Received](#) (6-8-F22)

SIGNAGE (6-8-S)

[Control Your Pet](#) (6-8-S01)
[Arrow](#) (6-8-S02)
[Registration Area](#) (6-8-S03)
[Banding Area](#) (6-8-S04)
[Dog Walk Area](#) (6-8-S05)
[Loading Area](#) (6-8-S06)
[Isolation Area](#) (6-8-S07)
[Exit](#) (6-8-S08)
[Bite Warning and Quarantine](#) (6-8-S09)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Plan is to guide the coordination of local and state resources to support the care that pets and farm animals need in the event of a disaster.

SCOPE

The scope of this Plan is the overall management, coordination, and prioritization of statewide resources that support the care that pets and farm animals need before, during, and following a declared emergency.

SITUATION

The number of domestic animals in the USA rivals the human population. In addition to tens of millions of farm stock, Americans care for about 70 million dogs and 74 million cats with a total of more than 500,000 dogs and cats in Rhode Island alone.* Thousands of yet other pets and livestock rely on these caretakers. A significant natural or man-made disaster could quickly overwhelm not only these caretakers but also local government's ability to provide backup support.

The most likely situation for activation of this Plan is a disaster (e.g., storm, flood, or power outage) that causes hundreds or thousands of Rhode Island residents to leave their homes in search of shelter. Emergency Managers would need to coordinate evacuation or rescue and temporary sheltering in multiple municipalities in multiple regions of the state.

* American Veterinary Medical Association, [U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook](#), 2012.

Such a disaster could pose threats to public health and safety such as displacement, injury and death among animals, increased risk of the spread of rabies or other zoonotic or highly contagious diseases, strain on emergency care, shelter, and rescue capabilities, interruptions in agriculture, and related issues. Addressing these hazards could also increase other human needs and drain response resources. The possibility of such a disaster necessitates a plan to address risks to animals utilizing local, State and/or Federal assistance.

Generally when a disaster is imminent in the State of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) activates the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and representatives from selected state agencies gather there for unified decision making. The Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) are the conduits for information and assistance for animal-related needs as delineated in this document. HEALTH is the primary agency for public human health issues, and DEM is the primary agency for public animal health issues.

In a state or federally declared emergency, DEM cooperates with HEALTH and RIEMA to address animal issues in a coordinated manner. State emergency support services to implement this Plan also rely on support from volunteers, particularly the Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS) and the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC).

ASSUMPTIONS

All appropriate Rhode Island State agencies and departments will be involved in emergency operations, consistent with their functions and responsibilities for animal issues attending a disaster. State and local government, private sector, and volunteer agencies that are assigned responsibilities for animal issues in a disaster should have established operating procedures that specify their functions. They will be prepared to communicate and coordinate their actions in an emergency to best deploy their capabilities.

In a disaster entailing large-scale evacuation, animal sheltering will be coordinated with human sheltering, as anticipated in the [State of Rhode Island Regional Disaster Shelters Coordination Plan](#) (August 2012).

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

With confidence that animals can fend for themselves, animal issues may be overlooked in planning for emergencies. This oversight can lead to serious problems, as when floods, fires, explosions, abandonment, injury, or hunger force animals from their habitats or when people fail to evacuate because they fear leaving a cat or dog behind. In many types of disasters, in fact, pets cannot fend for themselves. By developing procedures to care for these animals prior to such an event, this Plan may reduce the risk to public health and safety as well as the drain on state response resources.

Care of domesticated animals is primarily the responsibility of the animal's owner. Support from other people or institutions (personal, commercial or public-sector) should come first from those who are closest to the need. If owners are incapable of providing care themselves, they are expected to secure help from family, friends, or commercial facilities (e.g., boarding kennels or

pet-friendly motels). If those arrangements prove inadequate, the local shelter, pound, or Animal Control Officer (ACO) are expected to provide assistance. Insofar as the surge in animal care needs exceeds these personal, commercial, and local, public-sector capabilities, the Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS) is intended to provide relief. RISEPS facilities are shelters of last resort for cats and dogs in Rhode Island.

Phases of Emergency Management

The State Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) depicts the potential hazards to which Rhode Island could be exposed in a disaster.

The four phases of emergency management provide the framework for delivery of emergency support services. They are: *Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery*.

Direction and Control

General

This Plan shall be activated when Incident Command determines that there is a potential for a disaster that entails a significant increase in animal-care needs in Rhode Island. The decision to implement the Plan shall be coordinated with the State Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) for optimal effectiveness.

Response Requirements

- The designated primary agencies (e.g., the constituent shelters in RISEPS) must plan to be as self-sufficient as possible during the first 72 hours following an event, when there may be only limited assistance from support agencies.
- With the advice and consent of the Director of the Department of Environmental Management, the State Veterinarian or his/her designee will activate this Plan, in cooperation with relevant local authorities.

Functions

Animal-related services under this Plan are categorized in the following functional areas (indicated in italics), followed by the agencies assigned responsibility for leading or supporting each function.

Investigate animal bites and provide rabies control.

Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
Division of Agriculture, Animal Health Unit
Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH), Disease Control Division
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA)

Assist emergency responders with animal emergency care.

American Red Cross (ARC), Rhode Island Chapter
Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
Division of Agriculture, Animal Health Unit
Division of Fish and Wildlife

Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA)
Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS)
Bristol Animal Shelter
Pawtucket Animal Shelter
Potter League for Animals (PLA)
South Kingstown Animal Shelter
Westerly Animal Shelter
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA)
Roger William's Park Zoo

Provide humane care and handling of animals before, during, and after disasters and arrange for veterinary treatment or euthanasia, as required.

Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
Division of Agriculture, Animal Health Unit
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS)
Bristol Animal Shelter
Pawtucket Animal Shelter
Potter League for Animals (PLA)
South Kingstown Animal Shelter
Westerly Animal Shelter
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA)

Provide appropriate equipment and supplies for pre- and post-disaster sheltering and rescue of horses and farm livestock.

Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
Division of Agriculture, Animal Health Unit

Provide emergency medical care to injured animals.

Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
Division of Agriculture, Animal Health Unit
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS)
Bristol Animal Shelter
Pawtucket Animal Shelter
Potter League for Animals (PLA)
South Kingstown Animal Shelter
Westerly Animal Shelter
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA)

Remove and properly dispose of animal carcasses.

Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)
Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS)
Bristol Animal Shelter
Pawtucket Animal Shelter
Potter League for Animals (PLA)
South Kingstown Animal Shelter
Westerly Animal Shelter
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
Air and Hazardous Waste Division

Division of Agriculture, Animal Health Unit
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Division of Law Enforcement
Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC)

Release information to the general public through responsible spokespersons from the designated agencies, regarding such issues as quarantine areas, rabies alert, public service information announcements, etc.

Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
Division of Agriculture, Animal Health Unit
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Division of Law Enforcement
Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH)
Rhode Island Emergency Management Administration (RIEMA)
Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS)
Bristol Animal Shelter
Pawtucket Animal Shelter
Potter League for Animals (PLA)
South Kingstown Animal Shelter
Westerly Animal Shelter

ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES.

Primary Agencies

Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)
Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH)
Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RI EMA)
Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS)
Bristol Animal Shelter
Pawtucket Animal Shelter
Potter League for Animals (PLA)
South Kingstown Animal Shelter
Westerly Animal Shelter

Leadership

THE STATE VETERINARIAN or his/her designee is the leader for implementation of this Plan. The leader is responsible for the following, as the incident may require:

- Provide subject-matter expertise to RIEMA in maintaining this Plan.
- Notify and mobilize appropriate agencies for emergency animal care.
- Coordinate support agency actions in performance of assigned missions.
- Enforce state animal control statutes ([RI General Laws, Title 4](#)).
- Coordinate requests among appropriate agencies for assistance and additional resources that are necessary for the mission.
- Designate a representative to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to coordinate emergency animal-care activities that are assigned to the primary and support agencies in this Plan.
- Assist in the coordination of efforts to recover displaced animals and to dispose of carcasses.

- Coordinate with the Rhode Island Department Health (HEALTH) for the release of public information regarding animals and public health.

LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS, with support from the Animal Health Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture, are responsible for the following, as the incident may require:

- Enforce municipal animal control ordinance(s).
- Report animal bites to the appropriate authority – to the Department of Health, if the victim is human; to the Office of the State Veterinarian in the Animal Health Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture, if the victim is another animal. (See [Who to Call When a Potential Rabies Exposure Occurs.](#))
- Arrange the transportation of injured, stray, or nuisance animals to appropriate animal-care facilities. (Insofar as possible, arrange for the care of displaced companion animals in the nearest capable shelter or pound.)
- Assist emergency response teams with animal-related problems.
- Arrange for the removal and disposal of dead small animals and livestock.
- Enforce all rabies laws, regulations, and policies.
- Impound animals at-large.
- Arrange for the euthanasia of sick and/or injured animals. Seek guidance from the State Veterinarian, if necessary.
- Coordinate with DEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife to properly manage displaced and injured wildlife.
- Investigate animal cruelty and neglect complaints.
- Facilitate the capture of nuisance animals.
- Help staff emergency animal care centers.

RHODE ISLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (RIEMA) is responsible for the following, as the incident may require:

- Provide initial notification to the designated primary agencies that the State EOC is open and operational and that there is a need to implement all or portions of this Plan.
- Coordinate requests for support among other agencies that are represented in the State EOC and the Federal government.
- Maintain, refine, distribute, and initiate improvements in this Plan.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (DEM), DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE is responsible for the following, as the incident may require:

- Coordinate emergency management of farm animals.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (DEM), DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE is responsible for the following, as the incident may require:

- Manage care of displaced or injured wild animals, including protected and endangered species.
- Arrange for the return of captured wild animals to appropriate habitats.

RHODE ISLAND STATE EMERGENCY PET SHELTERS (RISEPS) are responsible for the following, as the incident may require

- Maintain a surge capacity for care and sheltering of companion animals (dogs and cats) in an emergency.

- Insofar as possible, support the care of displaced, injured, or stray animals in other licensed animal-care facilities (e.g., other local pounds that have exceeded their capacity).
- Provide training and oversight of volunteers.
- Provide regular status reports to the State Veterinarian or his/her designee in the EOC. Include a count of sheltered cats and dogs, their overall health status, remaining surge capacity, the names of deployed volunteers, and additional resource requirements.
- Insofar as possible, identify animals that are suspected of harboring infectious diseases and isolate them from the other animals in the facility.
- Maintain all established rabies management policies and procedures.
- Arrange for the removal and disposal of dead animals in RISEPS.
- Facilitate the return of RISEPS-sheltered animals to their owners.

RHODE ISLAND VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (RIVMA) is responsible for the following, as the incident may require:

- Assist in the establishment of triage units for the care of injured animals.
- Provide emergency medical equipment and supplies for animals.
- Deploy Facility Animal Support Teams (FAST) to RISEPS facilities or local shelters to assist animals that may be injured, sick, or distressed.
- Assist RISEPS facilities with proper rabies management.
- Provide additional emergency support to RISEPS.
- When appropriate, euthanize severely sick or injured animals.
- Assist with the emergency movement and sheltering of companion animals, in coordination with, Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs) and Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS), and American Red Cross (ARC), Rhode Island Chapter.

Support Agencies

The main support agency for emergency animal care in a Rhode Island is *Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS)*.

Under the direction of the RI State Veterinarian or his/her designee, RISEPS is responsible for the following, as the incident may require:

- Notify and mobilize appropriate personnel and equipment to perform or support assigned functions as designated within this Plan.
 - In coordination with the American Red Cross (ARC), Rhode Island Chapter, and the local Animal Control Officers (ACOs) assist in the placement of animals.
 - Report animal bites to the appropriate authority – to the Department of Health, if the victim is human; to the Office of the State Veterinarian in the Animal Health Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture, if the victim is another animal. (See [Who to Call When a Potential Rabies Exposure Occurs](#)).
 - Train, deploy, and oversee staffing of animal care facilities.
- Provide regular status reports to the State Veterinarian or his/her designee in the EOC. Include a count of sheltered cats and dogs, their overall health status, remaining surge capacity, the names of deployed volunteers, and additional resource requirements.

- Notify Incident Command if personnel and resource requirements exceed the support agencies' capability to perform their assigned missions.
- Coordinate mission actions of support agencies with the primary agency, the Animal Health Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture.
- Maintain a log of the use of all resources, including volunteers, for the duration of the deployment.

In turn, the following agencies have been identified as providing *support* to RISEPS:

American Red Cross (ARC)

Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Division of Agriculture, Animal Health Unit

Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA)

Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA)

Responsibilities of other *support agencies* for emergency animal care in a Rhode Island, as the incident may require:

All Support Agencies

- Follow the directions of the RI State Veterinarian or his/her designee.
- Assist in the recruitment, training, certification, equipping, and overall readiness of volunteers to respond to an animal care emergency.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island

- Assist in the transportation and care of injured and displaced wildlife.
- Assist in the capture and return of wildlife to appropriate habitats.

Plan Development and Maintenance.

Maintenance of the Rhode Island Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is the responsibility of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA). This portion of the EOP was developed with input from representatives of the Primary and Support Agencies under the aegis of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM). The State Veterinarian or his/her designee reviews this Plan to ensure that necessary updates and revisions are prepared and coordinated, based on deficiencies identified in emergencies and/or exercises. Changes to this Plan are coordinated by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency.

PHASES OF OPERATIONS FOR EMERGENCY ANIMAL CARE

Mitigation Phase

- The Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture develops this Section of the State Emergency Operations Plan and, on request, provides to the RI Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) lists of emergency animal care facilities.
- The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) provides to the Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture contact information for all ARC shelters.
- The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) provides to the Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture contact information for any pet-friendly ARC shelters.

- The Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture serves as a clearing house for emergency animal-care facilities.
- The Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS) maintain a surge capacity and a roster of volunteers qualified for emergency.
- RIEMA maintains a copy of this Plan for review and distribution.
- The Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture provides public education on emergency animal-care preparedness.

Preparedness Phase

- RIEMA alerts the State Veterinarian of an impending emergency and associated hazards in the State of Rhode Island.
- The State Veterinarian or his/her designee alerts local Animal Control Officers and RISEPS of an impending activation of this Plan and collects estimates on surge capacity at emergency pet shelter(e.g., via posts to the Shelter Board on WebEOC).
- At the direction of the State Veterinarian or his/her designee, the chief officers of RISEPS issue alerts (e.g., via email or phone tree) to confirm the response readiness of facilities staff and appropriate RISEPS support agencies.
- The DEM Division of Agriculture in coordination with appropriate support agencies (e.g., the RI Chapter of the ARC and the DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife) begins releasing a press package, informing the public that competent, emergency animal care is available and that certain public preparations to receive that care are required.
- If this plan is approved for State and Federal Recovery, a copy is maintained at the Disaster Field Office (DFO) and at the State EOC. In addition, when a regional reception and staging area has been established, a copy is maintained at that location.

Response Phase

Domestic Animals

- Local animal control officers, local shelters and pounds, and RISEPs mobilize to transfer pets whose owners need transportation assistance or strays.
- The Joint Information Center (JIC) advises animal owners to take responsibility for their pets. Priority:
 1. If you evacuate, take your pet with you.
 2. If your pet cannot stay with you at your destination, arrange for a friend or private kennel to care for it.
 3. As a last resort, if you must use a public shelter without co-located animal-care, prepare to bring your pet to your local shelter or pound or to a designated RISEPS facility.
- When necessary, owners drop off pets (with health documentation and any necessary medications) at a RISEPS facility, sign release forms, and go to a Red Cross (ARC) shelter or make other arrangements for themselves. (See appended sample Release Form.)
- If the owner arrives at an ARC Shelter with pets, the ARC Shelter Manager consults the local shelter or pound and the list of RISEPS facilities and

directs the owner to bring the pet with health documentation and any necessary medications to the closest, capable facility.

- Owners transport pets to an emergency animal care facility. If an owner is unable to provide transportation, the ARC Shelter Manager works with Local Animal Control to arrange transportation to the nearest Animal Shelter or Pound with a vacancy.

Livestock

- Since large numbers of livestock cannot usually be relocated, owners should safely shelter livestock in-place. Unless otherwise informed, owners should apply a form of identification to each animal and turn them out to pasture with an adequate supply of water.
- All personnel, evacuees, and pets remain at the closest safe location and wait there until travel becomes safe.
- When travel is safe, the owner or his/her designee transports livestock to a private emergency animal care facility, stable, or pasture.
- Livestock remain in pastures unless otherwise indicated.

Recovery Phase

- The state EOC is staffed on an appropriate schedule to communicate and coordinate with other agencies and to prioritize recovery assistance requests.
- The EOC monitors and coordinates recovery operations of municipal, volunteer, and support agencies.
- The Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture establishes, mobilizes, and deploys assessment team(s) to determine specific animal-care needs and priorities. These assessment teams coordinate with other primary and support agencies represented at the EOC, especially to support the relief of nuisance- and health-related problems involving animals and their impact on human relief efforts.
- Upon Direction of the Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture, RISEPS begins mobilization of resources and personnel and to commence recovery operations.
- The Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture requests additional resources, as needed.
- Immediately following notification to activate the recovery phase of this Plan, RISEPS completes the following actions, commensurate with emergency priorities of Incident Command and the availability of resources:
 - Assure necessary emergency operating facilities and reporting systems continue to operate.
 - Maintain communications with the EOC, obtain status reports, and keep EOC informed of progress.
 - Staff animal-care facilities in accordance with each facility's disaster recovery plan.
 - Provide for rotation or replacement of staff.
 - Provide staff for field assessment and recovery teams, as necessary.
 - Insofar as possible, return animals to their owners or the shelter or pound for the locality from which the animal originated.
- Under the direction of Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture, RISEPS continues to provide assistance in the following areas, as the incident requires:
 - Recovery of displaced animals.

- Sheltering, medical care, feeding, relocation, and reunification with owners.
- Acquisition of additional food and supplies from vendors to support the recovery efforts.
- Continued coordination with other primary and secondary agencies for timely and proper carcass disposal.
- Continued care of sheltered animals.
- Outreach for the adoption of unclaimed animals and the relocation of sick and injured animals.
- The Director of DEM or the State Veterinarian is responsible for all animal-related activity at the EOC, with guidance of this plan.
- Pet owners are responsible for retrieving their pets from emergency animal care centers or, if unable to do so, for notifying centers within five days.
- Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs), in consultation with the RI Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) assist in locating any unreached pet owners.
- All requests for animal control assistance are channeled through the State EOC to the Animal Control Dispatch Center created for the incident management or directly to the appropriately local Animal Control Officer (ACO).

ACTIVATION CHECKLISTS

The following checklists are intended to guide actions before, during and after a state animal-care emergency. In consultation with Incident Command, the State Veterinarian will determine if any or all of these actions are appropriate.

The time triggers in this schedule depend on the situation, particularly for incidents such as hurricanes, when regularly updated forecasts from the National Weather Service are relevant and available. The timing also may be adjusted in response to changes in more particular constraints, capabilities, and other conditions on the ground. If the incident occurs without warning, the activation sequence would be compressed. Many of the actions listed below would have to be accomplished concurrently.

Authority and discretion for initiating any or all of these actions rests with the Office of State Veterinarian.

Mitigation and Preparedness Phase

MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS PHASE NORMAL OPERATIONS	
Normal daily activities and monitoring of conditions are ongoing. Responses to individual incidents are handled with available personnel and resources, insofar as possible at the local level.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor hazards for animals in the state.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify opportunities to reduce risks and to improve capacity to respond to animal emergencies.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain the Animal Disaster/Animal Care Plan (Section 6-8) and Animal Disease Plan (Section 6-9) in the DEM Emergency Response Plan (DEM ERP).
<input type="checkbox"/>	In consultation with the Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelters maintain the Rhode Island Guide to Operation of Emergency Pet Shelters (Section 6-8-SOM of the DEM ERP), with appropriate facility-specific supplements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cooperate with the RI Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) to maintain “Annex VI: Emergency Support Function 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services” in the <i>State Emergency Operations Plan</i> (SEOP).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Encourage livestock owners to develop evacuation and continuity of operation plans.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor weather systems (e.g., named tropical systems) that could present a threat to the region.
<input type="checkbox"/>	

- Coordinate with relevant local, state and federal agencies as well as non-governmental support agencies to ensure coordinated emergency preparations and response. These agencies may include:
 - American Red Cross (ARC), Rhode Island Chapter
 - Local animal control (ACO) and shelter/pound management
 - RI Department of Health (HEALTH)
 - RI Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA)
 - RI Farm Bureau
 - RI Federation of Riding Clubs (RIFRC)
 - RI Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA)
 - RI State Emergency Pet Shelters (RISEPS)
 - Bristol Animal Shelter
 - Pawtucket Animal Shelter

- Potter League for Animals (PLA)
 - South Kingstown Animal Shelter
 - Westerly Animal Shelter
- RI Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA)
- Roger William's Park Zoo
- URI, Alton Jones Campus Farm
- US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (New England Area Office of USDA/APHIS/VS)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island (WRARI)

- Encourage commercial lodging and pet boarding providers to prepare for a surge in animal care needs during an emergency. Maintain public guides to those resources: [Where Can We Go? Motels](#) and [Where Can We Go? Kennels](#) (Sections 6-8-A10 and 6-8-A11 of the DEM ERP).

- Identify and participate in available training activities to enhance response capabilities.

- Protect and enhance State response personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and properties.

- Promote public education to enhance citizen preparation for emergency animal care. Media to maintain and promote include:
 - Website [EmergencyAnimal.info](#) with links to guides for animal owners
 - Brochure [Prepare Pets for RI Emergency](#) with tips for animal owners (petprepbroschure in the DEM ERP).
 - Website [HelpEAC.info](#) with support for RI cities and towns in preparing for emergency animal care.

Readiness Phase

READINESS PHASE PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES 120-72 Hours (5 Days - 3 days)
<p>A situation has been identified that could potentially require the State to implement its Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) and to activate the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The Governor has not declared a State of Emergency. No or extremely limited staffing of the SEOC.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Monitor weather advisories.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> When appropriate, issue press releases or otherwise recommend that livestock owners increase on-site security and/or begin moving large animals from more to less vulnerable properties.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Review emergency response plans, including<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “Annex VI: Emergency Support Function 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services” in the <i>State Emergency Operations Plan</i> (SEOP)○ Animal Disaster / Animal Care Plan (Section 6-8) and/or Animal Disease Plan (Section 6-9) in the RI DEM Emergency Response Plan (DEM ERP)○ Rhode Island Guide to Operation of Emergency Pet Shelters (Section 6-8-SOM) and supplements for RISEPS facilities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Brief the Chiefs of the DEM Division of Agriculture and the DEM Office of Emergency Response.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Check response vehicles, trailers, and fuel to ensure they are ready for response.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Request that the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) provide contact information for all ARC shelters for any pet-friendly ARC shelters.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> If a surge in the need for companion-animal sheltering is anticipated, advise Local Animal Control Officers and RISEPS to prepare to accommodate the surge. Issues include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Verify readiness and contact information with RISEPS facilities managers.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A count of currently sheltered cats and dogs▪ An assessment of overall health status of currently sheltered animals▪ Remaining surge capacity (number of cats and dogs)▪ A count and the names of available RISEPS volunteers▪ Additional resource requirements.

- Review relevant SOPs in
 - “Annex VI: Emergency Support Function 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services” in the *State Emergency Operations Plan* (SEOP)
 - [Animal Disaster / Animal Care Plan](#) (Section 6-8) and/or [Animal Disease Plan](#) (Section 6-9) in the RI DEM [Emergency Response Plan](#) (DEM ERP)
 - [Rhode Island Guide to Operation of Emergency Pet Shelters](#) (Section 6-8-SOM) and supplements for RISEPS facilities.
- Fuel vehicles.
- Check tires on trailers with response supplies.
- Verify generator function and fuel supply.
- Check computers, printers, and communications.
- Confirm food, first-aid, shelter, back-up communications and coordination with RI Chapter of the American Red Cross: (401) 831-7701.

- Advise RISEPS facilities to alert volunteers and to pre-stage perishables, especially necessities to shelter staff in-place and food for cats and dogs.

- Advise RIVMA to alert Facilities Animal Support Teams (FAST) callout volunteers and pre-stage supplies, including medications, to assist animals that may be injured, sick, or distressed in RISEPS facilities or local shelters.

- Finalize and distribute the [Preparedness Phase Press Release](#) (Section 6-8-PR1 in the DEM ERP).

- Establish communications for coordination with potential support agencies, such as:
 - [Animal Rescue League of Southern RI](#) (ARLSRI): Shelter (401) 783-7606; Office 792-2233.
 - [Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.](#), Shelter & Love Disaster Relief Network (to request urgent pet nutrition distribution), email DisasterRelief@hillspet.com.
 - [Humane Society of the United States](#) (HSUS), Emergency Services, [National Disaster Animal Response Team](#): National Office (202) 452-1100 or (866) 720-2676; Northeastern Regional Office: (802) 368-2790.
 - [National Veterinary Response Team](#) (NVRT), DHHS Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations (OPEO), [Regional Emergency Coordinator, Region 1](#): (617) 565-1159
 - [PetSmart Charities](#): 1-800-423-7387 ext. 2840 or the Emergency Relief Waggin' Program 602-320-2719
 - [Providence Animal Rescue League](#) (PARL): (401) 421-1399
 - [RI Chapter of American Red Cross](#) (ARC): (401) 831-7701
 - [RI Disaster Medical Assistance Team](#) (RI DMAT): (401) 385-3911
 - Transportation (ESF-1), [RI Department of Transportation](#) (RIDOT): (401) 222-1362 or (401) 222-2481; [RI Public Transit Authority](#) (RIPTA): (401) 781-9400 or (401) 784-9500, ext. 180
 - [RI Federation of Riding Clubs](#) (RIFRC): (401) 397-9242 or (401) 861-1427
 - [RI Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#) (RISPCA): (401) 438-8150

- [RI Veterinary Medical Association](#) (RIVMA): (401) 751-0944
- [RI Veterinary Technician Association](#) (RIVTA): contact via [email](#)
- [Roger Williams Park Zoo](#) (RWP Zoo): (401) 785-3510
- [US Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS)
 - [Eastern Region Animal Care](#) (ESF-11): (919) 855-7100
 - [New England Area Office](#): (508) 363-2290 or (508) 889-7211
 - [National Veterinary Stockpile](#) (NVS): (800) 940-6524 or (301) 851-3595
 - [Emergency Management Response System](#) (EMRS): (877) 944-8457
 - National Center for Animal Health Emergency Management (NCAHEM): 301-851-3595 or 800-940-6524
- [Veterinary Medical Assistance Team](#) (VMAT-1): 800-248-2862 ext. 6632 or (847) 285-6632
- [Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of RI](#) (WRARI): (401) 294-6363.

- Advise Local Animal Control Officers, shelters and pounds to prepare for a potential surge in need for animal care and, insofar as possible, assist them in increasing capacity. Issues to coordinate include:
 - Establishing channels of communication to request assistance (directly or through the SEOC).
 - Protection (or if necessary, relocation) of animals currently in town pound/shelter.
 - Receiving or relocating evacuees.

Increased Readiness Phase

INCREASED READINESS PHASE PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES 72 – 48 Hours (3 Days – 2Days)	
<p>A situation has developed that will require the State to take action under the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP). A State of Emergency might be issued in anticipation of state-level involvement in response activities, including animal emergency care.</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor Weather status.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brief the Chiefs of the DEM Division of Agriculture and the DEM Office of Emergency Response.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Develop an Incident Action Plan for Animal Care (ESF 6 in the State EOP).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suspend non-essential services of the DEM Division of Agriculture.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote public information, emphasizing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The finalized Preparedness Phase Press Release (Section 6-8-PR1 in the DEM ERP)○ Guides for proper emergency care of animals through the website EmergencyAnimal.info○ Continuity of operations for livestock growers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommend that pet owners who reside in vulnerable areas now prepare ID kits and Go-kits to evacuate WITH their animals.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommend that livestock owners increase on-site security and/or move large animals from more to less vulnerable properties.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stage resources to support RISEPS facilities. Issues include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Request from RIEMA one 800 MHz radio for each RISEPS facility.○ Move RI DEM trailers with animal-emergency-response equipment to a secure, accessible position.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Verify readiness of Facilities Animal Support Teams (FAST) to assist animals that may be injured, sick, or distressed in RISEPS facilities or local shelters. Issues include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Number of FAST volunteers

- Quantity of FAST supplies, including medications.

Verify RISEPS readiness. Issues include:

- RISEPS facilities place staff and volunteers on standby (e.g., via blast email):
 - Anticipate a check-in time, place, and duration of deployment.
 - Arrange personal, household and dependent protections.
 - Ready Go Kits, with personal supplies for 3 days.
 - Report availability to the RISEPS-facility operations manager
- RISEPS facilities acquire and secure supplies for emergency animal care (especially perishables such as food and medicine and cleaning supplies)
- Managers of each RISEPS facility report readiness to the ESF 6 desk in the SEOC.
 - Number and names of volunteers to be deployed.
 - Capacity (number of dogs and cats) that the facility is prepared to shelter.
 - Need for additional resources.

Begin Resource Tracking.

- Request that local emergency managers collect and regularly update estimates of local pet-sheltering capacity (e.g., post to the Shelter Board in WebEOC the number of dogs and cats that could be accepted in local pounds or shelters), especially in communities that will also host an ARC shelter.
- Request regular situation reports from the RISEPS facility managers.

Begin Event Log.

- A count of sheltered cats and dogs
- An assessment of overall health status of sheltered animals
- Remaining surge capacity (number of cats and dogs)
- A count and the names of deployed volunteers
- Additional resource requirements.

Begin documentation of response activities and financial costs related to the incident.

Re-evaluate threat and situation.

Response Phase

RESPONSE PHASE WATCH/WARNING ISSUED 48-24 Hours (2 Days – 1 Day)
<p>The SEOP is being implemented. The State Emergency Operations Center has been partially or fully staffed, appropriate to the potential threat. The Governor may have issued or is considering issuance of a State Emergency declaration and/or there may be a Federal declaration (Emergency or Major Disaster) already in effect.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Finalize and distribute the Response Phase Press Release (Section 6-8-PR2 in the DEM ERP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Notify the managers of RISEPS facilities to mobilize their emergency response staff and volunteers and track activation.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Assemble and update the count of volunteers at each RISEPS facility.<input type="checkbox"/> Submit to RIEMA a “Notification of Training & Pre-Planned Missions” to request that volunteers qualify for State liability protections.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> As needed, arrange for reception of dogs and cats at RISEPS facilities in advance of evacuation orders (when the Governor declares a “State of Emergency”) and coordinate with ARC shelters.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Activate and track the status of Facility Animal Support Teams (FAST).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Help staff ESF #6 (“Animal Care” within “Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services”) in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to the ESF #6 Incident Action Plan for the next 24 hour period.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Brief SEOC staff on animal-emergency response and recovery planning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to monitor the track of the storm.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Carry out initial damage assessments and evaluate the overall situation, including updates from local animal control.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Update Status Boards/Events Log and report to the appropriate agencies.

- A count of sheltered cats and dogs
- An assessment of overall health status of sheltered animals
- Remaining surge capacity (number of cats and dogs)
- A count and the names of deployed volunteers
- Additional resource requirements.

Take all necessary actions to preserve life and property utilizing available resources.

Coordinate response and support functions with outside agencies and volunteer organizations.

Coordinate Operations, Logistics, Planning and Admin/Finance functions.

Maintain documentation and tracking of financial costs related to the event.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

Authority

FEDERAL

The Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

Public Law 100- 707, (Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act).

STATE

General Laws of Rhode Island. Title 30, Chapter 15, Rhode Island Defense Civil Preparedness Act of 1973, as amended.

References

[Animal Disaster / Animal Care Plan](#) and [Animal Disease Plan](#), Sections 6-8 and 6-9 in the DEM [Emergency Response Plan](#).(separately promulgated).

DEFINITIONS OF ACRONYMS AND TERMS

Acronyms

ACO: Animal Control Officer
AHS: American Humane Society
ARC: American Red Cross
DART: Disaster Animal Response Team
DEM: Department of Environmental Management
EOC: Emergency Operations Center
EOP: Emergency Operations Plan
FAST: Facility Animal Support Team
HEALTH: Rhode Island Department of Health
HSUS: Humane Society of the United States
PARL: Providence Animal Rescue League
PLA: Potter League for Animals (Private Organization)
RIACOA: Rhode Island Animal Control Officers Association
RIAS: Rhode Island Audubon Society
RIDEM: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
RIEMA: Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency
RIFRC: Rhode Island Federation of Riding Clubs
RIGL: Rhode Island General Law
RIRRC: Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation
RISEPS: Rhode Island State Emergency Pet Shelter
RISPCA: Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
RIVMA: Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association
SOE: State of Emergency
USFWS: The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Federal Agency)
VSA: Volunteer Services for Animals

Terms

Euthanasia - The act of humanely ending a severely sick or injured animal's life support.
Federal Disaster Declaration - A determination by the President of the United States that a disaster is of such magnitude and severity to warrant major disaster assistance to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local government and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.
Rehabilitation - To restore to a former state or condition.
State of Emergency - By Declaration of a Governor or the Chief Elected Official of a local community (Mayor, Council President, Town Manager), an incident that is beyond the scope of State or local government's ability to respond/protect local population and property.
State Veterinarian - Staff Member of the state Department of Environmental Management.
Triage - A system designed to produce the greatest benefit from limited treatment facilities by degree of injury/stress.
Quarantine - A period of time during which an animal suspected of carrying a contagious disease is detained/observed under enforced isolation to prevent disease from entering into the general population or natural habitat.

RI STATE EMERGENCY PET SHELTERS (RISEP)

Site	Address	Phone	Capacity (# animals)
Bristol Animal Shelter	10 Minturn Farm Road Bristol, RI 02809	401-253-4834	
Pawtucket Animal Shelter	Slater Park, 401 Newport Ave Pawtucket, RI 02860	401-729-7496	
Potter League for Animals	87 Oliphant Lane Middletown, RI 02842	401-846-8276	
South Kingstown Animal Shelter	132 Asa Pond Road Wakefield, RI 02879	401-789-5515	
Westerly Animal Shelter	33 Larry Hirsch Lane Westerly, RI 02891	401-596-2022	

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE PRIMARY SHELTER LIST†

Site	Address	ARC National Sheltering System (NSS) Designation	Capacity (# people)
LEPC Region 1			
Cumberland High School	2602 Mendon Road Cumberland, RI 02864	Primary NSS: 75873	900
LEPC Region 2			
Providence Career & Technical Academy	41 Fricker Street Providence, RI 02903	Primary NSS: 136699	400
LEPC Region 3			
Veterans Memorial High School	2401 West Shore Road Warwick, RI 02886	Primary NSS: 54622-	384
LEPC Region 4			
Chariho High and Middle School	453 Switch Road Wood River Junction, RI 02894	Primary NSS: 55206 & 55208	600
South Kingstown High School	215 Columbia Street Wakefield, RI 02879	Primary NSS:	
LEPC Region 5			
Joseph H. Gaudet Middle School	1113 Aquidneck Avenue Middletown, RI 02842	Primary NSS: 10680	549
Melrose Elementary School	76 Melrose Avenue Jamestown, RI 02835	Open pre-evacuation / close post storm if long-term options are needed NSS: 55045	500
Tiverton Middle School	10 Quintal Drive Tiverton, RI 02878	Open pre-evacuation / close post storm if long-term options are needed NSS: 59770	175

† American Red Cross – Rhode Island Chapter, Regional Primary Shelter List, [State of Rhode Island Regional Disaster Shelters Coordination Plan](#) (August 2012), Attachment 2.