

procedures in real time, thereby validating emergency preparedness plans in the veterinary diagnostic laboratory. Moreover, simulations provide an excellent occasion to interact with local animal health partners, thereby facilitating coordination during an actual emergency.

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Establishment of Safer Animal Rescue Capacity in Turkey

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Study/Objective: The main objectives were to prevent flooding and its effects in the long-term through local institutional capacity building in the Southeastern Anatolian Region. Specific objectives were to improve the capacities of local governmental and non-governmental organizations in flood management, in the prevention of flood, in mitigating infrastructure, and economic and social losses caused by flood.

Background: Regarding the mitigating flood risk in flooded areas in the SAR Project open call, Sanliurfa Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate (DEMD) and SAR Culture, the Research and Development Association prepared a project titled "Capacity Building for Decreasing Animal Losses from Flood in Sanliurfa" and was accepted by the financing authority.

Methods: Activity 1: Establishment of a Project Team. Activity 2: Preparation of Training Materials: Training materials needed include first aid for small and large animals, rescuing animals in dramatic situations with appropriate methods, infectious diseases, proper techniques of animal handling, restraint and evacuation, hygiene, and post-flood animal care and nutrition. Activity 3: Training: The animal welfare training duration was 10 days. Trainers were veterinarians, Sanliurfa emergency personnel, and geographers. It has been emphasized to participants that rescuing animals is important, along with people, in floods or other natural disasters. Some part of training has been carried out by emergency personnel. In this context, rope application for animals is practical. In addition, duties of emergency personnel, fire protection, and humanitarian rescue in the earthquake and flood areas were explained.

Results: The activities that were provided under the project expanded the knowledge of emergency personnel in animal welfare. Animal welfare training has been given to 70 young people engaged in animal husbandry. These volunteers have become aware of intervening animals, together with veterinarians and emergency personnel, using appropriate techniques.

Conclusion: The project is a positive contribution to animal welfare. An Animal Rescue Center has been established within the Sanliurfa fire brigade.

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Veterinary Oversight of a Short-Term Housing and Veterinary Care Facility for Companion Animals Evacuated due to a Wildfire in Alberta, Canada

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Study/Objective: This case study describes veterinary oversight of a short-term housing and veterinary care facility for animals evacuated due to a wildfire.

Background: Under significant threat of a wildfire, a short-notice mandatory evacuation order was issued for the city of Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada. Eighty-eight thousand residents fled the city. Given the unforeseen nature of the evacuation, many residents had to leave their companion animals behind. With owner permission, animals were retrieved from their homes, examined by a veterinary professional, and staged at a local facility. Stable animals were transported by ground to an 80,000 square foot facility in Edmonton, Alberta for short-term housing, veterinary care, and reunification.

Methods: Under the direction of representatives of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, 24 hour veterinary oversight was provided for all aspects of animal care, including intake, triage, housing, and medical treatment. Animals arrived in Edmonton in groups ranging between 16 and 251 animals. Pending anticipated intake volume, a minimum of 2 and maximum of 24 veterinary professionals were at the facility at any given time. Upon arrival, each animal underwent a physical examination by a veterinarian. Animals in good health were cared for in species-specific housing areas. Animals requiring minor medical care were treated by a veterinarian and housed in a medical treatment area. Given a limited scope of diagnostic and therapeutic resources, animals in need of testing or treatment beyond minor care were transferred to local veterinary practices for assessment and medical treatment.

Results: Between May 9 and May 19, 2016, there were 1,192 companion animals (feline, avian, small mammal, reptile, amphibian, canine, and arachnid) received, examined, provided with veterinary care, and housed.

Conclusion: Local veterinary practices contributed essential care to sick and injured animals. Veterinary oversight of the short-term housing facility would not have been possible without the compassion and expertise of 151 volunteer veterinary professionals.

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Animals in Disasters: Lessons Learned from California's 2015 Valley Fire

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Study/Objective: Lessons learned from California's 2015 Valley Fire can aid in preparing the next clinic or community for disaster.

Background: Fire swept through 70,000 acres and 3 populated communities in less than 48 hours, destroying over 1,400 homes and affecting countless animals. Few people had time to prepare to evacuate. There was little government resources for animals. Private practitioners, animal rescue organizations, and trained animal disaster rescuers shouldered the responsibility for animal needs while working within a government response structure.

Methods: Middletown Animal Hospital was activated by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal-OES), and multiple rescue groups were authorized to deploy to aid the hospital's response. Veterinary care and shelter was provided to lost, injured, or displaced animals presented to us by owners, residents, relief workers, disaster responders, or anyone else with a need. Volunteer veterinarians and technicians rotated through the hospital. All animals treated were documented and posted to social media as a reunification resource. Additional site options were developed. These efforts were synthesized on the fly because there was no pre-existing plan.

Results: More than 800 animals were treated over 4 weeks. The Middletown Animal Donation Operation received and distributed over \$80,000 of animal supplies. Nearly every domestic species was treated; conditions treated included burns, smoke inhalation, vomiting/diarrhea, heart failure, and dermatitis; surgeries performed included amputation, tendon repair, wound/burn debridement/repair, and prolapsed rectal repair.

Conclusion: Lessons Learned include: Prepare and Pre-Defend your space. Prepare for evacuation - and evacuate! Prepare for surviving the fire or re-entry by anticipating worst case needs. If you are a veterinarian, your clinic may become the best place from which to stage animal relief and rescue. Get disaster training and certification. Do not count on the government to provide animal disaster relief. Organized Veterinary Medicine and Animal Rescue Groups can provide relief. Be prepared by establishing working relationships ahead of time and seek help when needed.

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Incorporation of Experiential Learning for Disaster Response for Veterinary Students, Veterinarians, and Other Animal Stakeholder Groups, Strengthens Overall Community Resilience

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Study/Objective: This outlines a dynamic training program that is incorporated into the professional curriculum at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine

(LSU-SVM). The program's success is based on providing tools necessary for building a community animal response team, whereby veterinary doctors and other animal stakeholders work with emergency officials to care for animals during disaster response situations.

Background: Veterinarians, medical doctors, firefighters, and nurses are among the top respected professionals in the world today. The veterinary professional's daily focus on saving lives makes their leadership role a vital one for development of community disaster response planning, and mitigation for both animals and people. For veterinarians to be effective leaders in disaster situations, they must be trained in basic core competencies, including the Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS), animal euthanasia, biosecurity, all-hazards emergency preparedness, business continuity training, technical responder training, and incident de-briefing. Specific instruction on biosecurity and euthanasia are staples included in standard veterinary professional curricula; business planning and continuity are available as elective courses in veterinary schools and ICS/NIMS are available to the public via the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Methods: The LSU-SVM and the LSU-Ag Center partnering with the Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LSART), have developed a training certificate program to develop core competencies of disaster response (large animal emergency technical rescue, slack water rescue, hazardous material management, triage, planning and assessment) for veterinary students and graduates, animal stakeholder groups and other animal care professionals.

Results: The LSART/LSU partnership has trained over 1,000 veterinary students, veterinarians, first responders, and animal care personnel since 2001.

Conclusion: With the integration of specific disaster response training modules within the veterinary professional curriculum, graduate veterinarians are better equipped to contribute to community disaster response situations, thus strengthening overall community resilience.

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Veterinary Integration into Multi-agency Disaster Response: Training the Next Generation of Responders

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Study/Objective: Outline a protocol for training and integrating veterinary students, veterinarians and first responders to improve community resilience during disasters.

Background: Veterinarians take an oath to use 'scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society', which includes