



Animals in Disaster Working Group Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 2, 2024

The meeting commenced at 10:00am.

I. In attendance:

American Red Cross: J. Winston

California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association: S. Runyon

Cal Animals Emergency Management Committee (Cal Animals): R. Soulsby

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA): A. Jones, Asha Raj,
G. Schumaker

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES): D. Chapman,
J. Griffith, S. Halpain, S. Murdock, J. Ortega, N. Richmond, L. Stanley

California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CAVMRC): J. Kerr

California Community Animal Response Teams (Cal CART): C. Sonder, N. Tobias

Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control: A. Ferrufino

Nevada County Sheriff's Department, Humane Emergency Animal Response Team (HEART): S. Geckler

Northern Valley Animal Disaster Group (NVDAG): J. Maretti, G. Needles

Riverside County Animal Services: Lt. J. Huffman

Solano Community Animal Response Team: L. Towell

CVET: A. Patterson

UC Cooperative Extension: T. Schohr

II. Stakeholder Updates (N. Richmond)

CDFA is currently inundated with the Avian Flu Response and why they have not been attending meetings. If interested, please check CDFA's Animal Health and Food Safety Services Division for updates on the Avian Flu Response: [CDFA - Animal Health and Food Safety Services Division](#)

III. Ad Hoc Committees Updates

a. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Template (R. Soulsby)

Currently using Google Docs to develop the MOU template which gives the ability to Ad Hoc members to edit the document. Committee is projecting to have a completed draft in February 2025 and hopes to continue this Ad Hoc to develop other MOU Templates. Next meeting will be scheduled in December 2024.

b. Animal Resources/Training Standardization (Dr. C. Sonder)

Developed template with the description of the position with a column to the right of the position, which includes the training necessary to be able to be ordered as a resource.

IV. California Community Animal Response Teams (Cal CART) Summit, Davis, March 13-14, 2025 (N. Tobias)

- Survey developed for 2024 Cal CART Summit attendees, and topics were created from the survey for the 2025 Conference.
- Structured Thursday's agenda in hopes that state agency partners stay to network during the social networking reception.
- Shelley Halpain (Cal OES) will lead the fundraising breakout session.
- Registration opens no later than February 1, 2025.
- For more upcoming information on the agenda, subscribe to be a member at: [Cal CARTs | California Community Animal Response Team](#).
- Q (T. Schohr): Would it be possible to highlight the Agricultural Pass (Ag Pass) Program?
 - A (N. Tobias): Yes, we can work that into the agenda.

V. New Business

a. Cal OES, Emergency Functions Planning Unit (N. Richmond)

- Operational Area (OA) Workshops: Met with CDFA and Cal OES Regions to discuss moving forward with OA workshops and developing an outline. Topics for the workshops will include small animals as well as livestock. Please contact Noele.Richmond@caloes.ca.gov or Danielle.Chapman@caloes.ca.gov if you have topics you would like to see for the workshops as well as topics you would like to see in future AIDWG meetings.
 - J. Winston (ARC): Please let ARC know if any support is needed during future meetings with the OAs.

b. ARC (J. Winston)

Shelter support during statewide fire response: 624 animals – 412 dogs, 186 cats, 13 small animals, nine birds, four reptiles.

c. CalOES, Southern Region (J. Ortega)

- Attended Catastrophic Incident Base Plan Workshop. Various OAs and mass care partners attended, and service animal topic was included.
- Cal Mac Tabletop Exercises (TTXs): Southern Region will continue assisting the other regions with the five TTXS.
- AB 781: Several questions from OA partners and nonprofit organizations who would like to gather more information on AB 781 language.
- Upcoming Trainings: Los Angeles/Long Beach Nuclear Detonation Response Tabletop on 12/3.
- Striving to work with the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Basecamp. Although they are Federal, Southern Region wants to understand their needs, how to provide some assistance, and continue cross-collaboration.
- Still in the recovery stages for the Mountain Fire, Line Fire, Bridge Fire, and Airport Fire.

d. Cal Animals (R. Soulsby)

- Will host free one-hour webinars on disaster training, specifically on incident action plans and situation status reports. Webinars geared toward animal services. Next webinar will be on 12/19/14, 1400 hours. Please follow the link to register: <https://www.calanimals.org/on>

e. Cal OES, Inland Region (L. Stanley, S. Murdock)

L. Stanley

- Region 3 Cal Mac TTX is scheduled for 12/12/24 in Red Bluff, CA. Cal Mac TTXs for Regions 4 and 5 will be scheduled for early, 2025.
- MARAC Meeting Reminder: Meetings happen quarterly and AIDWG members are encouraged to attend to provide updates regarding animals as well as information on the 2025 CART Summit. Please email Lindsey.Stanley@caloes.ca.gov if you would like to be added to the invite list.

S. Murdock

- Post-Fire Season Concerns: Animal concerns, mainly regarding AB 781 and what it means for the OAs. The legislation language is a bit ambiguous, so Cal OES Regions will be working with N. Richmond and D. Chapman to develop a Fact Sheet on AB 781. Hopefully, this answers most of the common questions among

OAs and how they should be incorporating animal care into their next Emergency Operations Plan update.

- Developing a flow chart for ordering veterinary resources to go along with existing fact sheets.

VI. Adjournment and Future Meeting Dates

a. This meeting adjourned at 10:41 am

b. Future Meeting Dates

- February 10, 2025
- April 22, 2025
- July 14, 2025
- November 24, 2025

Note: Dates are subject to change, and additional meeting dates may be added as necessary.