

Commonwealth of Virginia

Equine Disaster Preparedness

Compiled by:

**Barbara S. Ford, Executive Director
EQUI-KIDS Therapeutic Riding Program
Virginia Beach, Virginia
September 2005
Rewrite: April 2006
Updated: February 2009**

Preparing for a Disaster

Know the Chain of Command in your city

Sample: Virginia Beach, VA. Disasters are declared FIRST by localities. Local laws will dictate.

1. Mayor or
2. City Manager
3. County Board of Supervisors
4. Local Emergency Management Department
 - a. Local emergency manager or director
 - b. Operational Area (OA) Emergency Response Plan Coordinator
 - i. Emergency Management
 - c. Public Utilities
5. Animal Response Coordinator –Animal Control Superintendent,
 - a. Needs to have the following information:
 - i. List of Equine Operations in the Local Area
 - ii. Estimate of numbers of equine in locales
 - iii. List of Equine Operations in the State
 - iv. List of Equine Operations in neighboring states
 - b. Has to have ability to track emergency response teams who are tasked with the retrieval and removal of stranded horses
 - c. A centralized (state-wide) “hotline” needs to be initiated as a central “command center” for volunteers/veterinarians and other key contact/staff.
6. Local veterinarians who will accompany teams on rescue missions needed in order to euthanize and/or tranquilize traumatized horses.
 - a. Armed security guards will need to accompany rescue teams once disaster has occurred. With Katrina, vets/rescue teams were not allowed access to disaster areas until they had armed forces with them.
 - b. Vets/rescue teams will need credentials to be admitted to disaster areas. If the veterinary teams are credentialed or ‘resource typed’ using National Incident Management System (NIMS) standards, listed as SART or CART volunteers, and, as such, deployed by the VA Department of Emergency Management or local emergency management, there should be little to no need for security because the local incident command will be expecting them to arrive.
7. Horse Owners/Farm Managers
8. Volunteer Agencies to assist
 - a. 4-H Clubs
 - b. Horse Clubs
 - c. Church youth groups

Know the Chain of Command at the State Level:

1. Governor – director of Emergency Management for the state.
 - a. Appoints the State Coordinator of Emergency Management
 - b. Can declare a State of Emergency if applicable to the event
 - c. Can request a federal disaster declaration if applicable

2. VA Department of Emergency Management
 - a. Coordinates the Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)
 - i. This includes the VA Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) as the state lead on animal and agricultural emergency events through Emergency Support Function #11 of the VERT.
 - ii. Local or State Animal Response Teams (Vets who get activated by the VDACS for emergency response to disasters)
 - b. ESF #11 responds to requests for assistance from jurisdictions
 - c. Supplies resources to local jurisdictions – either state resources or federal depending on the level of emergency.
 - i. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) now coordinates the Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT). These can be requested by the state to assist a locality in an emergency.
 - ii. Federal National Veterinary Response Teams can be requested by the state when a state declaration of emergency is in effect.
3. Operational Area Point of Contact
Emergency Management Training, Analysis & Simulation Center (EMTASC), Suffolk, Virginia - (Gov Warner press release: 8-31-05)

Know the Chain of Command at the Federal Level

1. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) – In charge of integrating Vet services into Federal Disaster Management Plans
2. By 2006, there is supposed to be a National Animal Identification System in place for cattle that will centralize identification information on all livestock (mad cow started this). Also good for recording keeping on dead and unclaimed animals. *Contact Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs (www.vdacs.virginia.gov/animals/animalid.html).

General Information for Equine Owners

Update Medical Information on each equine

1. Sample of Horse Health Sheets at www.lahg.net
2. Negative Coggins test for horses/ponies is usually mandatory across regions when evacuation is necessary.
3. Current shots (Tetanus, East/West, West Nile, etc.)
4. Registration or identification papers on each animal.
5. Sample of Liability Releases (for shelter farms) at www.Americanhumanesociety.org
6. Sample of Volunteer Releases
 - a. Make a **file for each horse** and purchase a portable file carrier to transport.
 - b. **Photograph each horse** (front, back and side shots) and put with file for easier identification by others. Also, take the photo with you and your horse for ease of owner identification if reclaiming is needed.
 - c. Have **ownership documents/registration papers/donation papers**.
 - d. **Equine Evacuation Documentation Form – Sample at www.lahg.net**

Many states will waive **Health Certificates** in times of crisis - check with local authorities in neighboring states.

1. Virginia Veterinary Association (need current telephone/email)
2. Maryland Veterinary Association
3. North Carolina Veterinary Association
4. Kansas VMA Animal Care Plan available

Identification for Equines

Does your state or neighboring states require **micro chipping of equines**?

1. Avid Equine (www.avidequineid.com)
2. Hurricane Collars
3. Waterproof livestock markers for identification (put program/farm name and CELL numbers). Fully charge all cell phones and have vehicle recharger with you.
4. Fetlock ID Bands available at Palm Beach County Florida Horse Industry Board Council (561) 795-2466

Pre and Post-Stage Areas

1. Coordinate pre and post-stage sites **PRIOR TO** the disaster. Supplies to be directed to that site and stockpiled to make it easier to obtain after disaster.
2. Have “Official Emergency Personnel” wear badges and also shirts of same color so they can be easily identified. Credentials are **VITAL**.
3. Is someone available to log daily entries as to the condition of evacuees/those who stayed behind (journal entries)?
4. Need **personnel to man database** entries of all incoming evacuated horses/owners
 - a. Laptop computers. Access to power/more battery sources?
 - b. Backup discs for hourly backup. Need extra discs/file boxes to contain.
5. Need staffing 24/7 (rotational shifts)

Emergency Shelters

1. Have “on call” Vets and Farriers available at emergency shelters (in take) provide microchipping, shots and health vaccines/records for evacuated horses. Vets need to be large animal vets who are accustomed to working in outdoor environments.
**There needs to be a centralized “pre disaster site” with inventory of disaster supplies needed by Vets once mobilized for disaster relief.
2. Vets will need access to X-Ray machines (mobile) and accessories in order to deal with injuries.
3. Need release forms for Vets/Owners.
4. Also need reciprocal agreements or “MOU” (Memorandum of Understanding) for Vets/Cities/Locales. This could be critical to the possibility of reimbursement funds after an emergency.
 - a. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) List for emergency Vets. AVMA also has an Emergency Preparedness Response Guide (1994) available to for distribution (847) 925-8070
 - b. California CVMA has a Disaster Resource Guide (1993) (916) 344-4985
 - c. State Vet/Director: POC: Richard Wilkes (804) 692-0601, Richard.wilkes@vdacs.virginia.gov
 - d. American Association of Equine Practitioners: POC: Venaye Reece, DVM (803) 486-0215. The AAEP has Educational Pamphlets on Emergency Preparedness for distribution (859)233-0147.
 - e. American Farriers Association
 - f. Lone Star Links (www.lser.org)
 - g. Local Mounted Patrol Units

Assess Needs Prior to an Emergency

Do you have a written as well as a known “plan”? Plans are only good if all players know what to do. Be sure to coordinate your emergency plan with that of your locality’s emergency management department to ensure you both know how you plan to respond, what to expect and how you can help each other.

PRACTICE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN TO SEE WHAT NEEDS TO BE FIXED BEFORE A DISASTER HAPPENS!

1. NARHA Accreditation Standard A6 (Therapeutic Riding Programs)
2. Have an Emergency/Risk Management Plan for your area
3. Florida Animal Disaster Plan – (www.agen.ufl.edu/ap/foodsaf/dho32)
4. PRACTICE Emergency Plans both in the day and evening
5. Have an Alternate Plan (“Plan B”) in order to be flexible
6. Have “A” and “B” “Teams” who can be “on call” at first sign of disaster
 - a. “A Teams” would be the evacuators (they would transport or follow horses to another location).
 - b. “B Teams” would either stay behind or go with horses once evacuated.
7. Know where the local hospitals are located and have directions prepared
8. Know where all circuit breakers and water cutoffs are located.
9. Develop a “buddy system” network of other horse owners in your area.

10. Do you have Emergency Plans for specific emergencies?
 - a. Hurricanes (coastal and inland plans). Hurricane Season runs June 1st to November 30th each year. See above for specific information.
 - b. Floods
 - i. Do you have a site located on higher ground to which you can evacuate if enough lead-time is given?
 - ii. If caught by surprise, how do you protect your livestock?
 - c. Tornados
 - i. Types/intensity factors
 - ii. Emergency alert systems
 - iii. Basement or lowest section of site
 - d. Fire
 - e. Earthquakes
 - i. Are buildings built to withstand small tremors?
 - ii. How about larger tremors or full blown quakes?
 - f. Winter Storms
 - i. How will you get to livestock?
 - ii. Water/feed supplies
 - iii. Emergency generators

Know Your Program's Chain of Command Keep cell phone info on laminated cards and place with key people within your organization and perhaps an out-of-state contact. **What if the "lead" person is unavailable or needed elsewhere, can your staff cope and move evacuations along?**

1. President
2. Executive Director
3. Program Director
4. Volunteer Director

Have a Center Communications Plan:

Have your emergency numbers printed and laminated on a small, wallet-sized card in order to hand to first responder people in your organization: (tailor these numbers to each locale)

1. Veterinarian
2. Farrier
3. Insurance Contacts and File Numbers (both equine, person and facility)
4. Board President/Board members who would be involved in clean-up, relocation and/or media relations.
5. Volunteers
6. Certain vendors (feed/hay dealers)

Media Coverage

Have a designated Communications POC for media (President or Executive Director). NEVER answer, "I don't know" - tell them you will research and find an answer and get back with them.

1. Coordinate with the Public Information Officer (PIO) at the Incident Command whether local or state to be sure you have a consistent message to the media and the general public.
 - a. How bad is the damage? Equine? Staff? Facility?
 - b. Who is the Lead Communicator? Plan this out prior to emergencies.
 - c. Do all staff/volunteers have updated Tetanus shots?
2. Can you manage for two or three weeks without electricity? Do you have a generator and enough fuel to power it? Do you know how to operate it?
 - a. Cell phones and adapters? Telephones?
 - b. What can you do to prevent looting if you are gone?

How and When to Evacuate?

If the disaster is a Hurricane or Tornado, trailers should NOT be on the road if winds exceed 35 mph. This can happen up to 72 hours "out" from when storm is predicted to make landfall. The time to evacuate is long before the winds pick up (at least three to six days out from "0").

1. What is your State or City's countdown to evacuation timeframe?
2. Coordinate with local emergency management offices to obtain this information.
3. The state of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan has a Hurricane Plan annex containing the state parameters for evacuation of multiple jurisdictions.

www.vaemergency.com

Have a "**Countdown to 0**" Plan (ie: Tropical Storm, Cat 1, Cat 2, Cat 3 and above plans).

Know when it is time to evacuate.

1. Five to six days out
2. Three to four days out
3. 48 hours out
4. 24 hours out
5. "0" – threat is imminent

Is your barn able to withstand:

1. Tropical Force Winds (35 mph)
2. Cat 1 Hurricane Force Winds (74-95 mph and 4-5' tidal surge)
3. Cat 2 Winds (96-110 mph and 6-8' tidal surge)

Are there two routes in/out of farm in case one is blocked?

1. Which, if any, areas are prone to flooding?
2. Will fallen trees hinder road access?

Have an out-of-state contact and give to key people of your organization (staff).

Inventory feeds/grains/bran/medicines/supplements

1. Store in airtight and waterproof containers
2. Have enough feed/hay to take with evacuated horses and enough stored on site for return.
3. Homeopathic needs (www.drasko.com/emergency)

Clorox, clean and fill all troughs with water. Fill containers with water (make sure lids fit securely for transport if needed).

Have trucks/trailers regularly inspected.

1. All fluids checked as a part of regular maintenance. This needs to be done on a yearly basis, perhaps when your program has “down” time.
2. Fill all vehicles with gas. You may need to evacuate in a hurry and power may be affected after a storm.

Do all the equine load in trailers? Day as well as nighttime? Times of emergency are not the time to find out a horse/pony won't load.

Do you have other “barn animals” to care for/monitor?

1. Do you have crates for traveling?
2. Water containers? Food?

Program Equipment

Assess and Inventory equipment *prior to* an emergency. Take pictures of all tack/vehicles/horses etc., and carry in a waterproof container with you.

Barn

1. Tractors, lawn mowers (farm equipment) – do these need to be moved to interior wall space or removed from property?
2. Ring equipment (cavaletti, barrels, cones, poles etc) – anything that could be a projectile needs to be relocated to inside a secure building.
3. Tack (saddles, bridles and all related horse equipment). Can they be easily stored in trailers not in use? Which items can you NOT live without?
4. Trailers (will you need these to evacuate?)(Can they be they located above flood areas?) Obtain trailer ties to secure trailers to ground.
5. Halters/Leads in good repair (not frayed/broken)
6. Bedding for evacuated horses. (Bagged shavings)
7. Feed/Hay
8. Emergency Kits (both equine and human)

Office

1. Computers (copy files onto disc for ease in traveling/relocating).
2. Also keep a separate file system off site at all times.
3. Files, photographs, training manuals/materials.
4. Donor lists, client lists, vendor lists.

Water

1. Are there enough receptacles for water containment prior to, during and after a storm?
2. Water buffalos (how will you move them around if vehicles are damaged?).
3. Plastic trash cans with lids.
4. Chlorine tablets to purify water (can these be safely used for equine?)(Try a pool store).
5. Barley pellets – kills algae – find out if safe for livestock.
 - a. Southern States Cooperative
 - b. Feed/Supply Stores
 - c. Hardware Stores (Home Depot, Taylor's etc)

Clean up Equipment

1. Chain Saws (is there an experienced operator who can safely use these?) Best if operator has with them to “cut way in” if needed.
 - a. Land and Coats (Vernon 498-5800)
 - b. Local vendors to donate or help with purchase of chain saws and other equipment (i.e.: Stihl)
2. Chains
3. Generator
4. Diesel and Regular Fuel (to operate generator and chain saws)
5. Extra gas/fuel cans
6. Extra tires (due to limbs/debris down, tires will wear faster and need to be replaced)
7. Tire Repair Kit
8. Tractors
9. Walkie Talkies/Batteries
10. Rope
11. Extension Cords
12. Bungee Cords or Tie Downs (will help keep items secured)
13. Work Gloves
14. Waders
15. Rubber Boots (tall)
16. Saws & Blades
17. Tree trimmers
18. Rakes
19. Fire Extinguisher
20. Duct Tape
21. Repellent
22. Batteries (enough for two-three weeks)
23. Flash Lights/Lanterns (do they work?)
24. Road Maps
25. Water and food for people (carry in gallon jugs with lids)

First Aid Supplies/Kit

1. Sample Equine Evacuation Kit list at www.broward.org
2. www.horsereview.com/Disaster
3. Medications
 - a. Specific to each of your own horses/ponies
 - b. Have enough for one month and have all prescription numbers available to refill out of state.
 - c. Make sure that people dealing with horses are knowledgeable about administering drugs, especially shots.
 - d. Does medicine have to be kept cold/ice/cooler?
 - e. Bute
 - f. Pain Killers (Rompin, Ace, Banamine, etc.)
 - g. Tranquilizers
 - h. Medicated ointments (cuts)
3. Bandanas
4. Gauze
5. Wraps
6. Towels (can be used over eyes for scared equine)
7. Disinfectant
8. Peroxide
9. Clorox
10. Soap
11. Splints
12. Eye ointments/Saline solution
13. Fly repellent (also Bug Spray for humans)
14. Hoof Nippers (in case shoes become loose/fall off)
15. Hoof Pick
16. Hoof Rasp
17. Knife
18. Lunge Line
19. Twitch
20. Dewormer (if herd is mixed with unknown horses, will need to deworm after disaster)

Additional Equipment

1. Buckets
2. Leather Halters/leads (extras)
3. Wire Cutters
4. Tarps
5. Shovel
6. Manure Forks
7. Manure Carts
8. Radio (solar or battery operated)
9. Blankets
10. Work and Rubber Gloves

Therapeutic Riding Needs that Differ from Non-TR Programs

1. Mounting Ramps or Blocks
2. Specialized Tack & Equipment
3. How to move extensive tack inventory
4. All documentation on riders/volunteers/donors
 - a. Volunteers should be on a call-list (“B” Team) to help with preparations and if needed evacuation.
 - b. Make sure those helping have a clear plan and are familiar with horse needs.
 - c. Liability Issues (releases for Volunteers/Horses) (Humane Society Website offers samples)
 - d. Need to have capability to centrally organize and track release information with incoming volunteers/horses.

Medical Ramifications of the Older Equine

1. Colic
2. Loss of Sight implications
3. Loss of Hearing implications
4. Increased medicinal dependency (SMZ, Pergolide etc)
5. Tend to become stressed easier
6. May become easily confused

Transportation Issues Affecting Therapeutic Riding Centers

1. No disposable income to cover relocation during disaster. Coordinate with local emergency management office for possible reimbursement funding depending on the nature and severity of the emergency.
2. Having large herds/need to transport over a period of days.
3. Due to budgets, no transportation (trailer issues)
 - a. Commercial transportation vendors list
 - b. Sample contract for hauling services
4. Rely on donors/clients to operate
5. www.equineinfo.com

Staffing

1. Non-profits tend to have volunteer staffing at the lower budget levels
2. May not be able to “move” with equines to new location
3. Who stays with equines as they are relocated?
4. Can you be self-sufficient for 10 days or longer? One person cannot do it all!
5. Coordinate with local pony clubs/4-H clubs/churches and schools to help care for animals that are evacuated to new sites.

Human Considerations with Therapeutic Riding Programs

1. Special needs individuals
2. Donors
3. Foundations
4. Vendors

If you have chosen NOT to evacuate:

During the Disaster

1. Halters or neck collars with ID or microchips for all Equine
2. Bran Mash for two-three days prior to event if time (barometric pressure seems to affect equine - colic)
3. Put in pastures in order for escape from collapsed buildings or flood waters (horses have good natural instincts for survival). Horses drown in buildings – cannot escape!
4. Mark with livestock markers (farm name/cell numbers – multiple numbers are good)
5. Have a highly visible, posted sign alerting rescue workers to number of horses/animals left behind if you have to evacuate and leave animals behind. Write number of animals on barn doors or side of barn to help rescue workers
6. Cut power to all sources so you will not be electrocuted later from downed power lines
7. Know the major **weather information** channels:
 - a. www.theweatherchannel.com
 - b. www.noaa.com/gov

First Responders:

Make sure that first responders are set to deal with emergencies.

1. Not well-meaning folks who will act on emotions and can hamper emergency response efforts.
2. Be prepared to ask people to leave the area if you cannot use their help – otherwise will hamper efforts of rescue crews.
3. Have armed military presence if available if you are to go on search and rescue (ability to go into “no access” areas)

After the Disaster

1. Emergency Contacts:
 - a. FEMA, www.fema.gov
 - b. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations, www.noaa.gov
 - c. National Weather sites, www.weather.com
 - d. www.RedCross.org
 - e. AVMA (Vet Medical Assistant Teams)(with over 68,000 members nationwide), www.avma.org
 - i. Guide for sale \$7.50/25 pack under AVMA Products & Services.
 - f. National Association of Search & Rescue – www.nasar.org
 - g. Virginia Horse Council, www.virginiahorsecouncil.org
 - h. United States Equestrian Federation, www.USEF.org
 - i. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, www.ASPCA.org
 - j. American Horse Council, (202) 296-4031, www.horsecouncil.org
 - k. American Humane Society, www.Americanhumanesociety.org (Disaster Plans and Operational Guide)
 - l. Local Mounted Patrol Units
 - m. Mounted Rescue Operations

- 2 Evaluate situation
3. Evaluate all equine for injuries - what can you handle without Vet assistance?
 - a. Is there a humane way to euthenize equine if suffering?
 - b. There is a danger of hurt equine further injuring self or humans (bite/kick)
 - c. Is there a way for disposal of equine if dead?
 - i. Becomes a Public Health Hazard
 - ii. Risk of disease
 - d. Transportation of dead equine to sites for disposal
 - i. Transportation trucks that are available for carcass removal
 - ii. Ivor State Lab – protocols? (CALL)
 - iii. Pet Cremation Services in local area? What are size restrictions?
 - e. Is there a way to adopt-out unclaimed equine after a disaster?
www.missingpet.net

When/Is it safe to go home?

1. Have you prepared to be away from home/operations for an extended period of time?
2. Does the equine shelter have direct communications with State/National Points of Contact to track when it is safe to return home?
3. Clean up at facility - who can help if everyone is affected leaving little or no help

Media Relations (see AVAA for website info)

1. Press release SAMPLES: (www.lahg.net)
2. Ask local media rep for samples of their emergency PSA's
3. VMAA - guidelines
4. Establish a connection with your local TV/Radio crews PRIOR to threats so that during the disaster you have already made a Point of Contact.
5. ALWAYS answer calls from the media ASAP, even if you are on the road or at home. NEVER say "I don't know" – find the answer and call them back.
6. Designate one person to speak for your organization to avoid confusion (Board President, Development Director, Marketing Director, Executive Director) – channel all calls to that person

Post Disaster

1. Equine, staff and volunteers will be exhausted so allow time to sleep and recover
2. Do not turn equine out in large areas. Put in small paddocks or enclosed areas until they have time to assimilate to new smells/surroundings (smells and familiar landmarks have changed and will make equine anxious and confused)
3. Can other people take over duties while First Responders rest/recover?
 - a. Mental Health issues will arise.
 - b. Are counselors available?
 - c. Chiropractors/massage therapists for animals and people

Lesson Programs

1. How long can your program be down?
2. What to do if volunteers are unavailable
3. Traffic issues will delay students/volunteers
4. How do you deal with donor absence?
5. Loss of jobs for volunteers/riders/staff?
6. Dealing with loss of equine/staff/volunteers if needed
7. Getting back on track after a disaster
8. Efficient communication network to contact riders, volunteers, staff, Board (can you task several key people to handle outgoing and incoming calls after threat has passed and during recovery phase?).

Lessons Learned

1. What did we do right/wrong?
2. Can we fix problem areas?
3. Did horses/owners get re-united? Why/why not and what can be facilitated to ensure smooth transition home for everyone.

Aftermath issues from Katrina survivors:

1. Left in “survivor mode” for weeks/months
2. No clients (displaced families)
3. Lack of funding from Foundations – no members to staff offices
4. Horses were/are considered a “luxury” and not a primary concern
5. Traffic congestion was/is horrendous
6. No power for extended periods
7. No volunteer/staff help due to traffic issues
8. Taking 6-8 weeks for mail to be delivered
9. No towers, no telephone service – frustration levels high
10. Stores have no workers/shortened hours of operation
11. Speaking about the ordeal can help those who have survived

Resources Used in Compilation of Data

American Association of Equine Practitioners – “Hurricane Equine Evacuation”, prepared by the AAEP Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Committee

American Humane Society – www.americanhumane.org

American Horse Council – Equine Species Working Group – www.horsecouncil.org/equine

American Red Cross – www.redcross.org/services/disaster

American Quarter Horse Association – www.aqha.com

American Veterinary Medical Association – AVMA Emergency Preparedness & Response Guide, 1994 – www.avma.org/disaster

Avid Equine – Equine Identification Microchips – www.avidequineid.com

Basko, DVM, Ihor – Holistic Veterinarian Services – “Emergency Planning for Pet Owners” – www.drasko.com/emergency.htm

Broward County Florida – Extension Education – www.broward.org/extension/large_animal

Casper, Jacob, Coordinator of Disaster Services, Maryland Department of Agriculture, VMAT-2 Team Leader (Tab D, Section 1, Development of State/Local Animal Care Plans)

Clemson Livestock & Poultry, Emergency Preparedness – www.clemson.edu

Collins, Timothy B., Technical Animal Rescue Specialist – “What Would I Do” Emergency Response Planning for your Business – SkillPath Seminars

EQUI-KIDS Therapeutic Riding Program Emergency Plan

Equi Search – “Help your horse survive a disaster” – www.equisearch.com/care/disaster

Equine Fire Safety – www.tpd.tornet.com

Equine Monthly (November 2005) – www.equinemonthly.com

Extension Disaster Education Network – www.eden.lsu.edu

Federal Emergency Management Agency – www.fema.gov

Hoofbeats Therapeutic Riding Program Emergency Plan

Horse Council – www.horsecouncil.org

Horse Rescue – www.horses-and-horse-information.com

Horse Review – Horse Evacuation Kit – www.horsereview.com/Disaster

Horse Transportation – www.equineinfo.com/services/horsetransportation.htm

Horseman’s Guide of the South Central Region – www.lahg.net/EMERGENCY

Houston Chronicle – (Sept 20, 2005 – “Compile records to ease the strain”) – www.chron.com

Livestock in Disasters

Louisiana Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness – www.loep.state.la.us

Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness – www.ohsep.louisiana.gov

Maryland Horse Industry – www.marylandhorseindustry.org/disaster

Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association – September 7, 2005 update – www.massvet.org

National Equine Disaster Relief – www.kersur.net

National Animal Identification System – Strategic Plan Draft (2005-2009, April 25, 2005)

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) – www.nvoad.org

North American Riding for the Handicapped (NARHA) Accreditation Standards (A6)

Office of the Governor of Virginia – (June 1, 2005 & August 31, 2005 Press Releases) – www.governor.virginia.gov

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food – www.omaf.gov.on.ca

Salt Block Gazette – www.saltblockgazette.com/HEART.html

Texas A&M University AGNEWS – (April 17, 2004 – “Horse Owners: Have a Plan in case Disaster Strikes”) – www.agnews.tamu.edu
University of Florida Animal Disaster Plan – www.agen.ufl.edu
USA Today – (posting of 9/22/2005) – “Legislation would require disaster plans for pets” – www.usatoday.com
USDA – www.fedgrants.gov
Virginia Beach City Information – www.vbgov.com
Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, (COVEOP), Mass Evacuation and Sheltering Annex, Appendix 3: Pet Evacuation and Sheltering, www.vaemergency.com
Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services – National Animal Identification System – www.vdacs.virginia.gov/animals/animalid.html
Virginia Department of Emergency Management – www.vaemergency.com/business
Virginia Department of Emergency Management – library of Local Plans has an Animal Plan template for local Emergency Operations Plans
Virginia Horse Council – www.virginiahorsecouncil.org/Hurricaneinfo.html
Virginia Horse Journal (July and August 2005) – www.virginiahorse.com

Links to helpful sites:

California Department of Food & Agriculture (www.cdffa.ca.gov)
University of California (Davis) (www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/home.html)
Florida Animal Disaster Communication (www.unr.net/bevan/adpac)
The Horse Review (horsereview.com)
United Animal Nations (www.uan.org)
State of Indiana, Board of Animal Health
Louisiana Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (www.lope.state.la.us)
Virginia Business Emergency Survival Toolkit (for businesses) www.vaemergency.com/business
www.ready.gov.
National Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters (www.NVOAD.org)

Acronyms

AAEP = American Association of Equine Practitioners
AH & FSS = Animal Health & Food Safety Services
APHIS = Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (two laws under this: Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and the Horse Protection Act (HPA))
AVMA = American Veterinary Medical Association
CSTI = California Specialized Training Institute
CVI = Certificate of Veterinary Inspection
DHS = Department of Homeland Security
DOD = Department of Defense (includes U.S. Army Vet Corps)
EOC = Emergency Operations Center
EOP = Emergency Operating Procedures
EBS = Emergency Broadcast System
FEMA = Federal Emergency Management Agency
GIS = Geographical Information System

HSUS = Humane Society of United States
MOU = Memorandum of Understanding
NDMS = National Disaster Management System
OA = Operational Area
OES = Office of Emergency Services
RIMS = Response Information Management System
SEMS = Standardized Emergency Management System
SOP = Standard Operating Procedures
USDA = United States Department of Agriculture

Final Thoughts

For smaller animals that are not permitted in shelters:

1. Have a bus/tractor trailer equipped with cages/food/newspapers/water etc
2. Have in-take area for persons to leave information about each animal with emergency caretakers (can coordinate with local animal shelters/programs).
3. Identify and label each animal with number corresponding with card given to owner. Will help in relocating animals with owners after the disaster.
4. Photograph each animal to put with card. Polaroid film (perhaps donated by local stores) and camera needed, extra person for this.