

LESSONS FROM A PET FRIENDLY EMERGENCY SHELTER

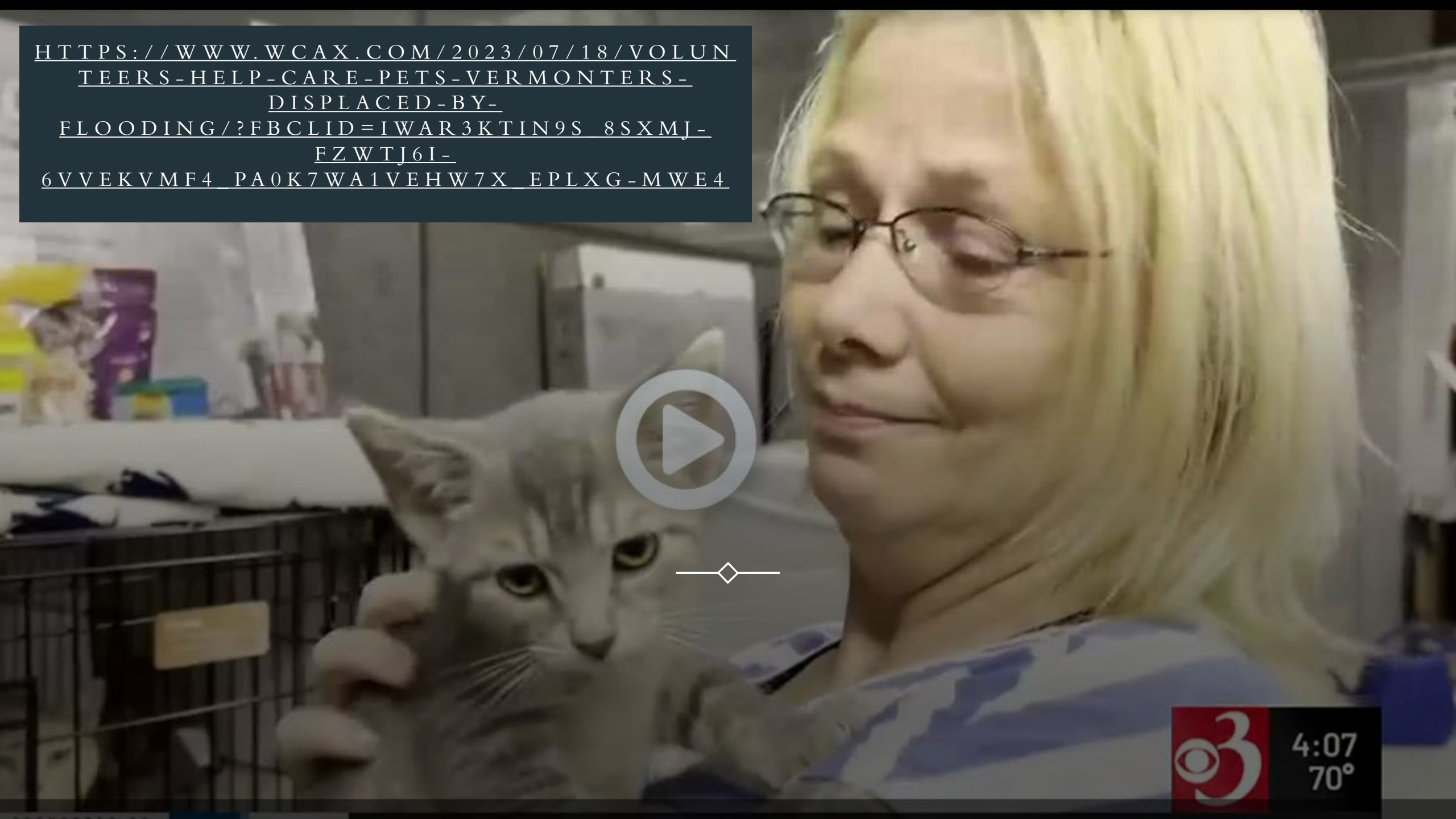


NH VOLUNTEER
CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 19, 2024





[HTTPS://WWW.WCAX.COM/2023/07/18/VOLUNTEERS-HELP-CARE-PETS-VERMONTERS-DISPLACED-BY-FLOODING/?FBCLID=IWAR3KTIN9S_8SXMJ-FZWTJ6I-6VVEKVMF4_PA0K7WA1VEHW7X_EPLXG-MWE4](https://www.wcax.com/2023/07/18/volunteers-help-care-pets-vermonters-displaced-by-flooding/?fbclid=IWAR3KTIN9S_8SXMJ-FZWTJ6I-6VVEKVMF4_PA0K7WA1VEHW7X_EPLXG-MWE4)





Shelter from the Storm

28 Animals Arrived During
First 24 Hours



VDART's 2023 Flood Response by the Numbers



72 Animals
Assisted During
26-Day Response

Average Length of
Stay = 7 days

48 Cats, 21 Dogs,
2 Guinea Pigs, 1
Rabbit

47 Volunteers
Donated over
1,700 hours

38 Individuals and
Families Assisted

6 Animals
Provided Foster
Care after Shelter
Closing



Terry J. Allen



Terry J. Allen



Terry J. Allen



Terry J. Allen



Key Partnerships



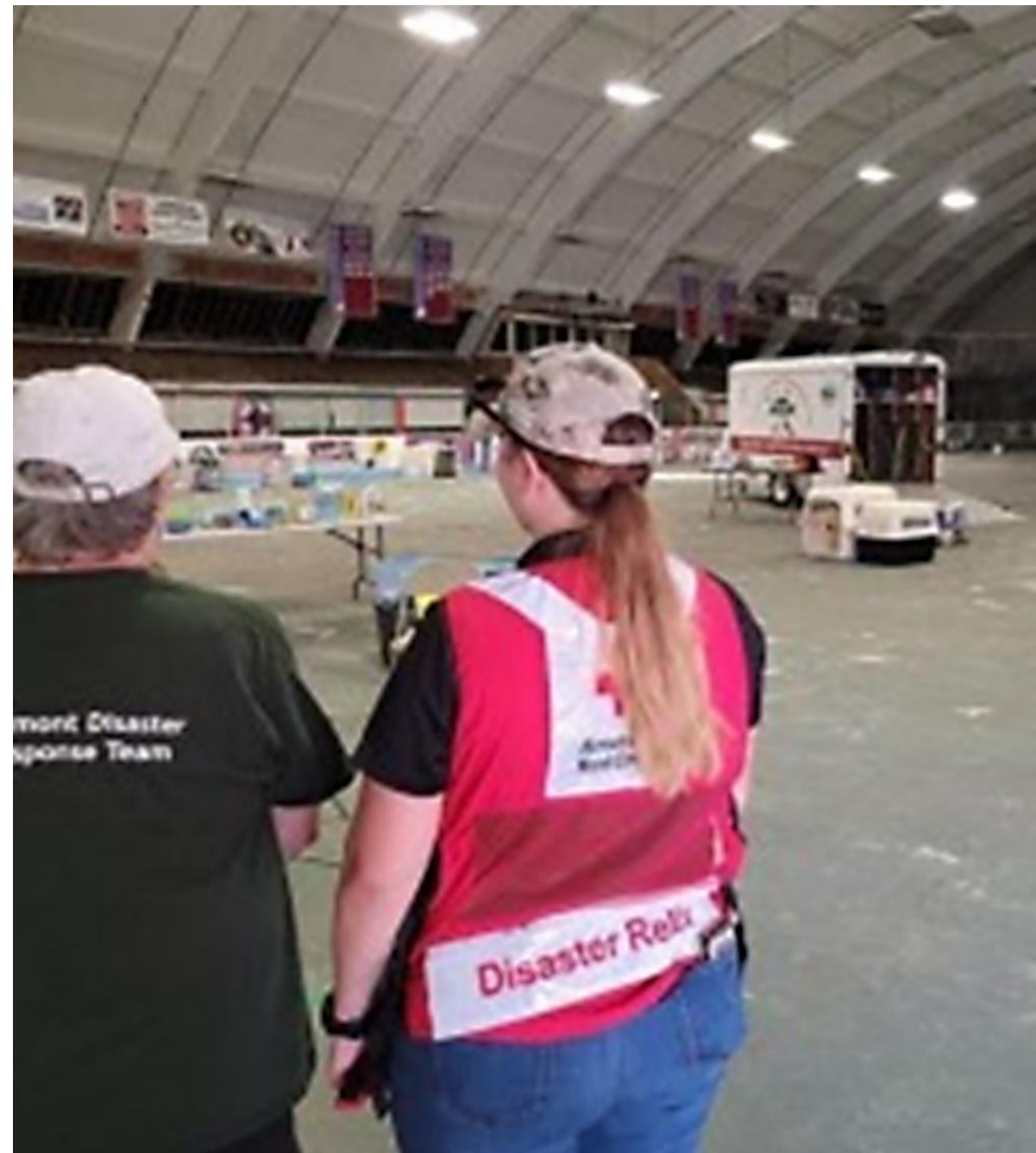
**CENTRAL
VERMONT
HUMANE
SOCIETY
(CVHS)**

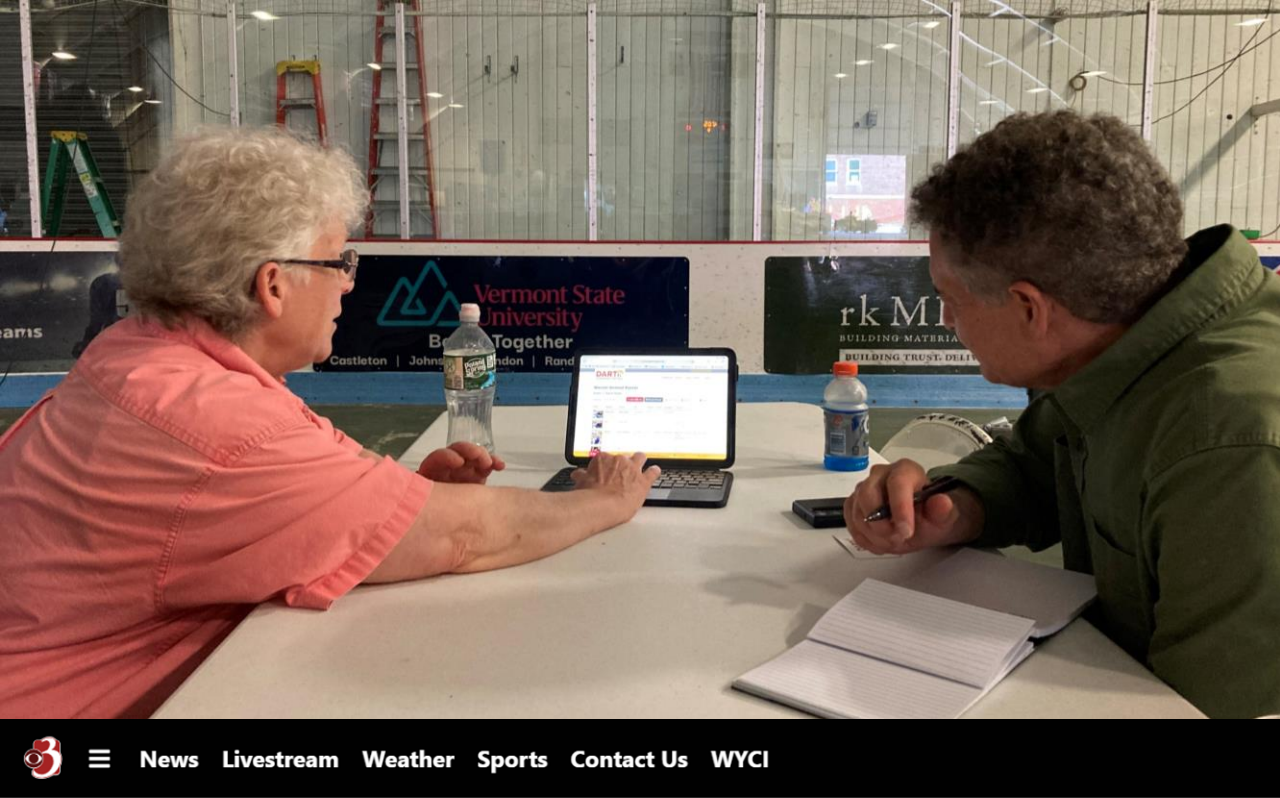
RESCUE & REHOMING



AMERICAN RED CROSS (ARC)

PARTNERS IN
SHELTERING





DART COMMAND CENTRAL (DARTCC)

<http://www.DARTCC.org>

First Paperless Emergency Pet
Shelter in the Nation!

Developer volunteered with
CVDART and team had extensive
training through regular drills and
exercises.



App helps volunteers track care of pets displaced by flooding



Dashboard Search Team Profile Logout

Pet Profile

Theresa

Crate: 4

Print Cage Card

ID: 0722-Barre-D15

Pet 5 of 3

Arrival date: 07/22/2022

Back to Roster

Edit

Urgent Medical

Waiver Profile Photos Medical Daily Care Temp Out Release



Species: Dog
Breed: Hovawart
Gender: Female (Altered)
Coloring: tan and black

CAUTIONS

Aggressive towards: Other animals

Theresa likes to chase cats, squirrels and chipmunks so when on a walk be aware of animals that can be chased as

MITZVAH FUND

Provided Free Medical &
Sterilization Services to Pets

Helped Manage Care in
Shelter

Continues to assist pet owners
living in local pet-friendly
hotels



VERMONT COMPANION ANIMAL NEUTERING (VT-CAN)

Provided free sterilization services to
pets we sheltered
(3 dogs)

Free spay/neuter clinic for Hilltop
residents post-storm
(10 cats and 6 dogs)



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE COMPACT (EMAC)



Vermont Agency of Agriculture,
Food & Markets requested 3
responders for 10 days

International Fund for Animal
Welfare (IFAW) answered the call



FOSTER CARE & REHOMING



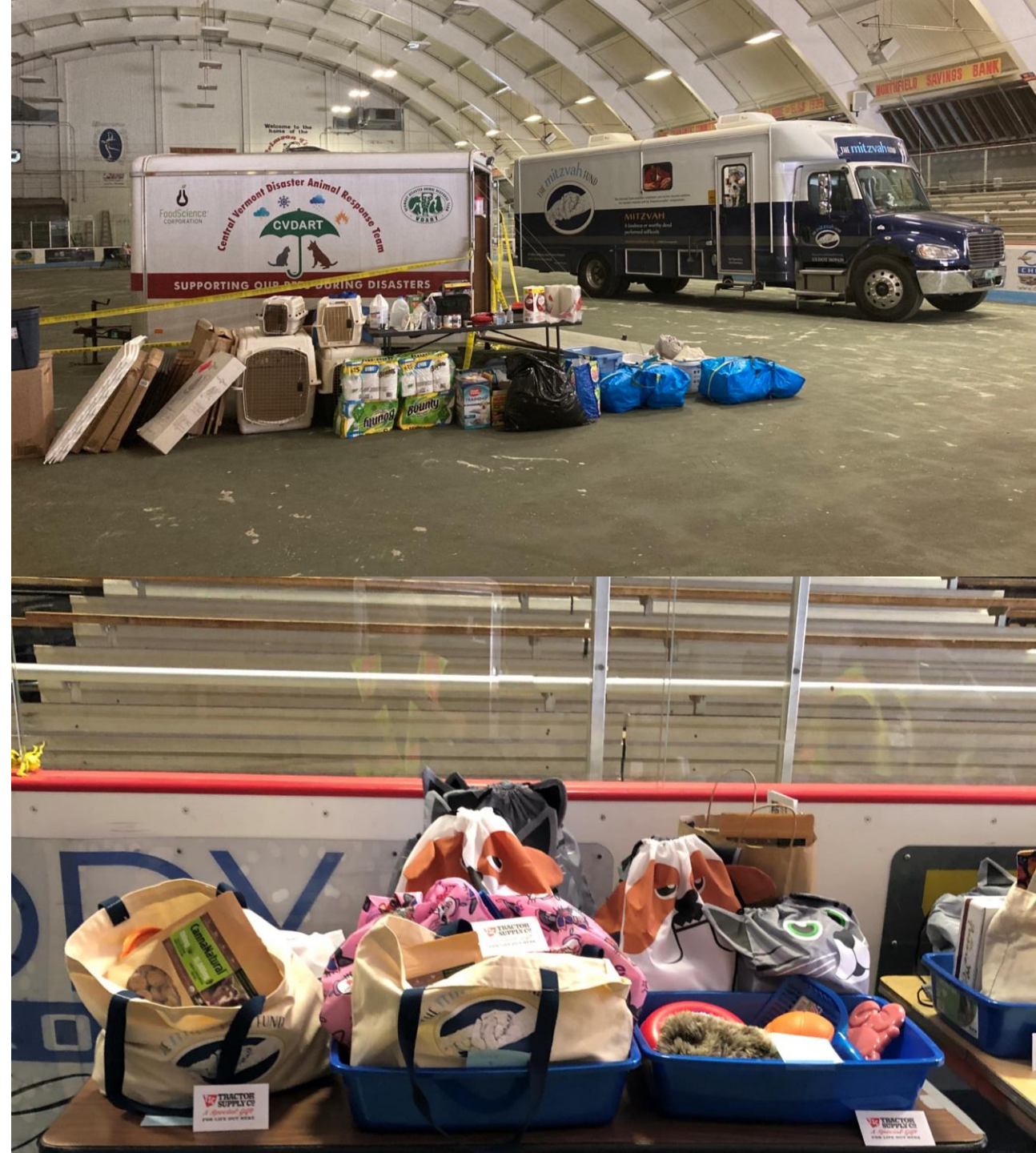
6 animals fostered for 4 families

3 animals (50%) rehomed



DONATIONS AND GRANTS

PetSmart Charities
VCA Foundation
VT Community Foundation
The Poppi Foundation
Individual Donors
Pet Food Warehouse
Onion River Animal Hospital



SUCCESSSES



Daily Check-in
Meetings

Additional
Facebook
Followers

Fundraising

Increased
Community
Awareness

Increased awareness
of Emergency
Management
Partners

Additional
Volunteers for
Multiple Teams



CHALLENGES



Early Adoption of
ICS

Coordination and
Leadership for
Medical Care

Instituting Fear
Free Shelter
Protocols

Scheduling
Volunteers

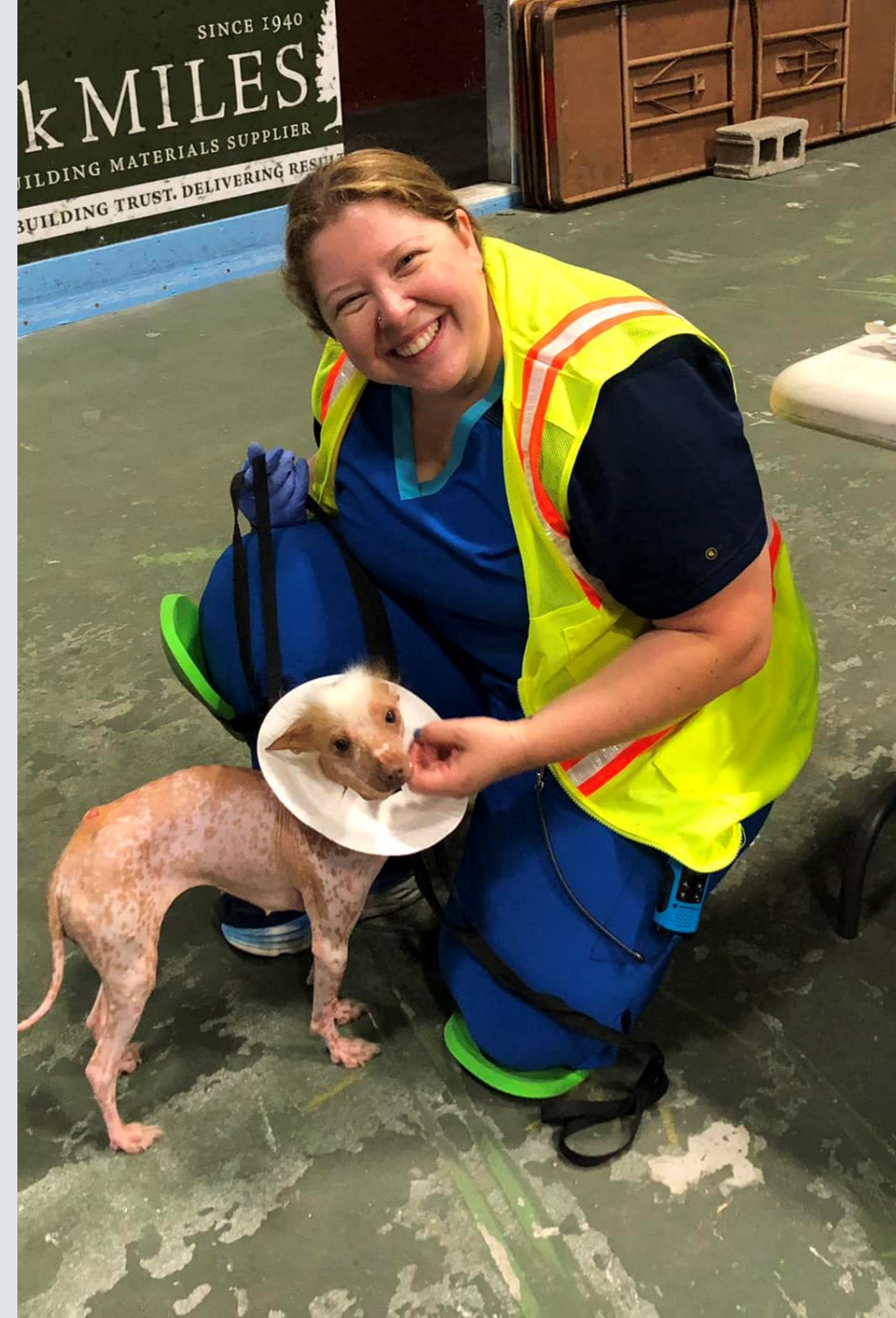
Equipment
Consolidation &
Mobilization

Clients Securing
Pet Friendly
Housing

Crisis Counseling
for VDART
Volunteers

DART
Demobilization
Protocols

Limited
Functionality of
DARTCC
software



Making the Connection



- *Assisting animals in disasters is not a question of putting animals above people*
- Helping animals is supporting people by taking care of what is important to them
- The human/animal bond is never more important to people than in situations of extreme stress
- Animal issues ARE people issues

Individuals with Companion Animals

- May not evacuate
- May delay evacuation
- May attempt to return to unsafe areas
- May choose to live on street



Fritz Institute-Harris Interactive Katrina Survey

- Government agencies, non-profit organizations and families were not well-prepared with evacuation plans and services essential to relief and recovery for a disaster of this magnitude

- **The reasons 42% stayed behind were more complex than reported**

- Nearly 1/3 (32%) of non-evacuees made the affirmative choice to stay behind for other reasons

- Not wanting to leave homes (82%)

- **Not wanting to leave pets (44%)**

- Not wanting to leave relatives (18%)

- Non-governmental organizations (32%) provided the most immediate assistance in the first 48 hours



Legal Framework

- **Stafford Act** (1988)
 - Created FEMA
 - Provides a system for intergovernmental coordination
 - Established Presidential Disaster Declarations
- **Pets Act** (2006)
 - Amendment of the Stafford Act after Hurricane Katrina
 - Mandated including pets in emergency operation plans
 - Designed to encourage evacuation compliance

A background image showing a black dog being rescued by firefighters. The dog is being held by a person in a dark jacket, and another person in a red jacket is visible in the background. The scene appears to be outdoors, possibly at a disaster site.

FEDERAL AUTHORITY

**Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards
(PETS) Act - October, 2006**

**Mandates local and state EM officials
“take into account the needs of
individuals with household pets and
service animals prior to, during, and
following a major disaster or
emergency” when developing
emergency preparedness operational
plans**

H.R. 5441 Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA) - 2006

- Modifies the Stafford Act with PETS Act language
- Places significant new responsibilities on DHS/FEMA for coordinating implementation of the PETS Act.

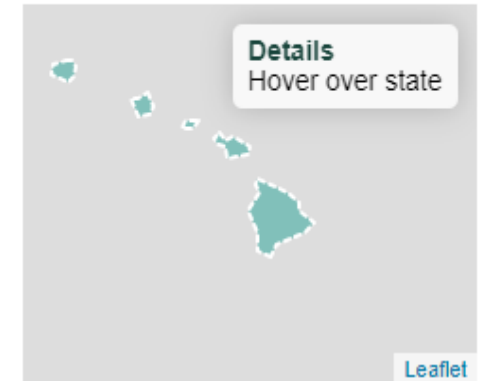
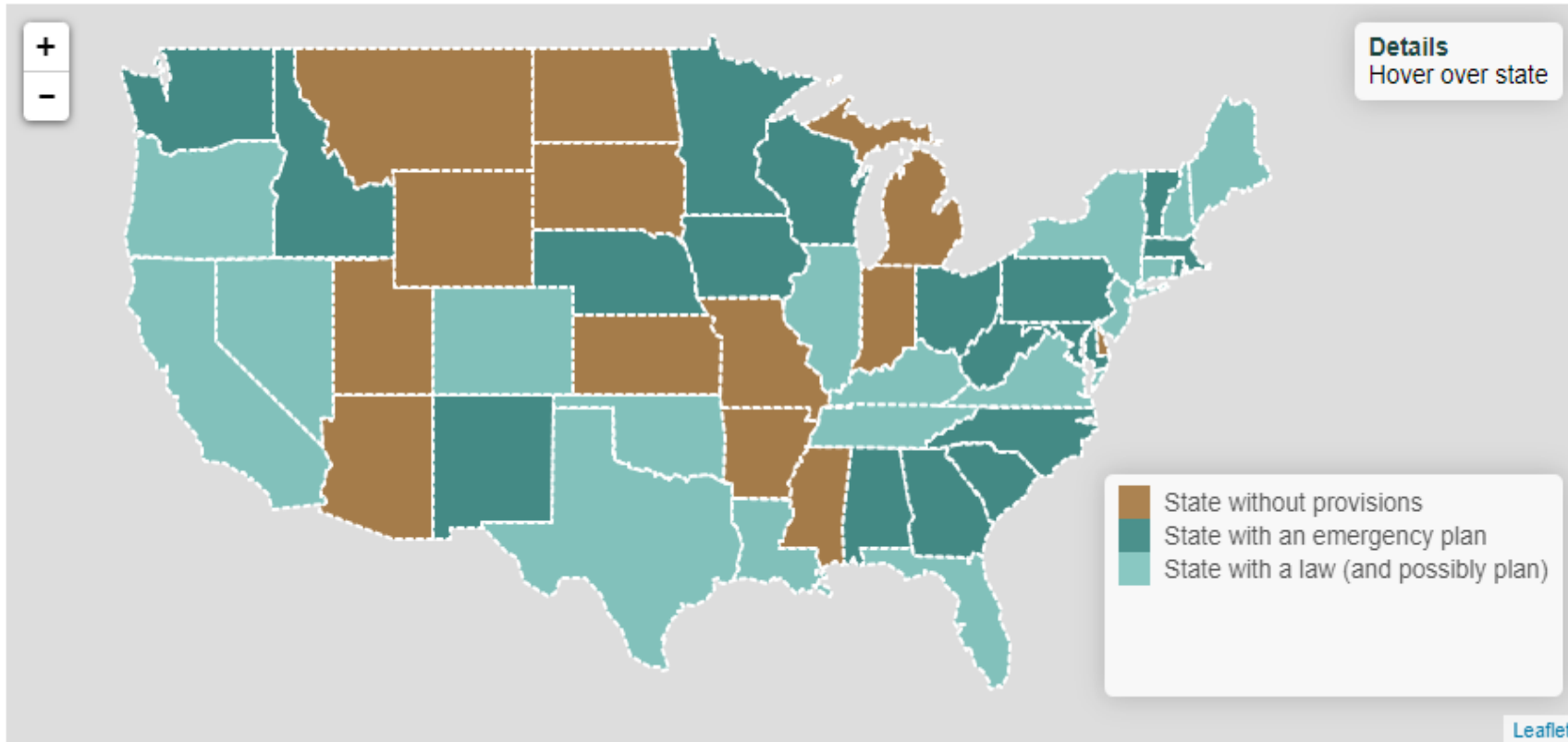


HB 1186, An Act Relative to Companion Animals During a Declared Disaster (2022)

- Any hotel or community shelter that shelters evacuated persons shall allow disaster animal response trailers on site to accommodate their companion animals.
- “Companion animal” includes dogs, cats, or “other legally-owned animal kept in an enclosure that might typically be found in a home.”
- Maximum number of animals per sheltered family must comply with local ordinances.
- **Provides liability protection to NHDART volunteers vetted by DHHS who are assisting evacuated persons and companion animals**

Legal Framework

Map of States with Disaster Planning Laws



Source: Animal Legal & Historical Center, Michigan State University <https://www.animallaw.info/content/map-states-disaster-planning-laws>

Ethical Framework

- **Human-Animal Bond**

- Mutually-beneficial relationship
- Improves household disaster resiliency
- Planning for animals can prevent significant long-term mental-health impacts

- **Prevention of Animal Suffering**

- Injured, lost animals have a right to rescue
- Zoonotic concerns for large free-roaming populations
- Planning for animals creates better “One-Health” outcomes

Special considerations

What is a pet?



Fema Disaster Assistance Policy (DAP9523.19)

- Identifies expenses related to State and local governments' emergency pet evacuation and sheltering activities that may be eligible for reimbursement following a major disaster or emergency declaration.
- Defines Household Pet.
- Defines Service Animal (based on ADA language).
- Defines Congregate Pet Shelters and eligible expenses
- Defines Eligible Parties for reimbursement;
 - State and Local Governments are the only eligible applicants
 - Contractors or Private Non-Profit (PNP; NGO) organizations:
Cannot be directly reimbursed/ cannot be applicants.
Must work through written agreements (MOAs) with state/local partnerships

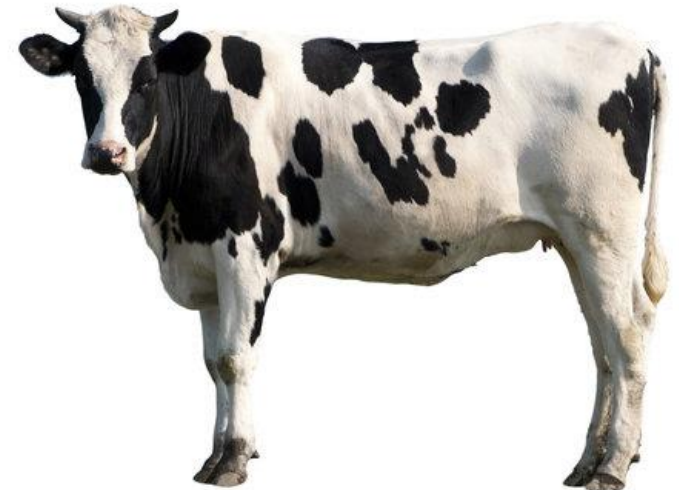
FEMA's Definition of Household Pets

A domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent or turtle that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers, and be housed in temporary facilities.



Excluded from FEMA's Household Pet Definition

- Reptiles (except turtles)
- Amphibians
- Insects
- Arachnids
- Farm Animals (including Horses)
- Animals kept for racing purposes



FEMA's Definition of Service Animal



DOGS that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities or access and functional needs

No one is ever allowed to ask someone specifically about their disability. They may only ask two questions regarding a Service Dog.

- 1) Is that a Service Dog (if you choose not to have your SD wear a vest)
- 2) What service(s) does your Service Dog provide? (They may not ask you to demonstrate your dog's service)

FEMA's Definition of Assistance Animals

ANIMALS that work, provide assistance, or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability (service animal), OR provide emotional support that alleviates identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability



Emotional Support Animals

UNION LEADER
The Back Page
Friday, September 29, 2023 • Page B12



HEATHER KHALIFA

Joie Henney sits with his emotional support alligator, Wally, inside his home in York Haven, Pennsylvania, in 2019. On Wednesday, Wally was denied entry into Citizens Bank Park.

Phillies staffers to man's emotional support animal: 'See you later alligator'

By Zach Mentz
cleveland.com (TNS)

PHILADELPHIA — When we need support, some of us lean on family, friends, or pets such as dogs and cats for a little boost. But how about an alligator?

Joie Henney and his emotional support alligator, Wally, were denied entry into Citizens Bank Park for Wednesday's game between the

Pittsburgh Pirates and host Phillies. Henney and Wally arrived at the stadium with the nearly 5-foot alligator on a harness attached to a red leash which featured his name and read "emotional support."

The Phillies' service animal policy for Citizens Bank Park is stated on the team's website: "Guide dogs, service animals, or service animals in training are welcome. All other animals are prohibited."

Henney, a Phillies fan from

Jonestown, Pennsylvania, said Wally helps him battle depression and "he likes to give hugs," according to The Philadelphia Inquirer. Wally also has garnered more than 110,000 followers on TikTok and 26,000 followers on Instagram.

"Are you kidding me. A #Phillies fan tried to come into game tonight with what they said was a "service animal." An Alligator!," Howard Eskin, a Philadelphia sports radio host, said in a tweet with a photo of Wally.

- Not protected under American Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Must be "prescribed" for a patient with diagnosed psychological or emotional disorder.
- Limited legal rights.
- Fair Housing Act mandates "Reasonable accommodations."

PET POPULATION	
2020	2016*
83,739,829 – 88,853,254 dogs	76,811,305 dogs
1.46 dogs per household	1.6 dogs per household
45% of households own dogs	38% of households own dogs
60,217,861 – 61,910,686 cats	58,385,725 cats
1.78 cats per household	1.8 cats per household
26% of households own cats	25% of households own cats

Source: 2022 AVMA PET OWNERSHIP AND DEMOGRAPHICS SOURCEBOOK



Pet Ownership Statistics by State 2024



AK

% Total Households

ME

VT

NH

WA

MT

ND

MN

WI

MI

NY

MA

RI

ID

WY

SD

IA

IL

IN

OH

PA

NJ

CT

OR

NV

CO

NE

MO

KY

WV

VA

MD

DE

CA

UT

NM

KS

AR

TN

NC

SC

DC

AZ

OK

LA

MS

AL

GA

TX

FL

HI



51.8% of NH Households include a pet

NHDART Mission

The New Hampshire Disaster Animal Response Team (NHDART) provides a coordinated effort in the preparation, prevention, response, and recovery phases for any disasters or significant public emergencies involving animals.

NHDART increases New Hampshire's capability for responding to animal emergencies on the local, regional, state, and federal levels, by helping develop community-based local response teams and providing statewide trainings.



History of NHDART



2007- NHDART incorporated as private, stand-alone non-profit 501(c)3

2011 - Program of Volunteer NH (quasi governmental/non-profit)

2018 - Program of NH Department of Health and Human Services (government)

2023 - Training and Standing Teams Back up post-pandemic



Is YOUR Community Prepared?

- Written Community Emergency Plan that Includes Pets
- Identified Evacuation Facility
- Transportation Plan for People and Pets (Personnel, Vehicles, etc.)
- Emergency Care
- Equipment & Supplies



Temporary Animal Sheltering

Stand Alone Shelters

Facility temporarily stood up to house displaced animals, owned or stray



Co-located Shelters

Facility located close to human shelter to allow owners to care for their pets

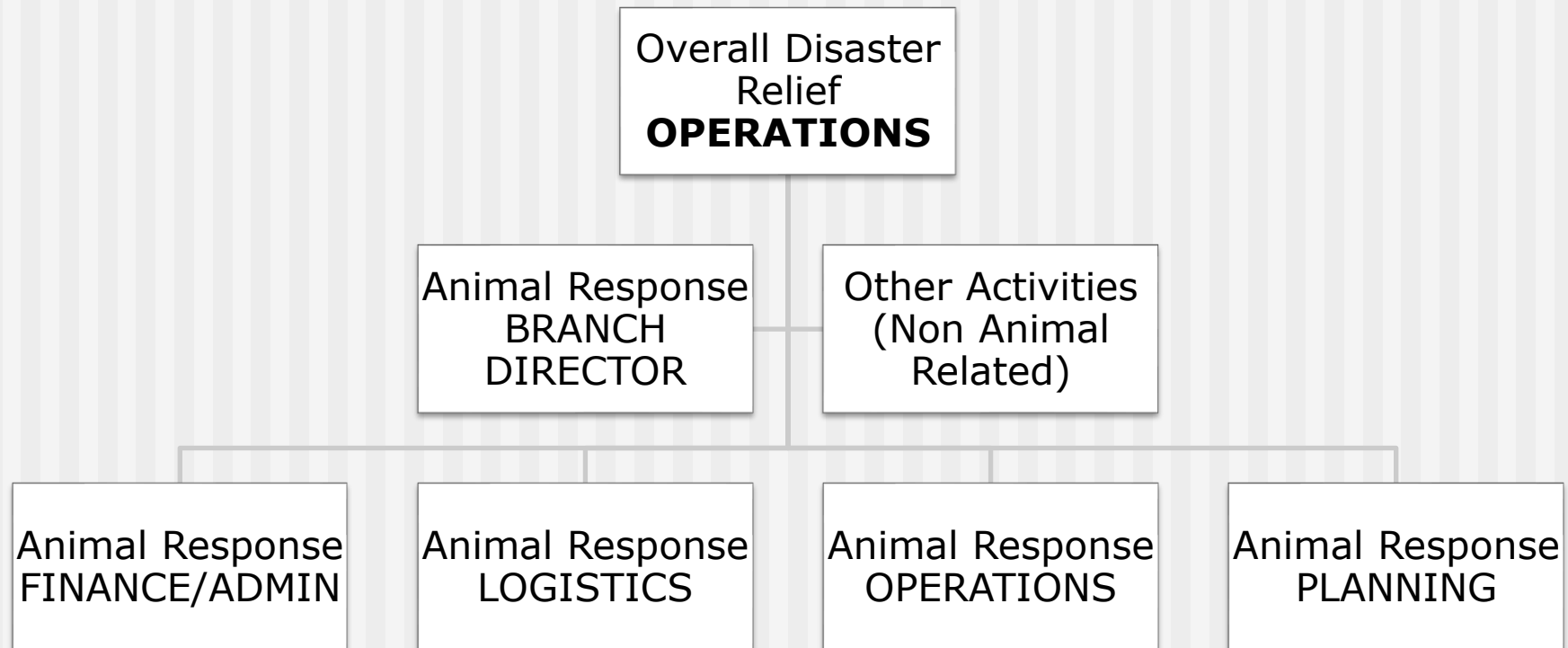


Co-habitation Shelters

Facility temporarily houses owners and their animals in the same space



Example of Animal Response Organization under ICS



Pet Friendly Animal Shelter

- No unaccompanied pets.
- Pets in one area, humans in another in the same facility (*preferred*) or pets and humans in same space (co-habitated).
- Minimal number of staff needed.
- Pre-trained volunteers may be primary staff.
- Supplement with emergent volunteers (people who offer assistance during the emergency).
- Primarily staff will be supervising care of animals by their owners.

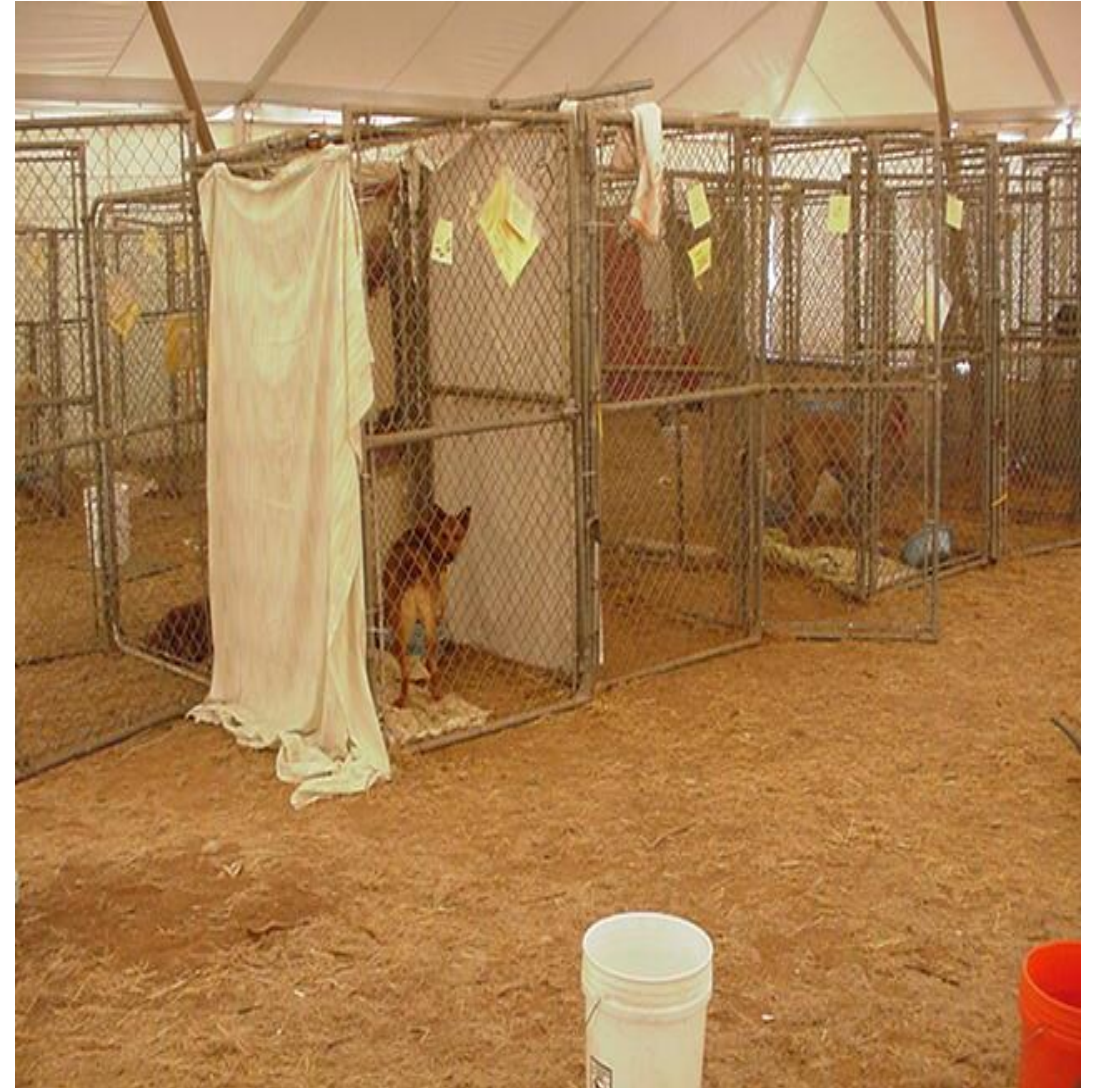


Other Sheltering Options

- Temporary Day Care
- Evacuation Kits
- Foster Care
- Local Animal Shelter (short-term)

Potential Shelter Locations

- Municipal Facilities
- Fairgrounds
- Restaurants
- Ball Fields
- Storefronts
- Horse Pastures
- Schools
- Warehouses
- Parking lots



Overall Shelter Considerations

- Location
- Size
- Amenities
- Utilities
- Safe from hazards
- Security
- Sanitation standards
- Facility design
- Floor plans
- Access
- Proximity to evacuation routes
- Parking



Pet Housing and Supplies

- Crates/cages – bigger is better
- Cleaning supplies
- Grooming supplies
- Bowls
- Litter boxes
- Towels/blankets
- Comfort toys or chew items, etc.



Veterinary Supplies

- Thermometer
- Vet wrap
- Gauze
- Syringes/needles (*assorted sizes*)
- Stethoscope
- Betadine
- Antibiotic cream
- Tranquilizers (oral & injectable), etc.



Other Care Issues



- Bathing
- Grooming
- Exercise (*appropriate for type and age of animal*)
- Social interaction with designated people
- Toys and comfort items

Disaster is a local problem requiring a local response.

Federal partners/NGO's supplement when the incident exceeds local capabilities

How do you know?

Key components of your plan



- Educate the public and animal community
- Where to go and what to bring
- What they can do to help
- Recruit volunteers
- Provide training
- Conduct exercises
- Reevaluate the plan

Planning questions

1. What are the potential threats to your community and organization?
2. What factors will you need to consider for the different disasters?
3. What types of shelter operations do you want to be able to provide for your community? Pet friendly? Stray?



More planning questions

4. What types of animals will you be housing and conversely what types will you not be able to accommodate?

5. Who can you partner with to assist with those animals you will not be housing?

6. Are there already plans for sheltering the animals, by whom and where?

7. Who are the main groups and organizations involved in disaster animal response and sheltering of both the people and the animals, who should be part of the planning process?

Animal Resources Directory

http://vem.vermont.gov/local_state_plans/local

Animal Resources During an Emergency

Directions

- Reach out to emergency contacts. Define responsibilities and how information will be shared.
- Make contact with animal shelters to learn of availability/capacity/needs.
- Make contact with emergency veterinarians.
- Local Emergency Contacts

Is there a regional Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) that serves your community?

Y

N

Name of Person completing this form		Date and Time	
-------------------------------------	--	---------------	--

Regional DART Chair		
Name	Contact Number	Secondary contact number

Local Animal Shelter Manager		
Name	Contact Number	Secondary contact number

Local Emergency Vet contact		
Name	Contact Number	Secondary contact number

Local Animal Control Officer		
Name	Contact Number	Secondary contact number

Animal Disaster Planning Resources for Pet Owners

- [Pet disaster preparedness | The Humane Society of the United States](#)
- [Equine disaster preparedness | The Humane Society of the United States](#)
- [Livestock disaster preparedness | The Humane Society of the United States](#)
- [How to Stock a First Aid Kit to Care for Injured Pet Birds | PetMD](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness for your Geckos \(and other reptiles\) - Gecko Time](#)



Questions

Joanne Bourbeau

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Board Chair, Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team

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