WHY ANIMALS? – IT’S THE LAW!

- October 6, 2006 President Bush signed into Law the:
  *Pets Evacuation and Transportation Act
  “PETs Act”

- This REQUIRES local and state emergency preparedness authorities to include in their evacuation plans how they will accommodate household pets and service animals in case of a disaster

- Offices that fail to do so will not qualify for grants from FEMA

Leaving pets behind is no longer the only solution

Lessons Learned – Hurricane Katrina

- During Hurricane Katrina animals were NOT allowed to be evacuated with their owners
- When asked to choose between abandoning their pets or their own personal safety, many pet owners chose to risk their lives
  - In turn this put rescuers in danger as they returned over and over as conditions worsened attempting to change pet owners minds
- Many people who initially evacuated without their animals attempted to return to take care/rescue them, creating secondary disasters

Lessons Learned – Continued

- 44% of Katrina residents who had means to evacuate, but chose not to, did so because they did not want to leave without their pets.
- Of the 1836 people who died, more than 80% told neighbors or family that they were staying behind for their pets as they were not allowed to evacuate with them
- Abandoned, starving, stressed animals caused many problems - disease and attacking workers among them

Taking in the Lessons Learned, the PETs ACT was drafted. Congress overwhelmingly passed the Bill (349-24) and President Bush signed it into Law

EVACUATIONS

- During Super Storm Sandy soldiers reported quicker, more orderly evacuations when owners and animals went together
- Animals are members of the family to most owners
- Animals are calming and can help people heal quicker
- People who lose everything, homes, jobs – pets are a needed comfort
- In Walnut Creek, 6.7 out of every 10 homes have an animal
Walnut Creek CERT Response to Animals

- Processes and procedures established to follow which allow CERTs to safely encounter, handle, transport, communicate information and care for animals

Walnut Creek CERT Animal Staging

- Walnut Creek CERT Animal Staging (WC/CAS)
  - Temporary holding areas for animals brought in by CERT SAR teams within each CERT Staging Location
  - Provide care until the animal is transported to an emergency animal shelter during a disaster

Module Purpose

The purpose of this module is to ensure that CERT members can respond safely and appropriately during emergency events that involve animals

Reminder: CERT #1 priority is the human victims

What You Will Learn

- CERT Responder Safety When Dealing With Animals and Knowledge and Skills Needed for CERT Functions That May Involve Animals (focus in this class is on Dogs and Cats)
- WC CERT Animal Response Procedures
- Sources for Additional Training and Information

Note: Presentation assumes you have completed your size up before entering the home

Encountering an Unknown Animal

- Do not show fear
- Maintain a relaxed posture
- Control environment if possible
- Avoid direct eye contact
- Do not let an animal block your escape
- Size up the situation, how is the animal behaving?
Approaching an Unknown Animal

- Try gaining their confidence
- See if you are able to contain the animal
- Consider size of your team, time available
- Know your limitations
- Approach with your body turned sideways
- Do not reach out to the animal, let them come to you
  - tap on a food can, or use treats if available

Animal Handling

- For non-aggressive animals:
  - Avoid prolonged direct eye contact
  - Always use a soft, calm voice
  - Do not loom over an animal or grab by the collar
  - Use a slip leash to control a dog, use a towel or pillow case to pick up a cat
  - Always wear your gloves
  - Use as little restraint as needed

  Note: Cats become defensive easily and may be frightened by unexpected stimuli

For frightened animals:
- Seek assistance unless you are experienced
- Don’t approach unless others can assist you
- Move slowly, try to get the animal to come to you

Aggressive animals:
- Do not approach, back away slowly
- Notify your CERT supervisor

Transporting Animals
### Transporting Animals

- Make sure crates are adequate size
- Allow only one animal per crate
  - Exception in case of mother and babies
- Control climate within vehicle
  - Keeping any animals in stationary vehicles in hot weather can result in death
- Cats should always be in a carrier
- Dogs can be tethered if not in a crate, *do not use slip leads to secure the animal*

### Injuries Caused by Animals

- Infected cat bite wound

### If an Animal Attacks

- In the event of any animal attack, report in to your CERT supervisor
- If facing an aggressive dog, try basic commands, such as sit, stay or down
  - If possible, put an object or distance between yourself and dog
- Back away; do not run away
- If you fall, curl up and cover your head
- Do not scream or yell

### Treatment for Injuries Caused by Animals

- Wash any animal scratch, bite or injury immediately with soap and water
- Administer first aid as appropriate
- Seek immediate attention for any bite
- Report all injuries to your CERT supervisor immediately

### Cats

- Approaching a Cat
- Picking up a Cat
- Holding a Cat
- Using a Towel or Pillow Case

### Crating

- Make sure you are controlling the paws
- Ease into crate
Walnut Creek CERT Animal Response

### Hands on – Class Demo

![Image of people handling dogs](image_url)

### 10 minutes: Hands On - Dogs

- **Some Practice Time**
  - Approaching a Dog
  - Putting on Slip Lead
  - Walking with a Slip lead
    - Position of Hands
    - Tightness

### Walnut Creek CERT Animal Procedures

- **CERT Communication and Procedures for Walnut Creek CERTs**
  - Communications – Field Message Form
  - Animals Left Behind
  - Tagging
  - Transporting

*Note: As a rule of thumb, spend no more than 45 seconds attempting to secure an animal.*

### WC CERT Communications & Procedures

- **WC CERT Field Team Message Form**

### WC CERT Animal Communications & Procedures

- **Complete information on Field Team Message Form**
  - Items 6, 8 and 9 each have a box to list number of animals, dependent upon the situation
- **Identity Bands in fanny packs or field buckets**
  - Identity Band (EJ Band) as well as Slip Leads and pillow cases will be a part of each kit – Bands may be packed with Triage Tags
  - If victim has an animal emergency kit readily available, bring it in with animal

### WC CERT Animal Communications & Procedures

- **Field Team Message Form – Area for Animal Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Team Message Form – Area for Animal Information</th>
<th>Field Team Message Form (PRINT - do not alter)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Item 1: Message form version</td>
<td>[Print - do not alter]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 2: Message precedence</td>
<td>Emergency or Urgent or Routine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 3: Message sender (tactical call sign)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 4: Sender location</td>
<td>Cross street/city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 5: Victim(s) location</td>
<td>Cross street/city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 6: Send Cmd/Past vehicle(s) for</td>
<td>Red, Yellow, Green, Animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 7: Details</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Item 8: Neighbors will transport to CP</td>
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<td>Item 10: Action taken</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 11: Details</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Remember, your safety comes first!

- **Animal Left Behind**
  1. It’s not safe
  2. The animal cannot easily be caught (remember 45 second rule)
  3. It’s too large or unruly to transport
  4. There is a non injured adult in the home who can care for the animal
  5. Neighbor will care for animal

*Note: If at all possible, the best action is to be able to leave an animal with a non-injured adult in the home or a neighbor*

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**Action to take when animal left behind**

- On Field Team Message Form, Items 9-11
  - Item 9: Victims left at the site (must be filled out)
    - Enter # of animals left behind
  - Item 10: Actions Taken (if time to document)
    - Notate if water/food left out for animal
  - Item 11: Details (if time to document)
    - Note, if animal left with neighbor, write down neighbor’s name, contact number

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**Item 9: List Number of Animals**

**Item 10: Notate if food or water left out**

**Item 11: Notate type of animal, why left behind, or if left with a neighbor, their name/contact number**

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**Left bowl of water**

**Unable to secure 2 cats, ran off and hid**
Animals being transported

- **SAR Action to take when Tagging for Transport**
  - Item 6: Send CmdPost vehicle(s) for (must be filled out)
  - Item 7: Details (if time to document)
  - Item 8: Neighbors will transport to CP (must be filled out)

Animals being transported

- **SAR Action to take when Tagging for Transport – continued**
  - Item 8: List Number of Animals
  - Item 7: Notate if crates needed

Animal Transportation

- Transport animal via Leash, Pillow Case or Crate
  - Do not transport unsecured animals
- Animal is transported to the Animal Staging Area by:
  - SAR Transport Team after human victim is left at medical
  - SAR Transport Team transfers animal to Animal Transporter who will be stationed at Medical Ops (again after human victim is taken care of) who will bring animal over from Medical to Animal Staging

Remember the number one priority of a Search and Rescue team in a victim transport scenario is transporting the victim to Medical Ops.

Scenario One

32-year old woman with broken leg, friendly dog at her side, cat in room when you first arrive but runs and hides somewhere in house and can’t be found - No other adult in home or neighbor available to take animals

1. SAR Action, what would you do?
2. Extraction Action, what would you do?
3. Transport Action, what would you do?
Scenario One

32-year old woman injured, friendly dog at her side, cat in room when you first arrive but runs and hides somewhere in house and can't be found - No other adult in home or neighbor available to take animals

1. SAR Action
   - Call in animal information for the field team message form, one dog to bring in, one cat being left behind. Place address on identity band for dog, leave band with triage tag

2. Extraction Action
   - Safely secure dog with slip lead, leash or crate. Place identity band around neck of dog or if unable to place around neck, secure band to crate

3. Transport Action
   - Secure animal in vehicle, after victim has been secured. Bring both victim and animal to Medical Ops – transfer victim to Med Ops and if Animal Transporter is at Med Ops release animal to them or bring animal to Animal Staging area once you receive the victim's medical number

Scenario Two

Unconscious male, friendly cat rubbing on your legs – other adults in home or neighbor not injured and consented to care for cat

1. SAR Action, what would you do?
2. Extraction Action, what would you do?
3. Transport Action, what would you do?

Scenario Two

Unconscious male, friendly cat rubbing on your legs – other adults in home or neighbor not injured and will care for cat

1. SAR Action
   - Verify if uninjured adult will care for the cat. Complete animal information on the field team message as animal left behind noting under details that the uninjured adult will be caretaker for the cat – include person’s name in details area

2. Extraction Action
   - Nothing to do

3. Transport Action
   - Nothing to do

Sources for additional information and training

- CERT Animal Response I and II Training
  - Hosted by Concord CERT, Animal Response
  - [http://www.ci.concord.ca.us/page.asp?pid=4002](http://www.ci.concord.ca.us/page.asp?pid=4002)
- ASPCA Online Webinars
  - [www.aspcapro.org](http://www.aspcapro.org)
- Volunteer at a local animal shelter
  - Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF)
  - Contra Costa Animal Services
- CART – Contra Costa County Animal Response Team