



**Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management**  
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Animals in Disaster  
 Sign In Sheet  
 October 15, 2012

Print Name & Organization	Email	Phone	Sign In
Boykin, Judith	jjbmoondog@gmail.com	264-4441	
Flores, Carmen CERT Volunteer	cflores@hmstech.com	725-4417	
French, Carl Berkeley County Health Department	Carl.G.French@wv.gov	263-5131	<i>Carl French</i>
Hernandez-Velez, Charlotte CERT Volunteer	chernandez@jeffersoncountywv.org	725-4417	
Hite, Sandy Jefferson County Health Department	Sandy.d.hite@wv.gov	728-3309	<i>Sandy Hite</i>
Kreinik, Betty Animal Advocates of WV	beagleboys@coolpond.net		
Lambiotte, Denise Jefferson County Animal Control	dlambiotte@jeffersoncountywv.org	728-3390	<i>Denise Lambiotte</i>
Manuel, Dale Jefferson County Commission	dmanuel@frontiernet.net	725-8160	
Marken, Joyce Dalb	joyce@dalb.com	725-0300	
McQuain, Vicki Animal Advocates of West Virginia	labsmom@frontier.com	<del>264-5678</del> 263-6626	<i>Vicki McQuain</i>
Mehling, Terri JCHSEM	tmehling@jeffersoncountywv.org	728-3329	<i>Terri Mehling</i>
Megan Moore NHES	education@nhes.org	262-7455	<i>Megan Moore</i>
Parsons, Kelly Chairperson/CERT	kparsons@nicholsdehaven.com	725-6525, Ext. 124 (D)	<i>K Parsons</i>

Reedy, Beth Friends Furr Life Rescue			
Rollins, Belinda PANTRAN	brollins@pantran.com	263-0876	
Simon, Kat Friends Furr Life			
Thompson, Mary Friends Furr Life			
Wheat, Annie Ameriworks	annieameriworks@comcast.net	(304) 283-3901	Annie Wheat
Yost, Lisa Ameriworks	lisaameriworks@aol.com	(304) 283-5488	Lisa Yost
Michael Harmon WVU EXT	Michael.Harman.@mil.wvu.edu	304 668 0036	
Kathy Knight			Kathy Knight
Dottie Kracke	dottiek@fronternet.net	304 728 2520	Dottie Kracke
Barbara Miller			Barbara Miller



Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management  
Animals in Disaster Committee  
28 Industrial Blvd.  
Kearneysville, WV 25430

October 15, 2012

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introductions
- III. Sign in Sheet
- IV. Minutes of July 16, 2012 Meeting
- V. Old Business
  - a. Disaster Animal Response Trailer and Team Training
- VI. New Business
  - a. New CERT session begins October 17
  - b. Quarterly Partnership Luncheon – October 30 at noon at NCTC in Shepherdstown.
  - c. PETS Act updates
- VII. Member Sharing
- VIII. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Animals in Disaster Committee will be January 21, 2013 at 9:30am and will be announced via email notification.

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
Animals in Disaster Committee  
July 16, 2012

The Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) Animals in Disaster Committee met on Monday, July 16, 2012 at 12:00pm in the Emergency Operations Center located in Kearneysville, WV. Those present were: Terri Mehling, Deputy Director; Carl French, Berkeley County Health Department; Kelly Parsons, CERT Volunteer; Denise Lambiotte, Jefferson County Animal Control; Annie Wheat, AmeriWorks; Lisa Yost, AmeriWorks; Annie Roina, Jefferson County Animal Welfare Society; Dottie Kracke, Jefferson County Animal Welfare Society; and Kathy Knight, American Red Cross Volunteer

Call to order

Introductions

Ms. Mehling, JCHSEM Deputy Director, opened the meeting with approval of the minutes of the April 16, 2012 meeting. Kelly Parsons moved to approve the minutes and Carl French was second to approve. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

Ms. Mehling reported that JCHSEM now has a companion animal rapid response trailer and supplies. Ms. Barbara Miller is working on finding a funding source for Disaster Animal Response Team Training for volunteers. There was discussion about the specific use of the trailer and for what situations it would be deployed. There was also discussion on the difficulties that would arise if there was a large animal seizure in the county and what would be needed to deal with a situation like that.

Ms. Mehling discussed JCHSEM's involvement at the Jefferson County Animal Welfare Society's Bark in the Park event on June 2.

**New Business**

Several animal organizations lost power during the June 29 storm which included Animal Control, Animal Welfare Society and PIGS. The Animal Welfare Society will be working on developing a contingency/emergency plan for the shelter. Ms. Mehling will provide information via email on how to develop a plan. It was discussed that animal groups should contact JCHSEM during this type of situation for any possible assistance. JCHSEM is in the process of compiling resident reports of personal property damage for the possibility of individual assistance. Jefferson county has met the threshold amount to be considered for public assistance if a declaration is declared.

Ms. Mehling informed the committee of the upcoming Risk Assessment Committee Meeting to be held on July 24 at JCHSEM.

Ms. Mehling announced the Quarterly Partnership Luncheon will be July 25, 2012 at Noon at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown. Buffet Lunch will be \$15 per person. Charlene Gilliam of First Energy is the guest speaker. If anyone is interested, please contact her.

Ms. Mehling discussed JCHSEM's booth and participation at the upcoming County Fair in August.

Ms. Mehling announced that Jennifer Maggio has left employment with JCHSEM. Ms. Maggio was JCHSEM's Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer/Volunteer Coordinator.

Ms. Mehling pointed out that an article from the C&O Canal National Historical Park was attached to the meeting's handout regarding white nose syndrome affecting brown bats. This disease is responsible for the deaths of millions of bats in eastern North America.

### **Member Sharing**

Ms. Lambiotte announced that there is an Animal Control Officer position open. Information about the position is available on the Sheriff's website.

Mr. French discussed power outage problems that affected funeral homes in Berkeley County.

Members of the committee were provided with a tour of the companion animal rapid response trailer.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Animals in Disaster Committee will be on October 15, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management, located at 28 Industrial Blvd., Suite 101, Kearneysville, WV.



## Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act Implementation

*(Approved by the AVMA Executive Board April 2008; oversight: Committee on Disaster and Emergency Issues)*

The AVMA urges the appropriate Federal agencies (DHS and FEMA) and Congress to revisit the National Response Framework, the Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act of 2006, and the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA), in order to ensure comprehensive coordination of command and control for implementation of the PETS Act of 2006. This is necessary to resolve significant gaps for effective implementation at all levels of government.

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- ▼ National Preparedness Month emphasizes disaster planning
- ▼ Eia is new preparedness, response coordinator for AVMA
- ▼ Colorado fires cause mass evacuations
- ▼ Deepwater Horizon oil spill and animal disaster response efforts



- ▶ New residue tests expand screening, reduce sampling
- ▶ Texas deer positive for chronic wasting disease
- ▶ FDA may gather more antimicrobial data
- ▶ USDA updates inspection certificate service

Money for the grants comes from the AVMA Animal Disaster Relief and Response available funds. To apply, visit [www.avmf.org](http://www.avmf.org) and click on "What We Fund" and talk to Kowal, AVMF program manager, by telephone at (847) 285-6691 or by email at [ok](mailto:ok)

**PRACTICE**


- ▶ National Preparedness Month emphasizes disaster planning
- ▶ Grants to fund state disaster preparedness planning

**COMMUNITY**

- ▶ Obituaries

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**AVMA Journals**  
Survey: Barriers to pet ownership incl expenses, lifestyle factors, dislike of cats & grief over loss of previous pet  
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**AVMA Journals**  
Sky's the limit as AVMF heads into 50th year  
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**AVMA Journals**  
Drought has forced horse owners to begin feeding hay as early as midsummer; cattle owners are depopulating their herds  
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## PETS Act (FAQ)

**Q:** What led to the development of the PETS Act?

**A:** Our current system for homeland security does not provide the necessary framework to manage the challenges posed by 21st Century catastrophic threats. But to be clear, it is unrealistic to think that even the strongest framework can perfectly anticipate and overcome all challenges in a crisis. While we have built a response system that ably handles the demands of a typical hurricane season, wildfires, and other limited natural and man-made disasters, the system clearly has structural flaws for addressing catastrophic events. During the Federal response to Katrina, four critical flaws in our national preparedness became evident: Our processes for unified management of the national response; command and control structures within the Federal government; knowledge of our preparedness plans; and regional planning and coordination...." The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned, The White House <http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned/chapter5.html> The White House, in response to Hurricane Katrina, directed a review of lessons learned by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In that assessment, it was recommended that DHS require State and local governments, to develop, implement, and exercise emergency response plans and to be integrated with all Federal evacuation activities, before State and local governments are able to receive DHS-funded grants.

Specifically, the assessment stated that "state and local evacuation plans should specify procedures to address the pre-positioning of food, medical and fuel supplies. These plans should address establishing first-aid stations, tracking and coordinating movements of evacuees, evacuating pets, unaccompanied minors, the elderly, and evacuating people who lack the means to leave voluntarily."

In the fall of 2006, Congress passed H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (PETS Act). On Friday, October 6, 2006, President Bush signed the PETS Act into law.

**Q:** What does the PETS Act do?

**A:** The PETS Act amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that State and local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.

The PETS Act authorizes FEMA to provide rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs for individuals with household pets and service animals, and to the household pets and animals themselves following a major disaster or emergency.

For DHS and its agency that oversees emergency response – the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – to implement the PETS Act effectively, two other documents support FEMA's activities to ensure optimal preparedness and response associated with companion animals:

Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA):

PKEMRA codifies and expands FEMA's regional office structure and strengthens its all-hazards operational framework and coordination capabilities. It expanded the federal role in emergency response by designating FEMA as the sole primary

agency, and it added additional authorities and responsibilities for FEMA to, among other actions, ensure pet rescue and shelter. In an emergency wherein the federal government will assist a state, FEMA will procure support from federal partner agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Health and Human Services (HHS), as well as the American Red Cross partners.

#### National Response Framework (NRF):

The NRF is a document that establishes a comprehensive, national, all-hazards approach to emergency response. It identifies the key response principles, roles and structures that organize national response. It describes how communities, States, the Federal Government and private-sector and nongovernmental partners apply key response principles for a coordinated and effective nationwide response.

While the PETS Act was a catalyst for implementation of preparedness plans at the state and local levels of government, it takes all three documents (PETS Act, PKEMRA, and the NRF) for a truly effective and comprehensive response.

#### Q: Who will be using the PETS Act as a tool?

A: The key stakeholders in implementing the PETS Act are states and local municipalities, as well as non-profit organizations and private companies.

Since the PETS Act works through reimbursing States and counties for work done in association with disaster mitigation, regulations associated with the PETS Act are pertinent to those State and local governments. In addition, since non-profit organizations and private companies (NGOs) work closely with States and municipalities to provide many necessary services, these groups must be cognizant of the details about the types of services that they could offer in order to be reimbursed by the State or local government. The reimbursement process can be streamlined by having pre-event agreements in place between these entities.

#### Q: When is the PETS Act in operation?

A: When a local government's resources are overwhelmed, the State helps to mitigate the disaster. However, in large emergency situations, sometimes states' resources are overwhelmed, and a request will be made to the President that the emergency needs a federal response. The PETS Act is operational when a federal disaster declaration has been made. The declaration serves as a "trigger" that provides for reimbursement for allowable, documented, services utilized in this emergency event.

#### Q: How does the PETS Act work operationally?

A: FEMA developed a disaster assistance policy titled "Eligible Costs Related to Pet Evacuations and Sheltering," (DAP 9523.19) which provides specific guidelines on expenses that are or are not reimbursable to states that expend resources on various aspects of responding to a disaster.

In particular, the following items, for which a state could be reimbursed, are enumerated in FEMA's policy:

- Definition of what a "household animal" is
- Definition of what a "service animal" is
- Type of shelter employed
- What employees are utilized in rescuing animals
- Facilities, supplies, commodities, and labor used in sheltering operations
- Type of emergency veterinary services provided
- Type of transportation utilized in rescue
- Needs for safety and security of the shelter
- Cleaning and maintenance of the shelter
- Services for removal of dead animals

- Cataloging and tracking systems used for pets
- Timeframe under which the shelter may operate

**Specific challenges that continue to be addressed include the following:**

- Receipt retention for reimbursement
- Need for federal identification numbers and/or proof of non-profit status
- Utilizing vehicles that fit the DAP 9523.19 requirements (ie., non-personal)
- Need for federal declaration, which may not be in place during the early days of a disaster
- Recognition that states typically are reimbursed for 75% of their expenditures during a federal-declared emergency (including state usage of volunteer hours as 'in-kind' services to meet the state's 25%)
- Meeting the minimum \$1000 per work sheet of expenditures for reimbursement to be considered

The entire DAP 9523.19 can be found at FEMA's policy website:

<http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/policy.pdf>

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## Disaster Preparedness - Disaster Training

### Ongoing training opportunities

- [Army medical education Web site](#)
- [Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness \(CAFSP\)](#)
- [Center for Domestic Preparedness \(Aniston, AL\) - ADERT](#)
- [Disaster Prep 101 book](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency: Electronic distance learning](#)
- [Homeland Responder Training Network](#)
- [Humanitarian Resource Institute](#)
- [Humanitarian Resource Institute: Online FAD course](#)
- [Incident Command System \(ICS\)](#)
- [Iowa State University](#)
- [Kirkwood Community College](#)
- [Life Safety Association](#)
- [LifeSaving Resources, Inc.](#)
- [Michigan.gov: Emerging animal diseases](#)
- [National Biosecurity Resource Center](#)
- [National Incident Management System Online Training](#)
- [National Safety Council](#)
- [North American Emergency Management](#)
- [Professional River Instruction](#)
- [Rescue 3 International](#)
- [Rock-n-Rescue](#)

- Ropes That Rescue
- S.T.A.R.T. Rescue Training
- Safety Advantage
- State animal response teams
- The Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)
- USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service
- University of Wisconsin, Disaster Management Center
- USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service public health veterinary training
- Veterinary Information Network
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Washington State University Extension: Disaster Management
- Western Institute for Food Safety and Security (WIFSS): Agroterrorism Food Systems Preparedness Training

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
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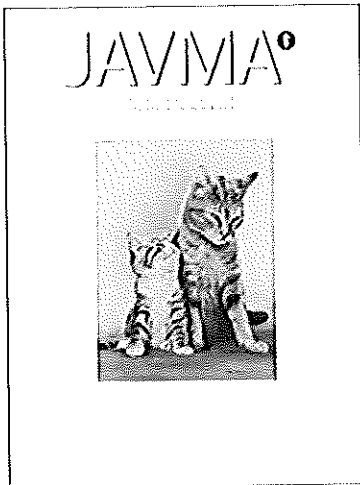
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- Task force in Texas
- Free clinic in Florida
- Evolving relations in Colorado

### AVMA

- ▶ AVMA governance goes under the microscope
- ▶ AVMA job board aims to help veterinarians young and old

### ISSUES

The American Veterinary Medical Foundation has set Oct. 31 as the deadline for state disaster preparedness grants.

Startup grants of up to \$5,000 are available to qualified state VMAs and 501(c)(3) organizations for disaster preparedness and response planning. These grants can be used for equipment, training, and other activities.

Matching and challenge grants of up to \$20,000 will be available to organizations for disaster preparedness and response process. These grants can be used for expenses related to medical supplies, and disaster response-related equipment.

The grant criteria are part of a larger effort by the Foundation to continue supporting state disaster preparedness teams, build state response capacity, and help set a national veterinary agenda for disaster preparedness.

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## Emergency Animal Sheltering

### Course Description

Emergency Animal Sheltering (EAS) gives participants the tools necessary to plan and manage an emergency animal shelter in their community. In addition, it prepares participants to deploy with HSUS or other national organizations operating emergency shelters in the event of a large-scale disaster. The training includes two days of classroom instruction combined with tabletop exercises to give students an opportunity to practice new skills using practical and relevant scenarios.

### Course Objectives

This course gives participants classroom and practical information on planning, setting up and managing an emergency animal shelter. Covering all aspects from putting together a planning team to closing down the shelter, the workshop covers operational, planning, logistical, resource management and other elements of the emergency animal shelter operation.

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By the end of the workshop participants will have a practical knowledge of:

- A basic introduction to disaster and emergency management
- Community planning for animals in disaster
- Types of emergency shelters for animals
- Meeting the animals' needs
- Logistics
- Sanitation
- Transport
- Human resources
- Worker health and safety
- Administrative issues
- Legal issues
- Media/public relations
- Closing the shelter

**Prerequisites**

[Click here](#) for the prerequisites for Emergency Animal Sheltering (EAS)

**Schedule**

**Where:** The location of onsite workshops will be determined by the host agency.

**When:** This is a two-day workshop held between the hours of:

- 8:30am to 5:00pm (Day 1)
- 8:30am to 5:00pm (Day 2)
- Check in begins at 8:00am (Day 1)

\* Note: Participants will be given an hour for lunch

**Registration & Fees**

Cost Options: The Host Agency can choose from one of the three cost options, below. Rates are specific to each workshop topic and length of the workshop

- **Hosting Agency Flat Rate/No Student Registration Fee:** The Hosting Agency pays a flat rate to cover the cost of the workshop; individual students do not pay HSU. The cost of each workshop varies according to the requirements of each workshop and your location. For specifics, please inquire with [hsuonline@humansocietyuniversity.org](mailto:hsuonline@humansocietyuniversity.org).
- **Low Cost Student Registration Fee/Back-up Hosting Agency Matching:** The student registration fee is set at a low rate determined by the hosting agency (i.e. \$25). The hosting agency would match the difference between the low student rate and the normal registration fee. An invoice will be sent to the hosting agency following the completion of the class.
- **Student Registration Fees only/No Hosting Flat Rate:** HSU sets the registration fees based on our average class size of 35 students. Workshop fees vary in order to cover costs of instructor travel and materials. In general, our standard student rates are:

Workshop Rate:

Length of the Workshop	Individual Participant Fee	Host Agency Flat Fee
Two-day workshops:	\$145	\$3,200

Registration deadline is two weeks before the start date of the workshop.

Cancellation fee is 25% of the registration fee.

No refunds will be given after the two-week time period.

HSU reserves the right to cancel this workshop due to low enrollment or in the case of a major animal disaster response.

**Accommodations**

Recommendations for accommodations will be made by the host agency and will be posted on the specific webpage for each workshop.

**Instructors**

All of our instructors are subject - matter experts with 10 or more years of experience in their field of instruction.

**Required Materials**

Workshop materials will be provided by HSU and sent to the host agency within 7-10 business days prior to the start of the workshop.

**Upcoming Workshops**

[View all upcoming Emergency Animal Sheltering workshops](#)

**College of Arts and Sciences**

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## Animal First Aid for Disaster Responders

### Course Description

This two-day workshop provides classroom and hands-on instruction on first aid techniques which disaster responders can apply until more advanced veterinary help can be found.

### Course Objectives

Participants learn how to identify and treat common disaster-related injuries, illnesses, and conditions; how to distinguish animals who need advanced care from those who need first aid, as well as those who pose a threat to other animals and to people; and what not to do in order to minimize harm to the animal.

By the end of the workshop participants will have a practical knowledge of:

- Animal first aid basics
- Situational awareness and safety
- Critical situations
- Restraint and carry techniques
- Internal and external bleeding
- Conditions and techniques for large animals
- Ophthalmic first aid
- Decontamination
- Bandaging and wound care
- Animal first aid jump kits

### Schedule

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Cost Options: The Host Agency can choose from one of the three cost options, below. Rates are specific to each workshop topic and length of the workshop

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- **Low Cost Student Registration Fee/Back-up Hosting Agency Matching:** The student registration fee is set at a low rate determined by the hosting agency (i.e. \$25). The hosting agency would match the difference between the low student rate and the normal registration fee. An invoice will be sent to the hosting agency following the completion of the class.
- **Student Registration Fees only/No Hosting Flat Rate:** HSU sets the registration fees based on our average class size of 35 students. Workshop fees vary in order to cover costs of instructor travel and materials. In general, our standard student rates are:

Workshop Rate:

Length of the Workshop	Individual Participant Fee	Host Agency Flat Fee
Two-day workshops:	\$145	\$3,200

Registration deadline is two weeks before the start date of the workshop.

Cancellation fee is 25% of the registration fee.

No refunds will be given after the two-week time period.

HSU reserves the right to cancel this workshop due to low enrollment or in the case of a major animal disaster response.

### Accommodations

Recommendations for accommodations will be made by the host agency and will be posted on the specific webpage for each workshop.

### Instructors

All of our instructors are subject - matter experts with 10 or more years of experience in their field of instruction.

### Required Materials

Workshop materials will be provided by HSU and sent to the host agency within 7-10 business days prior to the start of the workshop.

### Upcoming Workshops

[View all upcoming Animal First Aid for Disaster Responders workshops](#)

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## Disaster Animal Response Training (DART)

### Course Description

The Disaster Animal Response Training (DART) is the premier basic training for building community preparedness for animals in disaster and for preparing animal disaster responders nationwide. This three-day workshop is designed to familiarize participants with the necessary elements of team-building and provide the background necessary to become an effective emergency animal relief responder. The class includes three days of mixed classroom/tabletop/hands-on instruction.

### Course Objectives

After completion of DART, participants will have tools to begin forming a local or regional community animal response team and a basic understanding of necessary skills to participate in national disaster response for animals.

By the end of the workshop participants will have a practical knowledge of:

- Personal, facility and community disaster preparedness for animals
- Animal care and handling in disaster situations
- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Legal and media issues
- Safety
- Communications
- Staffing and volunteer management
- Resource and donations management
- Damage assessment
- Emergency animal sheltering

**Prerequisites**

[Click here](#) for the prerequisites for Disaster Animal Response Team Training (DART)

**Schedule**

**Where:** The location of onsite workshops will be determined by the host agency.

**When:** This is a three-day workshop held between the hours of:

- 9:00am to 5:00pm (Day 1)
- 9:00am to 5:00pm (Day 2)
- 8:00am to 3:00pm (Day 3)
- Check in begins at 8:30am (Day 1)

\* Note: Participants will be given an hour for lunch

**Registration & Fees**

Cost Options: The Host Agency can choose from one of the three cost options, below. Rates are specific to each workshop topic and length of the workshop

- **Hosting Agency Flat Rate/No Student Registration Fee:** The Hosting Agency pays a flat rate to cover the cost of the workshop; individual students do not pay HSU. The cost of each workshop varies according to the requirements of each workshop and your location. For specifics, please inquire with [hsuonline@humansocietyuniversity.org](mailto:hsuonline@humansocietyuniversity.org).
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- **Student Registration Fees only/No Hosting Flat Rate:** HSU sets the registration fees based on our average class size of 35 students. Workshop fees vary in order to cover costs of instructor travel and materials. In general, our standard student rates are:

Workshop Rate:

Length of the Workshop	Individual Participant Fee	Host Agency Flat Fee
Three-day workshops:	\$195	\$3,500

Registration deadline is two weeks before the start date of the workshop.

Cancellation fee is 25% of the registration fee.

No refunds will be given after the two-week time period.

HSU reserves the right to cancel this workshop due to low enrollment or in the case of a major animal disaster response.

**Accommodations**

Recommendations for accommodations will be made by the host agency and will be posted on the specific webpage for each workshop.

**Instructors**

All of our instructors are subject - matter experts with 10 or more years of experience in their field of instruction.

**Required Materials**

Workshop materials will be provided by HSU and sent to the host agency within 7-10 business days prior to the start of the workshop.

**Upcoming Workshops**

[View all upcoming Disaster Animal Response Training workshops](#)

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## Public Information

### What is the PETS Act?

The official name of the PETS Act is Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006. This legislation amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

The amendments specified in the PETS Act are intended to ensure that state and local emergency preparedness operational planning addresses the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.

#### The PETS Act:

- Requires state and local emergency preparedness operational plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals before, during and after a disaster
- Grants the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) the authority to approve the standards of these plans and assist state and local communities in developing plans
- Indicates that the FEMA Director may make financial contributions on the basis of programs and projects approved by the Director, to the state and local authorities for animal emergency preparedness purposes. This includes the procurement, leasing, construction or renovation of emergency shelter facilities and materials that will accommodate people with pets and service animals.
- Allows FEMA the authority to provide essential assistance to individuals with pets and service animals — for the provision of care, rescue, sheltering and essential needs to such pets and animals

The PETS Act was signed into law late in 2006, so there will be some lag time in developing and implementing those plans. Many states are already actively seeking assistance from experts in the field in order to make sure that the plans they are developing are not only practical and realistic but also that they genuinely protect the companion animals within their jurisdictions.

#### History of the PETS Act

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, it was overwhelmingly apparent that provisions need to be made for companion animals in major disaster and emergency situations:

- Many Katrina evacuees and disaster victims were forced to leave their pets behind when they evacuated their homes, because no provisions had been made to evacuate pets along with their families.
- The emotional trauma of those forced to leave their pets behind and the suffering of tens of thousands of animals was compounded by the health and safety risks that resulted from so many abandoned animals in one area.
- Conversely, many pet owners, knowing their animals could not accompany them, chose to stay in their homes with their pets, further complicating human rescue efforts.

The PETS Act helps ensure that this situation does not repeat itself if another major disaster strikes. With tremendous bipartisan support in both houses, the legislation passed quickly through Congress in 2006 and was signed into law in October 2006.

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United States

## Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006'

[Statute Details](#)

[Printable Version](#)

Citation: Public Law 109-308 (2006)

Citation: 2006 120 STAT. 1725

Last Checked by Web Center Staff:

### Summary:

(Derived from the U.S. House press release) The destructive force of Hurricane Katrina exposed many flaws in our nation's emergency preparedness programs. One easily correctible issue that has come to light is that many of our city and state authorities' disaster plans do not take into account how to rescue the portion of the population who are pet owners. In order to qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding, a city or state is required to submit a plan detailing its disaster preparedness program. The PETS Act would simply require that the State and local emergency preparedness authorities include how they will accommodate households with pets or service animals when presenting these plans to the FEMA. This bi-partisan legislation is necessary because Hurricane Katrina has clearly shown that when given a choice between their own personal safety or abandoning their household pets, a significant number of people will choose to risk their lives in order to remain with their pets. It is now clear that we must require these jurisdictions to have plans in effect to deal with their pet-owning populations as a matter of public safety.

There are significant problems, including serious health

### Statute in Full:

PUBLIC LAW 109-308—OCT. 6, 2006 120 STAT. 1725

Public Law 109-308

109th Congress

An Act

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that State and local emergency preparedness operational plans address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals following a major disaster or emergency.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006”.

## **SEC. 2. STANDARDS FOR STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OPERATIONAL PLANS.**

Section 613 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196b) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) **STANDARDS FOR STATE AND LOCAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OPERATIONAL PLANS.**—In approving standards for State and local emergency preparedness operational plans pursuant to subsection

(b)(3), the Director shall ensure that such plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency.”.

## **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEASURES OF THE DIRECTOR.**

Section 611 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) plans that take into account the needs of individuals with pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency.”; and

(2) in subsection (j)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (3) through (9), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) The Director may make financial contributions, on the basis of programs or projects approved by the Director, to the States and local authorities for animal emergency preparedness purposes, including the procurement, construction, leasing, or renovating of emergency shelter facilities and materials that will accommodate people with pets and service animals.”.

## **SEC. 4. PROVIDING ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH HOUSEHOLD PETS AND SERVICE ANIMALS FOLLOWING A DISASTER.**

Section 403(a)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.

5170b(a)(3)) is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (H), by striking “and” at the end;
- (2) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and
- (3) by adding at the end the following:
  - “(J) provision of rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs—
  - “(i) to individuals with household pets and service animals; and
  - “(ii) to such pets and animals.”

Approved October 6, 2006.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3858:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 152 (2006):

May 22, considered and passed House.

Aug. 3, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Sept. 20, House concurred in Senate amendment.

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