



Animal Plan for Disasters

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Legal-PETS Act

- 2006 federal mandate
- Response to animal-human issues during Hurricane Katrina
- Ensures governments plan for evacuation, rescue, sheltering and essential needs of household pets and service animals in a disaster

FACTS

- 2003 and 2009 Fayette County ice storms demonstrated need for emergency animal sheltering. People would not go to a shelter if they couldn't take their pets.
- Human life and safety is at risk if people endanger their lives or the lives of rescuers for the sake of their pets.
- Pet sheltering **is a reimbursable item** during a Federally declared disaster

FACTS

- The Bluegrass Chapter of the American Red Cross provides general population shelters in Fayette County during an emergency.
- The American Red Cross does not permit animals, other than service animals, in its shelters.
- Not all pet owners plan for their pets before or during a disaster.

Current Situation

- Verbal agreement between LFUCG and Lexington Humane Society/Lexington-Fayette Animal Care and Control for emergency sheltering of animals during a disaster – Limit: 100 animals
- After LHS/LFACC resources are exhausted, LFUCG will provide additional resources.
- LHS/LFACC has MOA with American Humane Association for disasters with need to shelter 100 or more animals.

Where do we go from here?

- Work on formal agreement between LFUCG and LHS/LFACC
- Amend LFACC contract to allow:
 - Suspension of some regular duties during a locally declared disaster
 - Provision for reimbursed overtime and resource expenditures

Issues

- Lead Agency LFACC/LHS
- Location: Single vs Co-located
- Staffing
 - Professional/Volunteer/Owner
- Financial Commitment
- Liabilities
 - Personal
 - Building property
 - Personal property
- Type of animals
- Rescue and /or sheltering
- Medical care
- Decontamination
- Veterinary Involvement



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