

Animal Care Providers in Federally-Declared Disasters

<p>Department of Defense (DOD)</p>	<p>Includes the DOD Veterinary Services. The U.S. Army Veterinary Corps is activated in Federally declared disasters upon request from the affected State's Governor via the President. In the past, the U.S. Army has been the most important Federal agency that deals directly with veterinary issues in disasters because of their excellent communications capabilities and access to extensive resources.</p>
<p>Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)</p>	<p>Veterinarians within HHS function as part of the National Disaster Medical Services. The Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs) are composed of veterinarians and other persons who have pre-enrolled with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and Federal government. They help re-establish the veterinary practices of affected veterinarians. These VMATs are activated via State and Federal emergency management officials. Their field activities are coordinated through the coordinator of emergency preparedness at the AVMA headquarters in Schaumburg, Illinois. The AVMA is the designated lead agency to coordinate response activities related to animals in disasters.</p>
<p>U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)</p>	<p>Regulate Federal and State health programs for animals and through Cooperative Extension Services have nationwide, county-based expertise to consult on most phases of emergency management. See list to follow.</p> <p>Resources and expertise that county extension educators can provide in disasters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster prevention, • Pesticide safety and handling, • Fire safety training, • Disaster response, • Counseling on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Small businesses – Consumer economics – Livestock feed safety – Water quality – Livestock husbandry – Family and personal stress – Financial planning – Waste management – Building construction safety • Disaster mitigation,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster preparedness, and • Capabilities to gather, evaluate and disseminate knowledge and expertise through its email network and within universities.
<p>Non-governmental organizations</p>	<p>Provide care for animals in disasters and have traditionally been national humane organizations, such as American Humane Association, Humane Society of the United States, United Animal Nations, American Kennel Club and the Cat Fancier's Association. Currently these groups do not have an official role in Federal response plan. These volunteer agencies are a potential financial and human support resource to the local communities.</p>