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FOOD & AGRICULTURE



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*“All Disasters
Are Local.”*

Concept of Operations

Animal Health and Food
Safety Services Division
Emergency Preparedness
and Response Section

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Record of Revisions

Any approved additions or modifications to this plan will be documented and noted in this section. The date of the revision, the name/title of the employee making the change, and a summary and reason for the modification will be inserted into this section of the Concept of Operations. Any revision to this document will be considered an update and will require an updated cover page reflecting this is a new revised document. The California Department of Food and Agriculture, Emergency Preparedness and Response Section will ensure the updated version is distributed to all previous recipient departments and agencies, and the document should be uploaded to any share sites and/or webpages where this Concept of Operations resides. Printed material will be available at the Department Operations Center. Personnel with a role in executive leadership, coordination and management, and operational implementation of emergency procedures are encouraged to have digital access to this plan, or a printed copy of this plan made available to them at all times.

Change Number	Revision Date	Summary of Revision	Revision Made By (Name/Title)
1			
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Preface

This Concept of Operations (CONOPS) is defined as a dynamic document, which may be continually edited and updated by either a limited or unrestricted group in the Animal Health Branch-California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) Unit to accurately reflect the most current CARES activities and responsibilities.

1.0 Introduction

California has experienced many large-scale emergencies and disasters in the past decade that have raised the awareness of the needs of animals in emergencies and disasters. Planning for the evacuation, and care and sheltering of animals is essential to mitigating excessive and unnecessary suffering and loss of animals, which contributes to the trauma of disaster victims.

Fires are the most frequent source of local and state proclamations and federal declarations. Per CAL FIRE, by the end of 2020, nearly 10,000 fires had burned over 4.2 million acres, more than 4% of the state's roughly 100 million acres of land, making 2020 the largest wildfire season in California's modern history. One fire alone burned over 1 million acres and crossed seven counties¹. However, California is susceptible to varying impacts from natural and human-caused disasters. The importance of planning and preparedness for multi-hazards has become more evident as emergency management has seen an incremental increase in the complexity, frequency and duration of emergencies and disasters making it more difficult to respond to and recover from these events.

Participating Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies may take emergency actions, consistent with the law, and in accordance with their organization's policies to protect the public, mitigate immediate hazards, and collect information concerning the emergency. These actions may be taken prior to any formal State or Federal declaration. Private sector is also encouraged to take actions to reduce risk and/or mitigate consequences.

State, tribal, and local governments are primarily responsible for securing the welfare of animals within their jurisdiction and authority and implementing measures to minimize the adverse consequences of a disaster.

Emergency events and emergency response typically begin at the local level. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has often stated that, "All disasters are local".² Pet owners need to take steps to prepare ahead of an emergency or

¹ [CAL FIRE Incidents 2020](#)

² [FEMA Deputy Administrator Richard Serino's keynote speech](#)

disaster. Local government needs to take steps to address underlying vulnerabilities in a community to be more resilient. State government will respond respective to each agency's own authorities, resources, and capabilities in accordance with the California State Emergency Plan (SEP) to include mutual aid systems. Non-governmental organizations, also known as volunteer organizations, and private non-profits, play an integral role in emergency response involving animals, which not only includes dogs, cats, and other pets, but equine, avian, and other livestock species in this agriculturally rich state. Volunteer organizations not only have special skills and capabilities, but they are familiar with their community because they are a part of it, thereby having a vested interest. Regardless of the level of government or type of organization, because of the interdependency between domestic animals and humans, it is a shared responsibility to protect animals in emergencies and disasters.

2.0 Purpose and Framework

This CONOPS is developed to address the mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery actions before, during and after an event required by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for human-caused and natural disasters involving animals. Protection of life and property is an inherent responsibility of local, state, tribal, and federal government with the valuable assistance of volunteer organizations and animal owners. CDFA has a responsibility under its authority to ensure the welfare of animals in disasters.

This CONOPS includes a description of the CARES goals and objectives, resource capabilities, and roles and responsibilities in all four phases of emergency management. In the mitigation and preparedness phases, the CARES Unit will assist local government with planning and preparing for animals in disasters. In the response and recovery phases, the CARES system, as one of the core functions of the California Emergency Support Function (CA-ESF) 11, will primarily assist and support the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the CA-ESF 11 in human-caused and natural disasters. The CA-ESF 11 has the authority and responsibility to facilitate the development, implementation, and maintenance of CA-ESF 11 and its core functions. It provides the leadership, ongoing communication, coordination, and oversight for CA-ESF 11 throughout all phases of emergency management. During the response phase, when the State generates a mission resource task to the CDFA CA-ESF 11 Coordinator that is within CDFA's authority and capability, CARES will mission coordinate to meet the needs of local government in collaboration with volunteer agencies/organizations statewide, other State agencies, unaffected local government resources, and as a last resort, out-of-state resources.

Based upon authorities and responsibilities, the California SEP designates the CDFA as the CA-ESF 11 Food and Agriculture lead responsible for specific tasks or functions that may be carried out before, during and after an emergency such as sharing best

practices and enhancing emergency management by strengthening collaboration and coordination among the stakeholders. The basis for the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator to effectively carry out the duties of the position is the [CA-ESF 11 Annex](#) (currently under revision) to the California SEP, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of state agency stakeholders and their relationships with other state, local, tribal, and federal government agencies, the private sector, and national organizations with supporting or related missions that support to meet the needs of animals during human-caused or natural disasters.

The CA-ESF 11 enhances the State of California's capabilities to provide emergency services to protect the state's food supply, agriculture, and animals. The CA ESF-11 also maintains an inventory of stakeholder resources and provides recommendations and subject matter expertise to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) associated with the CA-ESF 11 in all phases of emergency management. The California SEP provides the information on the CA-ESF lead agencies, which reads as follows:

- Each California Emergency Support Function represents an alliance of stakeholders who possess common interests and share a level of responsibility for emergency management. The CA-ESFs bring together state agencies, departments, and others to collaboratively prepare for, cohesively respond to and effectively recover from an emergency.
- A single state agency is assigned to lead each CA-ESF based on its authorities, resources, and capabilities. Each CA-ESF member agency is responsible to assist in coordinating the state's response to emergencies, including provision of mutual aid and the allocation of essential supplies and resources.

The CA-ESF 11 covers a wide range of emergency scenarios from a food contamination event to foreign animal disease or plant pest introductions, to coordinating disasters necessitating animal emergency medical care, evacuation, rescue, temporary confinement, shelter, food, water, and identification for return to the owner. While agencies are aligned with ESF's that reflect agency capabilities and authorities, ESF's also coordinate. When activated to address animal issues during a disaster, CA-ESF 11 is supported by other ESF's as depicted in Figure 1. For example, CA-ESF 11 coordinates with CA-ESF 8 for disaster veterinary volunteers, CA-ESF 10 for animal mortality management, and CA-ESF 6 to coordinate animal and owner sheltering during evacuations.

The CARES Unit resides within the Emergency Preparedness and Response Section (EPRS) of the Animal Health Branch (AHB) in the Animal Health and Food Safety Services (AHFSS) Division of CDFA. The CDFA CARES Unit provides assistance and support to the CA-ESF 11 when the ESF 11 Coordinator recommends activation of CARES to the CDFA Executive Office following a request from Cal OES. To meet animal disaster related responsibilities, CDFA utilizes the CARES Unit, originally established in 1997 in response to a Governor's Order, to coordinate State agency

response in support of local government and with the assistance of volunteer organizations. In sheltering operations³ for example, the CARES Unit may coordinate the resources necessary to carry out sheltering activities by leveraging NGOs to perform sheltering activities. The CDFA CARES staff may be required to deploy to support a disaster when Cal OES generates a mission resource task (MRT). During a disaster, within the capability of CDFA, the sequence for CDFA deployments is as follows:

- CARES Unit
- EPRS (includes foreign animal disease [FAD] unit)
- AHB (veterinarians are regulatory, non-practicing)
- CDFA divisions

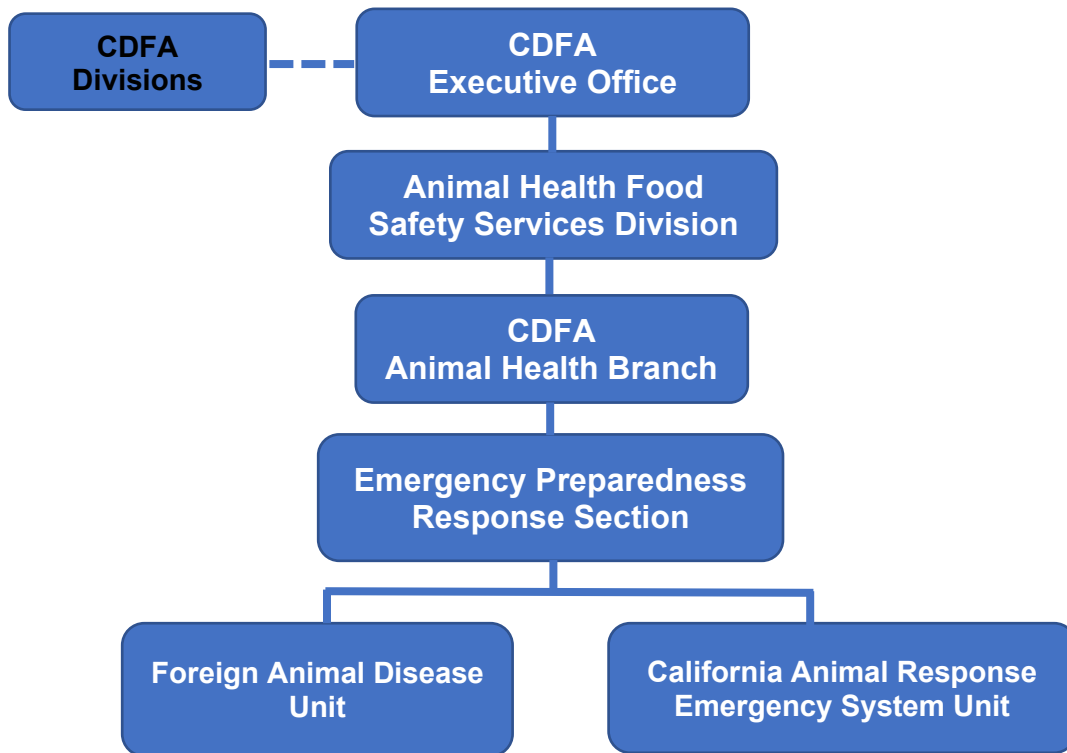
Figure 1. California Emergency Support Function (CA-ESF) Lead and Support Roles

	CA-ESF 1 Transportation	
	CA-ESF 2 Communication	
	CA-ESF 3 Construction & Engineering	
	CA-ESF 4 Fire & Rescue	
	CA-ESF 5 Management	S
	CA-ESF 6 Care & Shelter	S
	CA-ESF 7 Resources	S
	CA-ESF 8 Public Health & Medical	S
	CA-ESF 9 Search & Rescue	
	CA-ESF 10 Hazardous Materials	S
	CA-ESF 11 Food & Agriculture	L
	CA-ESF 12 Utilities	
	CA-ESF 13 Law Enforcement	S
	CA-ESF 14 Long Term Recovery	S
	CA-ESF 15 Public Information	S
	CA-ESF 16 Evacuation	
	CA-ESF 17 Volunteers & Donations Management	
	CA-ESF 18 Cybersecurity	
CDFA		

³ CDFA has regulatory oversight of the daily operations of animal shelters in fixed facilities; not in an emergency or disaster:

https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=FAC&division=14.8.&title=&part=1.&chapter=&article=

Figure 2. Animal Health Branch Organization Chart



3.0 Scope

This CONOPS pertains to disasters impacting animals with a coordinated animal response under the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and National Emergency Management System (NIMS).

- It is intended to follow existing or developing animal response plans or annexes.
- It does not alter existing standard operational procedures or roles and responsibilities under SEMS at any level of government or organization.
- It is intended to minimize animal suffering, disability and minimize loss of life through a timely, coordinated response.
- It is intended to promote the integration of volunteer organizations and neighboring jurisdictions to ensure expanded capabilities of response operations.

4.0 Authorities, References, and Guidance

- The [Incident Command System](#) (ICS) is a standardized, on-scene, all-risk incident management concept and refers to the combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common

organizational structure to match the complexities and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. It is designed to aid in the management of resources during incident response. The ICS is based on eight concepts that contribute to the successful application of this system. ICS has considerable internal flexibility. It can grow or shrink to meet different needs. This flexibility makes it a very cost effective and efficient management approach for both small and large situations.

- The [Standardized Emergency Management System](#) (SEMS) resulted in a major revision of the [California Emergency Services Act](#). With the Incident Command System at its foundation, SEMS emphasizes a standard organizational structure and terminology at all emergency management levels. The system was designed to enhance coordination among response organizations and facilitate the flow of emergency information and resources within and between the organizational levels. SEMS is intended to standardize response to emergencies involving multiple jurisdictions or multiple agencies. SEMS is intended to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of all emergency responders in California. California uses SEMS to coordinate and manage emergency response that involve more than one agency or jurisdiction. SEMS improves information flow; enhances coordination between agencies; and tracks resource mobilization and deployment.
- The [National Incident Management System](#) (NIMS) is a comprehensive, national approach to incident management that is applicable at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines. It is intended to be applicable across a full spectrum of potential incidents, hazards, and impacts, regardless of size, location, or complexity; improve coordination and cooperation between public and private entities in a variety of incident management activities; and provide a common standard for overall incident management.
- The [California Emergency Services Act 2015](#) ed.
- The California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) Unit resulted in a revision to the California Emergency Services Act. The CARES Unit provides operational guidance to assist with all aspects of animal care in the event of a disaster or emergency with the assistance of agencies and volunteer organizations. In addition, the CARES Unit provides resources such as publications, forms, and guidance documents as well as a functional and relevant website, for the public, animal businesses, shelters, and emergency planners. The CARES Unit is structured in accordance with the Standardized Emergency Management System and the Incident Command System.
- Animal Care and Control (hereafter known as Animal Services), may be its own department or part of a governmental animal care agency (e.g., Public Health, Public Works), law enforcement agency, or private animal welfare organizations contracting with cities or counties to provide animal services. Animal services has the responsibility for the care and welfare of domesticated animals and livestock within the county Operational Area (OA) as well as to assist in the control and eradication

of infectious diseases, the sanitation of premises, destruction of animals, and disposal of carcasses, manure, offal, refuse, condemned meat, and meat products jointly with animal owners.⁴

- The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) is responsible for the state’s emergency and disaster response services for natural, technological, or human-caused disasters and emergencies, including responsibility for activities necessary to prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of emergencies and disasters to people and property.
- The Robert T. Stafford Relief Act as amended by the 2006 [Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards \(PETS\) Act](#)⁵ and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), and Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act state that State and local government emergency operations plans should address the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals.
- The FEMA, under the PETS Act, has authority 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.
- California Assembly Bill 450 entered into law in 2006, which adds §8608 to the Government Code and assures that California will comply with federal requirements. This law requires the incorporation of an existing program, CARES, into the State’s SEMS.
- California Government Code §8608(a): The Office of Emergency Services shall approve and adopt and incorporate the California Animal Response Emergency System developed under the oversight of the Department of Food and Agriculture into the standardized emergency management system established pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 8607(b) no later than January 31, 2007, the Department of Food and Agriculture shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Office of Emergency Services and other interested parties to incorporate the CARES Unit into their emergency planning.
- [Public Utilities Code \(PUC\) 99166 Public Transit](#) (a) If an evacuation order is issued that covers all or a portion of a public transit operator’s service area, the public

⁴ Master Mutual Aid Agreement states that each party agrees to furnish resources and facilities and to render services to each and every other party to combat any type of disaster. However, no party is required to unreasonably deplete its own resources, facilities, and services in the process of furnishing Mutual Aid.

⁵ Sections [613(b)(3), 611 (e & j), 403(a)(3)] of the “Stafford Act”. The amendments in sections 613 and 403 refer to “individuals with household pets and service animals”. The amendments in section 611 refer to “people with pets and service animals”. Key words- “individuals with” and “people with” noting the focus is upon the person and only secondarily upon an animal. One of the amendments to section 403, when addressing “provisions of rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs” speaks solely “(ii) to such pets and animals”. This statement has been touted by some individuals as prescribing an obligatory need to address all animals. This is not the case. Both paragraph structure (ii) as a sub listing to (i) and the word “such” place the reference specifically back to “individuals with household pets and service animals” as stated in (i). The intent of this provision is to assure that animals associated with rescued individuals are evacuated, cared for, sheltered, etc. as are their owners.

transit operator shall authorize passengers to board public transit vehicles with their pets in the area covered by the evacuation order, consistent with best practices developed by CDFA in collaboration with Cal OES.

- Cal OES and CDFA memorandum of understanding dated January 31, 2007: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Cal OES and CDFA was agreed upon and signed as required by the government code and stipulates support to local government, integration of stakeholders, defining roles, and coordinating resources.
- Executive Order W-9-91 Initiative Number 6: Memorandum of Understanding for Animal Care During Disasters Completed in compliance with the Flood Emergency Action Team (FEAT) - coordinate a program of disaster relief to ensure preservation of animal life and to protect public health and welfare by providing emergency animal care.
- Executive Order W-9-91: The Director, Office of Emergency Services, may assign specific emergency functions to a given state agency where such functions are consistent with duties and responsibilities identified in the State Emergency Plan.
- California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement⁶
- [Emergency Management Mutual Aid](#) (EMMA)⁷ provides emergency management personnel and technical specialists, not covered by Law Enforcement or Fire Mutual Aid plans, in support of emergency operations and response of affected jurisdictions throughout California. EMMA will be used as required by the county Operational Area. Cal OES coordinates mutual aid from requesting to providing jurisdiction, primarily drawing from local government sources. As necessary, Cal OES may provide state agency employees in response to mutual aid requests. This is accomplished through a Cal OES generated MRT.
- [State of California Emergency Plan 2017](#) edition, dated 2005.
- California Emergency Support Functions (CA-ESFs) 2017, original Emergency Functions Executive Summary 2013.
- [Emergency Management Assistance Compact](#) (EMAC)⁸ 1996 (Pub. L. 104-321).

5.0 Situation and Assumptions

5.1 Situation

⁶ Master Mutual Aid Agreement states that each party agrees to furnish resources and facilities and to render services to each and every other party to combat any type of disaster. However, no party is required to unreasonably deplete its own resources, facilities, and services in the process of furnishing Mutual Aid.

⁷ EMMA Plan, November 2012, p. 3: EMMA resources are normally provided to assist in local and operational area Emergency Operations Centers (EOC's) and community service centers staffed by federal, state, and local officials. Therefore, requests for EMMA resources would typically be expected after a local emergency is declared.

⁸ Under the FEMA National Response Framework, EMAC is a national interstate mutual aid agreement that is all hazards and enables states to share resources during times of disaster.

Risk

- California is vulnerable to various threats and hazards that may warrant evacuation of large numbers of people and their service animals and pets, as well as farm animals such as poultry, equine, cattle, and other livestock.
- Historically, the most impactful threats and hazards to life and property have been wildfires, floods, and earthquakes. Climate change has exacerbated wildfires, floods, drought (catalyst for wildfires), and other extreme weather events.
 - Wildfires – In the last several years, fire season is starting earlier and ending later, setting an emerging trend. California’s 5-year drought, and climate change (Flannigan et al 2000; Westerling, 2016) are catalysts for this trend.
 - Earthquakes – California is earthquake country. The central and southern areas of the state are at great risk for an extreme catastrophic earthquake.
 - Floods – Per the Department of Water Resources, all regions of California are susceptible to flooding at different times of the year and in different forms ranging from tsunamis in coastal areas to alluvial fan flooding at the base of hillsides, and from fast-moving flash floods to slow rise deep flooding in valleys.
- An emergency or disaster can cause large numbers of casualties, damage, displacement of people and animals, disruption of critical infrastructure, and interruption of supply chains that requires coordination among government to ensure the public and animal health and safety.
- In the aftermath of a major emergency or catastrophic event, displaced, missing, hurt, diseased, or dead animals can be magnified.

General Response

- Existing local procedures and SEMS and NIMS will be followed.
- Emergency response is best coordinated at the lowest level of government involved in the emergency.
- Local authorities maintain operational control and responsibility for emergency management activities within their jurisdiction, unless otherwise superseded by statute or agreement.
- Mutual Aid is requested when needed and provided as available.
- Mitigation activities conducted prior to the occurrence of a disaster result in a potential reduction in loss of life, injuries, and damage.
- Supporting plans and procedures are updated and maintained by responsible parties.
- Disaster animal care will be consistent with all-hazard emergency management concepts/principles.
- The public and media outlets will require critical information related to the status of animals and the emergency actions that are being taken to protect them in an emergency.

Local Government Emergency Management and Whole Community

- Incidents typically begin and end locally, and are daily managed at the lowest geographical, organizational, and jurisdictional level.
- Local county OAs and city agencies have the primary authority to provide services and render aid to people who need to evacuate with their pets and require shelter accommodations.
- It is the responsibility and authority of the County to ensure that the governmental response to an event requiring emergency animal services is appropriate.
- OA agencies with jurisdiction over animal services and health and welfare will take the necessary steps to adequately plan and prepare for potential disasters or emergencies based on the PETS Act and in accordance with existing emergency operation plans.
- Local animal services agencies will organize the transportation of animals to safe areas or shelter sites based on their written procedures for evacuations.
- Local primary and support agencies and organizations will track evacuated animals to provide for accountability and to ensure for reunification of animals with their owners.
- Local government plans may vary in their sheltering accommodations for pets.
- Local Animal Service's agencies may be located within the county in different organizational configurations depending on the county. Animal services could be a section in the county Public Health Department, included in the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, division in the county Sheriff's Department, or its own agency. This should be carefully considered when OAs request mutual aid for these resources.
- Owners of pets, service animals and/or livestock should have the ultimate responsibility for the safety of their animals and should be prepared to evacuate their animals.
- Livestock owners should be given advance warning of mandatory evacuation orders to allow them time to load and transport livestock, if possible, given the logistical complexity of such evacuations and challenge to find adequate re-location sites. As an alternate, shelter-in-place may be required.
- Some animals simply cannot be evacuated due to population size, special needs, or other factors. When animals are left to shelter-in-place (i.e., shelter in the animal's current location – pasture, boarding facility, etc. rather than moving them to shelter-at-home) within evacuation areas, OAs and local governments will need to prepare for feeding and care of these shelter-in-place animals.
- Pet and livestock owners, when notified of an impending emergency will take reasonable steps to protect and care for animals in their possession, and if evacuated will normally take their domestic animals with them, or place them in prearranged private boarding kennels, stables, or similar facilities.

- There will be circumstances when pet and livestock owners will not be able to protect their animals during an emergency or disaster or may opt to abandon their pets during disaster. This includes unscheduled drop-offs at animal facilities.
- In an emergency or disaster, animals or livestock may escape, or owners who are unable to evacuate their animals, release them for their safety, but they may run accidentally towards other risks. Abandoned animals are likely to suffer in an emergency and pose a risk to rescuers and the public.
- Owners of pets, service animals, and/or livestock who don't evacuate because they don't want to leave their animals behind, put their animals, themselves, and first responders in danger.

Escalation

- Emergencies may occur at any time with little or no warning and may exceed capabilities of local, state, federal, tribal governments, and the private sector in the affected areas.
- In a major emergency or catastrophic event, the impact may not allow for pet owners and caregivers to evacuate with their pets on their own and it may become overwhelming to local jurisdictions. State lead and support agencies, and volunteer organizations with the responsibility for the care of animals will need to coordinate and assist.
- State agencies and departments with regulatory oversight responsibilities will continue in their same roles during all phases of an emergency. During response and recovery, Cal OES may direct a State agency to provide emergency assistance, including resources, through the emergency management system.
- Mutual aid, cooperative agreements, and other forms of emergency assistance will be provided when affected jurisdictions fully commit or reasonably exhaust their resources including through purchase, contract with a state agency or private sector, or other existing agreement such as county to county.
- In accordance with CA-ESF 11, CDFA and state agencies will support local animal-related response through resource coordination and by helping to connect the requesting agency with needed resources but, for the most part, cannot provide tactical operations in the field.
- The CARES Unit will deploy staff, within its capabilities and limitations, to support a disaster when the Cal OES State Operations Center (SOC) or Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) tasks CDFA as a state agency through a MRT.
- The EMAC will facilitate sharing of assistance among states such as personnel, services, equipment, and supplies during a proclaimed state of emergency. State to state assistance can also occur through interstate agreements and MOUs.
- The federal government will provide emergency assistance to California when requested and in accordance with the National Response Framework (NRF).

5.2 Assumptions

- Human-caused and natural disasters will occur and likely involve animals.
- Disasters will result in injuries, fatalities, interruption of essential services, and displacement of people and animals. The safety and well-being of animals will directly impact public health and safety. Failure to support evacuation, sheltering, rescue, and care for animals will lead to owners refusing to evacuate, attempting to reenter hazardous areas, and having significant negative effects on their mental health and well-being as well as endanger first responders.
- Most pet owners do not make evacuation plans and have not stockpiled resource and supplies to care for their pets.
- Many residents assume governmental resources will be available to rescue them and their pets in an emergency.
- Animal owners requiring emergency shelter often choose between deserting their animals, refusing to evacuate, or evacuating their animals to a pre-determined site.
- Some pet owners, especially livestock, will leave pets behind due to lack of transportation equipment.
- Many owners will be separated from their animals because of the disaster and animals will arrive at the shelter without any documentation or medical history.
- When human-caused and natural disasters escalate to a State-level emergency response, it is the responsibility of the California Emergency Support Function 11 (CA-ESF 11) with the support and authority of the supporting ESFs and assistance and support of the CARES Unit to ensure that the response to events involving animals is appropriately responded to within the capabilities and limitations of CDFA under its authority and the authority of the supporting ESFs.
- CDFA may initiate specific actions independent of being tasked by Cal OES for situational awareness and planning but may communicate to and coordinate with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and local government.
- The CDFA actions identified in the CONOPS will assist local government.
- Coordination among local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, together with volunteer organizations and the private sector, will be required to address the scope of animal-related issues in a disaster.
- Local government may have efficient animal programs and response plans to address animal issues in all four phases of emergency management (i.e., mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery) and those programs and plans may vary from county to county and operationally but should be consistent with SEMS and NIMS.
- This CONOPS does not restrict or supersede local government operations that are consistent with SEMS and NIMS.

6.0 CARES Mission

The CDFA CARES' mission is to collaborate with response agencies to build capabilities and coordination that protect the safety of animals during the four (4) phases of emergency management.

7.0 CARES Goals and Objectives

7.1 Goals

This CONOPS addresses five strategic goals listed below, which provide an overarching framework for the specific functions CARES will carry out to achieve the goals. Associated with each strategic goal are operating objectives and the related supporting activities.

- CARES will coordinate activities jointly with Cal OES to minimize animal suffering, loss of life, and potential disability by ensuring a timely and coordinated assistance to emergencies or disasters involving animals.
- CARES is committed to promoting a whole community approach to ensure the safety and welfare of people and their animals.
- CARES will carry out the duties of a responding state agency in coordination with local, state, and federal government who have joint responsibility and authority for the protection of animals.
- CARES shall support local government through the development of resources and tools, providing guidance and technical expertise, planning, response, and recovery as well as empower local government and bridge the integration of volunteer organizations.
- CARES, as an adjunct to the CA-ESF 11, shall assist and support the CDFA CA-ESF 11 by activating the CDFA department operations center (DOC) when warranted, and based on a Cal OES MRT, may fill positions in various operations centers including the SOC as CDFA Agency Representative (AREP), SOC State ACTF, Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC), a county Animal Services DOC and/or county OA Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

7.2 Objectives

These objectives are derived from the *January 31, 2007* MOU pursuant to the California Food and Agricultural Code section 482 and in furtherance of the regulations adopted pursuant to Government Code sections 8550 and 8551, under the "California Emergency Services Act" of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. In order to adhere to the language of the MOU between CDFA and Cal OES, any references to CDFA refer to the CARES Unit. The following coordination and support activities will

be impacted by the degree of resource availability (including State agency personnel, equipment, and supplies) necessary to achieve the goals of both Cal OES and CDFA to continue existing obligations.

- CDFA and Cal OES will encourage and support local governments in their efforts to include livestock, service animals and household pets or companion animals in disaster planning in accordance with SEMS and NIMS.
- CDFA and Cal OES will develop emergency responder roles and responsibilities related to animal evacuation, shelter, and veterinary care during disasters through collaboration with University of California, Davis (UC Davis) California Veterinary Emergency Team (C-VET) program by creating resource typing of animal-related resources that could be incorporated into the State Emergency Response Plan and/or supporting documents.

CARES proposes to meet this objective by doing the following:

- CARES has been collaborating with a private nonprofit organization by creating position resource typing of animal-related resources that could be potentially used statewide.
- CARES, in coordination with the UC Davis C-VET program, will collaborate on the development of the emergency responder roles and responsibilities during disasters.
- CDFA will provide technical expertise to Cal OES to document potential emergency response resource needs and develop and support resource identification and tracking systems that can be used to address animal-related emergency events during disasters.

CARES proposes to meet this objective by doing the following:

- CDFA, within its capabilities and limitations, will provide staff to serve in essential positions in operation centers including the SOC State ACTF.
- CDFA and Cal OES will coordinate the integration of collaborating organizations, agencies and individuals into California animal response emergency planning and preparedness projects.

CARES proposes to meet this objective by doing the following:

- CARES will coordinate with the UC Davis C-VET program to integrate local animal response teams e.g., Community Animal Response Team (CART) as well as other volunteer agencies/organizations into the program.
- CARES will assist and support the UC Davis C-VET program, which will assist in the support and training of a network of government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals to assist in the evacuation and veterinary care of household and domestic animals and livestock in emergencies, including disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation, and shall ensure that the training and the care provided by or coordinated by the program are at levels that are consistent with those standards generally accepted within the veterinary profession.
- CARES maintains a resource catalog of animal-related disaster support resources and disseminates this information to OAs.

- During a disaster, Cal OES will support the incorporation of animal evacuation, care and shelter needs into the emergency response in accordance with SEMS and NIMS.

CARES proposes to meet this objective by doing the following:

- CARES Unit will liaise with and support the UC Davis C-VET program to conduct or support research on best practices for the evacuation and care of the animals in disasters.
- During a disaster, CDFA will provide technical expertise to support resource deployment intended to address animal evacuation, shelter, and veterinary care in accordance with SEMS and NIMS.

CARES proposes to meet this objective by doing the following:

- CARES will accomplish this through mission coordination of volunteer organizations with expertise, use of the UC Davis C-VET program, CARES Veterinarian General, CA-ESF 11/ESF 8 activation of Medical Reserve Corps and/or the State's pursuit of Federal and out-of-state resources through the EMAC.
- CARES will provide staff to fill the Animal Emergency Response Shelter Technical Specialist role.
- CDFA and Cal OES will collaborate to develop, propose and/or maintain funding strategies related to this MOU to enhance the capability of the CARES Unit as well as response groups that support local jurisdictions in response and recovery operations.

CARES proposes to meet this objective by doing the following:

- CARES will seek applicable funding opportunities and/or, to the extent possible, assist the UC Davis C-VET program with the promotion and recruitment process to attract viable candidates for the program, which will support local government response and recovery operations.

8.0 CARES Resources and Capabilities

The CARES is a unit in EPRS that is capable of providing assistance and support in all four phases of emergency management such as planning resources for the public, animal businesses, shelters, volunteer organizations, and emergency planners as well as providing direct assistance to local government emergency management and animal services in planning and preparedness. The CARES is one of the core functions of the CA-ESF 11. The primary responsibility of CARES is to assist and support the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator and to staff the CDFA DOC when activated. While the CARES can perform certain tasks and activities during response operations, there are others it does not have the authority or capability to perform. CARES' role in response operations entails assisting and supporting local and state government and the CA-ESF 11 with mission coordination of animal-related resources within the capability of the CARES during human-caused and natural disasters when an incident escalates to a State-level emergency and when Cal OES tasks the CARES under its authority through a MRT.

Resource requests start at the lowest level of government. Resource requests should be coordinated internally at each level of government to ensure all available resources e.g., internal to the county and city, working overtime, recalling staff, mutual aid (unaffected neighboring jurisdictions), purchase, contracts, and volunteer organizations, are considered before being placed to the next higher level.

CARES can support an incident with resource coordination to fill the gap and will make every attempt to provide staff to fill select positions in operations centers through a MRT. It is important to note that the CDFA CARES Unit does not have a cache of resources and supplies. Additionally, many of the animal-related resources accessible to local government emergency management are the same resources accessible to CDFA CARES representatives, so when the CDFA CARES Unit ultimately receives a resource request, the resource may be tapped out. This is why the CARES strives to form collaborative relationships with emergency response agencies and volunteer organizations to build capabilities and coordination that lead to successful disaster response operations which includes an understanding of the resource request process in accordance with SEMS.

CARES is committed to promoting a whole community approach to ensure the safety and welfare of people and their animals. The CARES will assist and support local and state government and the CA-ESF 11 in response operations by doing the following:

- Mission coordination of animal-related resources within the capability of the CARES during human-caused and natural disasters when an incident escalates to a State-level emergency and when Cal OES tasks the CARES under its authority through a MRT. Mission coordination includes but may not be limited to:
 - Volunteer organizations/non-governmental organizations (NGO)
 - Private nonprofits (PNP)
 - County Animal Services resources
 - Disaster veterinary professional volunteers e.g., Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)-California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corp (CAVMRC), UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team (CVERT), University California Davis California Veterinary Emergency Team (C-VET)
 - Veterinary response team volunteers e.g., Northern California Association of Equine Practitioners (NCAEP)
 - Volunteer Organizations/Volunteer Response Teams e.g., CART, Large Animal Response Team (LART), Humane Societies, Disaster Animal Response Team (DART), etc.
 - Out-of-State Volunteer Organizations and Teams with animal disaster missions (e.g., TX A&M VET, LSART, FL SART, etc.) through the State activation of the EMAC.
- Maintain situational awareness and prepare situation reporting of the disaster involving animals.

- Assist and support the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator to facilitate the health, safety, and animal welfare⁹ of household pets, service and companion animals, and livestock.
- Provide CARES staff for select operations center's positions, and field operations to assess unmet needs/situational awareness; requires a SOC mission resource task. (*EMMA takes precedence for this type of request.*)
- Coordinate limited procurements for consumables e.g., veterinary medical supplies, feed, when local government has reasonably exhausted the local resources including contracts and MOUs.
- Provide limited carcass disposal technical expertise as a consequence of a human-caused and natural disasters. (*During these events, the county is responsible for carcass disposal and an emergency proclamation is typically required to enable alternate disposal method(s) if the normal carcass disposal system(s) is disrupted.*).
- Post and distribute disaster assistance opportunities to eligible producers for certain adverse weather events or loss conditions.

CARES **does not** have the authority or capability to perform any of the following:

- Response support for exotics, wildlife, or zoos – under authority of Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Animal Care.
- CDFA Veterinary Medical Care (*CDFA veterinarians are nonpracticing – perform regulatory functions. May possibly serve as technical experts on animal care and welfare during human-caused and natural disasters.*).
- Staff for field assessments or reconnaissance due to limited number of staff.
- Staff operations centers for all counties responding to an incident especially if it is multi-regional; limited availability of CDFA staff in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Section (EPRS) and Animal Health Branch (AHB).
- Staff as Shelter Workers and/or provide daily animal populations for shelters under local government authority.
- Staff as Animal Control Officers (ACO) because this classification is ordinarily under the local government animal services' jurisdiction and adhere to county/city ordinances and perform tasks under their respective authority – CDFA has no ACO classification of employees.
- Transportation vehicles (supplies, feed, incident personnel or evacuations).

⁹ According to the Animal Veterinary Medical Association, animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well-nourished, safe, able to express innate behavior, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling, and humane slaughter. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment. Protecting an animal's welfare means providing for its physical and mental needs. Ensuring animal welfare is a human responsibility that includes consideration for all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane handling, and, when necessary, humane euthanasia.

- Non-CDFA responder per diem/lodging.
- Cost reimbursement for response operations.

8.1 CARES DOC Activation

The use of operations centers is a standard practice in emergency management. Activation of a REOC triggers activation of the SOC, which may also trigger activation of the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator based on the scale of the event. This may also trigger activation of the CARES DOC. The level of the CARES DOC staffing will vary depending on the nature and complexity of the incident, which is also the decisive factor in determining the level of activation as referenced in Table 1.0. CARES staff may fill the DOC positions, depicted in Figure 3, in-person or virtual. EOC staffing should expand and contract with the needs of the incident. When activated, the CARES DOC's primary functions include:

- ✓ Collecting, analyzing, and sharing information
- ✓ Supporting resource needs and requests, including allocation and tracking
- ✓ Coordinating plans and determining current and future needs
- ✓ Making decisions jointly with State, Federal, and local government for the protection of animal owners and their animals

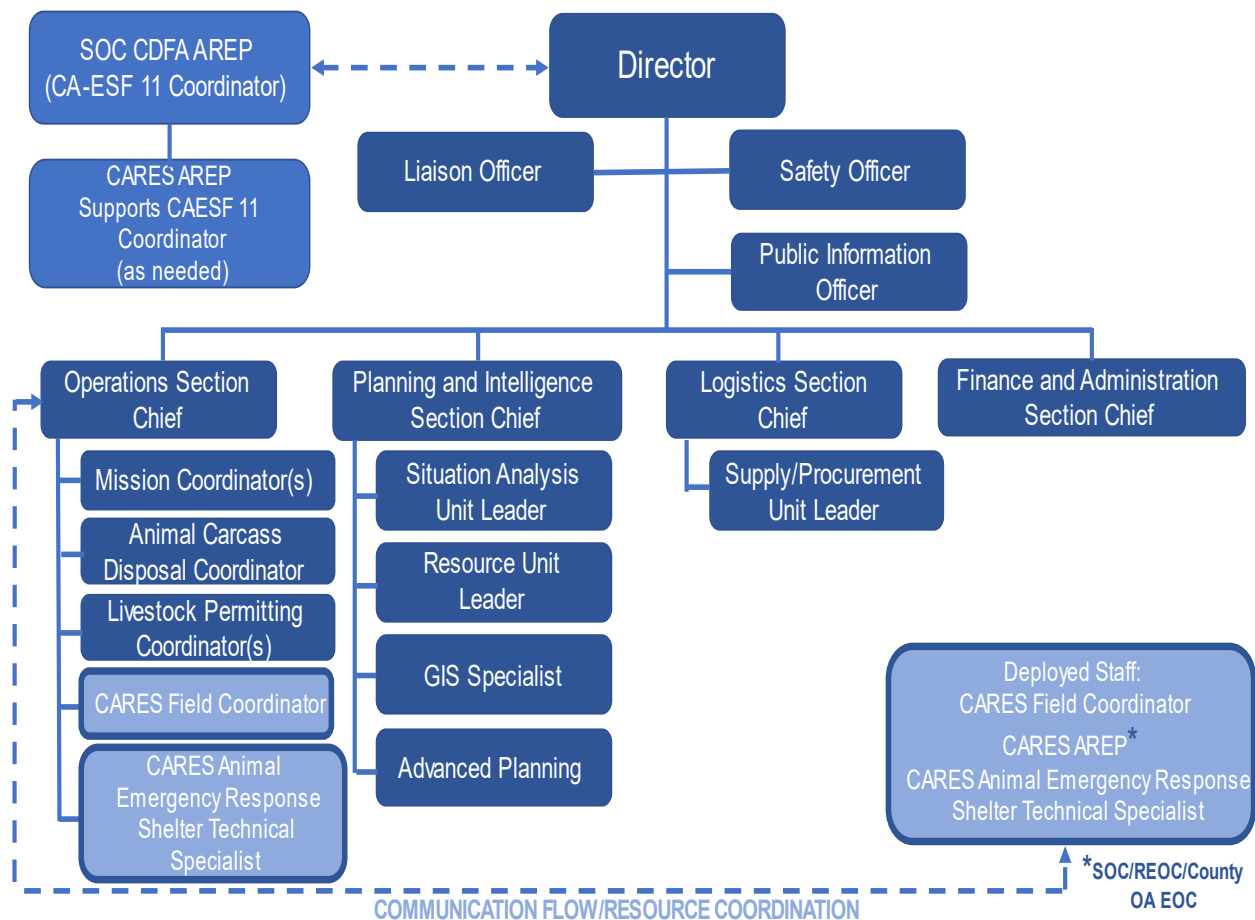
The following designated CDFA personnel or those with delegation of authority may activate the DOC:

- Executive Staff
- Duty Officer
- Director-State Veterinarian
- Animal Health Branch Chief

Table 1.0 CARES Activation Levels/Activation Requirements

	Type of Activation	Support Level
Level 3	Minimum Activation	<p>This activation level may be used for situations which initially only require a few people in preparation for a possible imminent or escalating event or to manage an ongoing low level incident.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At a minimum, the CARES may support the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator with monitoring and possible reporting. • Local government is handling the event. • No anticipated requests for assistance. • CARES may initiate a state of readiness by proactively notifying and mobilizing CARES staff and preparing a preliminary staffing plan as the first step of advance planning in case the incident escalates.
Level 2	<p>This activation level is used for emergencies or planned events that would require more than a minimum staff but would not call for a full activation of all organization elements, or less than full staffing</p>	<p>This activation level is initiated when the situation exceeds the capability of local government and assistance is requested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the SOC is activated, Cal OES may activate the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator. If this is the case, the decision to activate the CARES DOC virtual or on-site will be made one of two ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For initial support of the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator, CDFA designated personnel with delegation of authority will make the decision; or ○ Cal OES will generate a MRT to the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator who may request the CARES Unit activate to support the event. • CARES DOC will mission coordinate and maintain situational awareness with minimal staffing e.g., DOC Director and Planning and Intelligence Section Chief. • CARES AREP may be deployed to the SOC, a REOC, county OA EOC or county Animal Services DOC and will maintain communication with the CARES DOC Operations Section Chief. • CARES DOC will facilitate situational awareness/coordination conference calls for sharing information between the deployed staff and CA-ESF 11 Coordinator.
Level 1	<p>This activation level is complete and full activation of all organizational elements at full staffing</p>	<p>This activation level is used for any major emergency or disaster or catastrophic incident requiring State level assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CARES DOC may activate virtual, but likely on-site. This level will require any of the following deployments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CA-ESF 11 Coordinator will report to the SOC as the CDFA AREP, but when the Coordinator cannot deploy, CARES staff may be requested to report to the SOC. ○ CARES staff (i.e., EPRS, AHB, and <i>possibly</i> department divisions) will fill positions in the CARES DOC and/or report to any of the following operations centers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ REOC ▪ County Animal Services DOC ▪ County OA EOC ▪ SOC (CDFA AREP or ACTF) to assist and support the CA-ESF-11 Coordinator when the Coordinator cannot deploy. ○ CARES Field Coordinator to conduct situational assessments of shelter operations to identify non-medical unmet needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CARES Animal Emergency Response Shelter Technical Specialist to conduct functional assessments of animal shelters for medical unmet needs and provides best practices for managing a safe and humane shelter and field support functions for optimal response operations.

Figure 3. CARES DOC Organization Chart

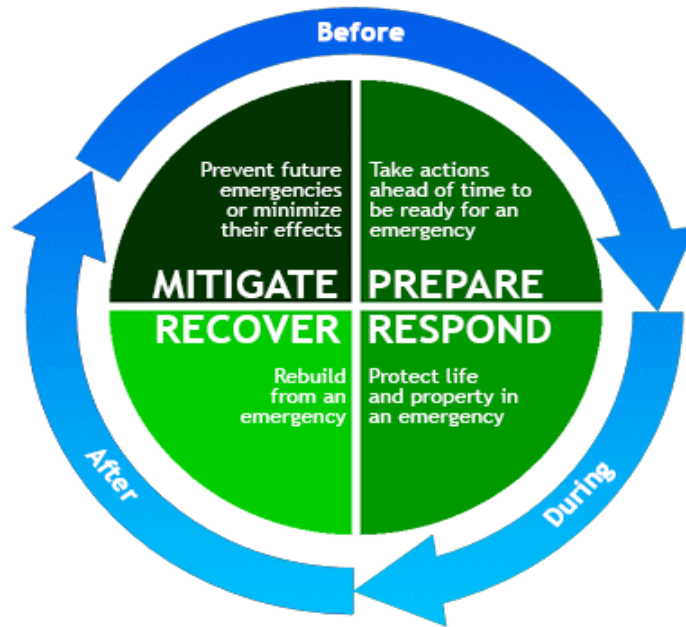


9.0 CARES Roles and Responsibilities

The implementation and operation of this CONOPS will require close collaboration with local government emergency managers including animal services, tribal nations, and volunteer organizations. This section describes the roles and responsibilities of CDFA CARES, and an overview of the coordination and collaboration with the various stakeholders. Specific essential functions will be outlined in the standard operating procedures (SOP) and guidance documents.

This CONOPS has three sections *Before, During and After*, which includes the four phases of emergency management: mitigation phase (education and outreach), preparedness phase, response phase, and recovery phase as shown below in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Four Phases of Emergency Management



9.1 Before (Mitigation and Preparedness Phase)

During this phase, CARES strives to promote a whole community approach in planning and preparing for animals in disasters by developing resources such as publications, forms, and guidance documents for emergency planners and the public. CARES will reach out to the 58 counties to determine their level of planning and preparedness, response capacity, capabilities assessment, and resource needs and availability, and provide assistance based on prioritization of risk and resource availability, if required. CARES will promote the development of pre/post event agreements between local government emergency management and volunteer agencies/organizations to expedite the ability to use these organizations and eliminate self-deployment. A functional website will be designed to engage stakeholders in preparedness activities and serve as a referral hub to useful planning/preparedness and response resources, training, and volunteer opportunities. CARES will seek to participate in public awareness and education programs to promote whole community preparedness. CARES will support the creation of the UC Davis C-VET program to assist in the evacuation, sheltering and veterinary care of domestic pets and livestock during natural disasters. To enhance CARES' capability to support response operations, CARES will develop a cadre of CDFA trained staff to build a future CARES Incident Management Team (IMT) knowledgeable in SEMS, NIMS, and EOC specific positions endeavoring to enhance readiness and capabilities.

9.2 During (Response Phase)

During this phase, CARES' goal is to protect life and meet the basic needs of animals and their owners when local government resources are reasonably exhausted, and assistance and support is requested. CARES will deploy staff to support operations centers or the field to fill select positions – be advised that *deployments other than to the CARES DOC are based on need and only when requested through a Cal OES MRT and also within the limitations and capabilities of CARES*. CARES will also assist and support the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the position as needed. The CARES DOC will activate based on the scale of the incident for situational awareness, intelligence gathering, situation reporting, and mission coordination to facilitate response operations that protect and meet the basic needs of animals and their owners once an incident escalates to a State-level emergency. Response efforts related to animals may be communicated by preparing and/or contributing to the CA-ESF 15 Public Information press releases. It is essential for CARES to participate in operational strategies of emergency activities to ensure coordination and collaboration and to maintain situational awareness and a common operating picture.

9.3 After (Recovery Phase)

Local governments, special districts, certain nonprofit organizations, individuals, businesses and agricultural communities impacted by disasters have ultimate responsibility for their own recovery program and will work directly with Cal OES and FEMA throughout the [Recovery Process](#) by developing, submitting, and receiving their own emergency aid, loans or grants from any source including local, state, and federal governments including the timeliness, accuracy, and compliance of their respective expenditures submitted for reimbursement.

During this phase, CARES may need to assist the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator with short-term recovery activities including coordinating resources for the reunification of animals with their owners, maintaining care and shelter of animals during the transition period through the UC Davis C-VET program and other similar resources, and refer disaster recovery and financial reimbursement inquiries to either the affected county OA, Cal OES Recovery Section, or FEMA. The CA-ESF 11 Coordinator may be requested to serve on a local government long-term recovery task force to provide guidance and assistance and CARES may need to provide support as needed. Emergency information may also be provided to Local Assistance Center(s) for distribution to animal owners. It is essential for CARES to participate in the Hot Wash post-event, as well as the mandated After-Action Report¹⁰ process with Cal OES within 180 days after each declared disaster.

¹⁰ [California Code of Regulations, Section 2900 \(q\)](#) and [Section 2450 \(a\) SEMS Regulations](#)

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

Household Pet

FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.19 defines household pet (aka companion animal) as a domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent, or turtle that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers, and be housed in temporary facilities. Household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses), and animals kept for racing purposes.

Service Animal

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Disability Rights Section-Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. In addition to the provisions about service dogs, the Department's ADA regulations have a separate provision about miniature horses that have been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities.¹¹ Service animals are not considered household pets. Emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are not service animals under Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability as referenced in [28 CFR § 35.104](#). Under Title II and III of the ADA, service animals are limited to dogs.

Animal

The federal Animal Welfare Act¹² defines the term “**animal**” as any live or dead dog, cat, monkey (nonhuman primate mammal), guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or such other warm-blooded animal, as the Secretary may determine is being used, or is intended for use, for research, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet; but such term excludes (1) birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus*, bred for use in research, (2) horses not used for research purposes, and (3) other farm animals, such as, but not limited to livestock or poultry, used or intended for use as food or fiber, or

¹¹ The Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for title II (State and local government services) and title III (public accommodations and commercial facilities) on September 15, 2010, in the Federal Register. These requirements, or rules, contain updated requirements, including the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design (2010 Standards); [ADA 2010 Revised Requirements: Service Animals & Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA](#)

¹² Signed into law by Lyndon B. Johnson in 1966, the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) is federal legislation in the United States designed to prevent animal cruelty and abuse within laboratories, the entertainment industry (e.g., zoos, circuses), and captive breeding. The act provides the legal framework for dealing with unnecessary cruelty and is enforced by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber. With respect to a dog, the term means all dogs including those used for hunting, security, or breeding purposes.

Wildlife

California Department of Fish and Wildlife defines wildlife¹³ as species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals listed as fully protected by the state legislature (see Fish and Game Code, Sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515), and “Consistent with Section 1801 of the Fish and Game Code, these Public Safety Wildlife Guidelines provide procedures to address public safety wildlife problems. Mountain lions, black bears, deer, coyotes, and large exotic carnivores which have threatened or attacked humans are wildlife classified as public safety problems.”

¹³ County Animal Control Services are typically not licensed to trap or relocate healthy wildlife and therefore do not provide these services. This would be referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

APPENDIX B: ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following is a list of common emergency management acronyms and abbreviations. The list is not all inclusive but does reflect current Federal, State, County, and local government emergency management.

Acronyms and Abbreviations	
A	
A&W	Alert and Warning
AA	Administering Agency
AAC	After-Action Conference
AAR	After-Action Report
AC	Area Command
ACO	Animal Control Officer
ADA	American Disabilities Act
AEOC	Alternate Emergency Operations Center
AFN	Access and Functional Needs
AFO	Area Field Office
AO	Administrative Order
AP	Action Plan
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
AR	Atmospheric River
ARB	Air Resources Board
ARC	American Red Cross
ASPR	Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
B	
BOC	Business Operations Center
BOS	Board of Supervisors
BSA	California Bureau of State Audits
BUOC	Business and Utility Operations Center
C	
CA-ESF	California Emergency Support Function
CAHAN	California Health Alert Network
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CAISO	California Independent Systems Operator
Cal OES	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
CalRecycle	California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CalWARN	California Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network

Acronyms and Abbreviations	
CALWAS	California Warning System
CAP	Corrective Action Planning
CARES	California Animal Response Emergency System
CART	Community Animal Response Team
CAVMRC	California Veterinary Medical Response Corps
CCC	California Conservation Corps
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDAA	California Disaster Assistance Act
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CDRF	California Disaster Recovery Framework
CDSS	California Department of Social Services
CalEOC	California Emergency Operations Center (emergency management software)
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CIP	Critical Infrastructure Protection
CISN	California Integrated Seismic Network
CLERS	California Law Enforcement Radio System
CLETS	California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System
CNG	California National Guard
COG	Continuity of Government
CONOPS	Concept of Operations
COOP	Continuity of Operations
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CSP	California Department of Parks & Recreation (CA State Parks)
CST	Civil Support Team
CSU	California State University
CSWC	California State Warning Center
CUEA	California Utilities Emergency Association
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agencies
C-VET	University of California, Davis California Veterinary Emergency Team

Acronyms and Abbreviations	
D	
DART	Disaster Animal Response Team
DFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
DGS	California Department of General Services
DHS	California Department of Homeland Security
DHV	Disaster Healthcare Volunteer (includes veterinarians)
DOC	Department Operations Center
DRC	Disaster Recovery Center
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
E	
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EDIS	Emergency Digital Information Service
EDO	Executive Duty Officer
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
EMMA	Emergency Management Mutual Aid
EMSA	Emergency Medical Services Authority
EO	Executive Order
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
ESA	California Emergency Services Act
ESF	Emergency Support Function
F	
FAD	Foreign Animal Disease
FCO	Federal Coordinating Officer
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRESCOPE	Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FMA	Flood Mitigation Assistance
FMAG	Fire Management Assistance Grant Program
G	
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographical Information System
GO-Biz	California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
H	
HAZ MAT	Hazardous Materials

Acronyms and Abbreviations	
HMA	Hazard Mitigation Assistance
HMGP	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
HSEEP	Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program
I	
IA	Individual Assistance
IAP	Incident Action Plan
IC	Incident Commander
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
IDE	Initial Damage Estimate
IMAT	Incident Management Assistance Team
IST	Incident Support Team
IT	Information Technology
J	
JFO	Joint Field Office
JIC	Joint Information Center
JIS	Joint Information System
L	
LART	Large Animal Response Team
LAC	Local Assistance Center
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Planning
M	
MAC	Multiagency Coordination
MAC Group	Multiagency Coordination Group
MACS	Multiagency Coordination System
MMAA	California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRC	Medical Reserve Corps
N	
NAWAS	National Warning System
NDRF	National Disaster Recovery Framework
NEIC	National Earthquake Information Center
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Acronyms and Abbreviations	
NPP	Nuclear Power Plants
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service
NRF	National Response Framework
NTWC	National Tsunami Warning Center
NWS	National Weather Service
O	
OA	Operational Area
OASIS	Operational Area Satellite Information System
P	
PA	Public Assistance
PDA	Preliminary Damage Assessment
PDM	Pre-Disaster Mitigation
PIO	Public Information Officer
PNP	Private Nonprofit
R	
REOC	Regional Emergency Operations Center
RRCC	Regional Response Coordination Center
S	
SAP	State Safety Assessment Program
SAR	Search and Rescue
SART	State Animal Response Team
SBA	U.S. Small Business Administration
SCO	State Coordinating Officer
SEMS	Standardized Emergency Management System
SEP	State of California Emergency Plan
SHMP	State of California Enhanced Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan
SOC	State Operations Center
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SSGP	State Supplemental Grant Program
STAC	State Threat Assessment Center
STAS	State Threat Assessment System
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
T	
TLO	Terrorism Liaison Officer
U	
UC	Unified Command
UCG	Unified Coordination Group
UCS	Unified Coordination Staff

Acronyms and Abbreviations	
UOC	Utility Operations Center
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
US&R	Urban Search and Rescue
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geological Survey
V	
VAL	Voluntary Agency Liaison
VERT	University of California, Davis One Health Veterinary Emergency Response Team
VOAD	Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters
W	
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface