MUNICIPALITY OF NORTHERN BRUCE PENINSULA — EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SCHEDULE F

Municipal Animal Care Emergency Response Plan



Table of Contents

Foreword....4

General....5

- Introduction....5
- Aim....5
- Scope....5
- Demographics and Animal Population Estimates....6
- Administration....7
- Plan Maintenance....7
- Planning Assumptions....7
- Livestock....7
- Requests for Assistance....7
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Contagious Disease....8

Notification and Activation Procedures....8

- Notification Protocol....8
- Activation Procedure....8

Emergency Response....9

- Coordination of Operations....9
- Agency Roles and Responsibilities....9
- Agency Roles and Responsibilities (Animal Specific)....10

Shelters Overview....11

- Animal Evacuation Shelter....11
- Evacuated Citizens with Special Needs....11
- Stray/Lost Domestic Pets....11
- Evacuated and Stray/Lost Livestock....12
- Wild Animals....12
- Veterinary Medical Care....12
- Incapacitation of Shelters....12

Registration of Animals....12
Staff/Supplies....13
Medical Considerations....13
Injured Animals....13
Sick Animals....13
Release/Destruction Protocol....14
Domestic Pets/Livestock....14
Wild Animals....14
Disposal of Animal Carcasses....14
Emergency Management Program Overview....14
Phases of Management....14
Shelter Selection Considerations....15
Locations and Set-up of Pet/People Shelters at the Same Facility or Close-by Premises....15
Shelter Selection....16
Temporary Animal Housing Areas....17
Number of Pets Needing Temporary Housing....17
Example of Pet Registration Form – MNBP Evacuee Reception Centre....17
Supplies/Personnel Needed to Set up....18
Shelter Cleaning Operations....18
Closure of Shelters....20
Health Considerations....20
Risk to Human Health....20
Preventative Measures....20
Recommended Vaccination Practices for Emergency Shelters....21
Considerations for Large Animals (Livestock/Horses)....21
Responsibilities of Owners....22
Support....22

Foreword

Residents of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula live with the potential for disasters such as human health emergencies, major structural fires/wildfires, transportation accidents or other hazardous materials incidents, severe weather conditions, and critical infrastructure/power failures.

This Plan should be reviewed and understood prior to a situation in which the activities described are necessary. It is a dynamic document that will be updated to reflect new developments, incorporating changes in response to roles and improvements to response capability developed through ongoing planning efforts.

The Plan will be integrated into existing municipal emergency response plans maintained by the Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC), providing the standard operating procedure for the evacuation, care, and control of animals during an emergency. It is important to develop and create a 72-hour pet emergency survival kit, much like we would for ourselves and our families.

Creating a pet emergency survival kit:

- 72-hour food supply, including bowls and a can opener
- 72-hour water supply
- Blankets/towels
- Toys
- Leash, muzzle, harness
- Litter pan, litter, plastic bags, and scooper
- Pet carrier to allow for easy transport
- Medical records, veterinarian’s name and contact number
- Medications and a pet first aid kit
- Current photo of your pet along with their name, address, and brief description
- Information about your pet’s feeding schedule, temperament/behaviour, and medical concerns
- ID tags and microchip number
- Flashlight
- List of boarding facilities, hotels that can accommodate pets

Remember, your ability to care for your pet during a time of emergency will depend on how well you have prepared for it. Take the time to create a pet emergency survival kit; it may just very well save their life.

General

Introduction

While natural disasters, such as blizzards/snowstorms, extreme cold, forest fires, and windstorms are most common in the region, it is important for the Animal Care Emergency Response Plan to be flexible and scalable to provide the protocols needed to communicate between agencies, the public, evacuation shelters, and care for animals in any disaster.

Although disasters endanger the life and safety of both animals and humans, there are important preparedness measures that pertain specifically to animals. Therefore, this Plan details these considerations in order to protect animals as best possible. Other disasters have demonstrated that concern and anxiety for pets affects how fast evacuation orders are obeyed.

The emergency animal welfare plan will advise pet owners on how to care for animals left behind and develop an animal evacuation plan. The plan will also detail care for evacuated and non-evacuated animals, provide measures to control animals running at large, and provide a public response mechanism to answer questions on animal concerns.

When the Municipality's Emergency Plan is activated in whole or in part as a result of an emergency situation, with the support and leadership from Emergency Management Ontario (EMO), it will assist individuals evacuated or displaced by such an emergency with the housing and care of their owned domestic animal companions and will provide support to businesses forced to relocate animals because of an emergency.

Aim

The purpose of this Plan is to control and support the humane care and treatment of companion animals and livestock during an emergency situation in the Municipality. It will describe policies and procedures for evacuation, care, and control of animals during a disaster, as well as the related roles and responsibilities of participating agencies and external partners.

Scope

1. Animals included under this Plan:
    - Dogs, cats, livestock such as cattle, horses, pigs, sheep
2. Owners are responsible for the sheltering and protection of domestic and non-domestic animals (including livestock) and any costs incurred for shelter of their animals. During an emergency, the Municipality and stakeholders will endeavour to:
    - Provide effective, safe handling of displaced animals
    - Relieve suffering amongst animals

- Effectively coordinate first aid and veterinary care needed by animals
- Provide assistance to veterinary practices directly affected by the disaster
- Assist and/or arrange for the transport of animals
- Where resources exist and agreements are in place, coordinate support and management of evacuated animals in existing or temporary shelters.

3. Domestic and non-domestic animals that are lost, strayed, incapable of being cared for by their owners, and/or in danger to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of municipal and/or provincial officials. These animals will be sheltered, fed, and, when/where possible, returned to their owners. Animals that cannot be returned to their owners will be disposed of in accordance with established animal control procedures.
4. Wild animals should be left to their own survival instincts. Wild animals out of their natural habitats that are in danger either to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, in cooperation with local and provincial animal control officials, and returned to their natural habitat when practical.

Demographics and Animal Population Estimates

The Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula, amalgamated in 1999, is home to the communities of Lion's Head, Tobermory, Dyers Bay, Miller Lake, Stokes Bay, Ferndale, Barrow Bay, Pike Bay, and the Lindsay 20 communities. Contained within the Municipality is the Fathom Five National Marine Park, Bruce Peninsula National Park, The Bruce Trail Cabot Head and Lion's Head Nature Reserves, two First Nations Hunting Reserves, and a large Bruce County Forest Tract. The waters of both Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. Northern Bruce Peninsula covers an area of 775.70 square kilometres.

Population Statistics

Population and Dwelling Counts	Northern Bruce Peninsula, MU
Population in 2021	4,404
Population in 2016	3,999
Population in 2011	3,744
2016 to 2021 population change (%)	10.1
2011 to 2016 population change (%)	6.8
Total private dwellings	5,101
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents	2,206

Population and Dwelling Counts	Northern Bruce Peninsula, MU
Population density per square kilometre	5.7
Land area (square kilometre)	775.70

Administration

The Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) for the Municipality is responsible for the development and maintenance of this Plan.

Plan Maintenance

The Plan will be reviewed and updated annually or when required.

Planning Assumptions

The Municipality will coordinate with local and/or provincial animal protection officials where applicable.

Any emergency resulting in the evacuation of residents to a shelter will result in companion animal issues. Some of the Municipal Waste Disposal Sites have large coverall buildings that could be utilized to house certain types of animals during an evacuation. The two Waste Disposal Sites are as follows:

- Eastnor Waste Disposal Site, 1252 West Road
- St. Edmunds Waste Disposal Site, 71 McArthur Road

Due to not having a pet hospital or veterinarian within our Municipality, an Animal Care Emergency Response Plan is very difficult to develop, maintain, and/or implement..

If this Plan were to be executed, the need for volunteers and municipal partners would have to be used.

Livestock

It is expected that owners will generally look after their livestock. Nonetheless, officials will make every effort to ensure and coordinate the necessary aid to feed, transport, shelter, and provide veterinary care to the animals if requested and where practicable.

The Municipality will liaise with organizations responsible for the well-being of livestock and provide support if requested and where practicable.

Requests for Assistance

As evacuations begin, the Municipality may be requested to house animals from shelters or from other animal control agencies located in the evacuation zone. In addition, assistance may be required for special

needs populations that cannot evacuate their animals effectively. It is up to the Municipality to determine its response to each request for assistance based on its available resources and cage space; however, priority will be given to groups with existing memorandums of understanding or agreements.

Individual citizens will be encouraged to take their animals with them when they evacuate. Requests from outside agencies for assistance with evacuation and temporary housing should be forwarded to the Municipality's Emergency Operations Centre.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Contagious Disease

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is the lead agency responsible for coordinating a disease outbreak situation, with support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and EMO, as required. There is always a possibility of a contagious disease outbreak, especially in emergency situations that, if not controlled, can significantly affect the economy of the Province and cause multi-million-dollar losses to Ontario's farming communities.

Treatment for the disease requires:

- Isolating people in affected areas
- Quarantining until everything, including pets, is disinfected
- Destroying contaminated products and diseased animals

Notification and Activation Procedures

Notification Protocol

If the Municipality and/or the Municipal Emergency Control Group determine or are considering that the Municipality's Animal Care Emergency Response Plan should be activated, they will advise the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) and request assistance from Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) with the provisions of emergency animal care and response.

When the Municipality has declared a local emergency and/or requires assistance in support of this Plan, requests are directed to the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre Duty Officer. All requests for animal welfare requirements beyond local capacity will be transmitted to the PEOC Duty Officer for response. All requests for assistance by Federal departments are made through the PEOC Duty Officer using established lines of communication.

Activation Procedure

When a disaster is imminent, the Municipality will determine the level of response required. This may include the activation of the Municipality's Emergency Response Plan in whole or in part, and may or may not activate the EOC.

Emergency Response

Coordination of Operations

The Municipality, with the leadership and assistance from EMO, will be responsible for planning, deploying the resources, and managing the activities from this Plan. During a large evacuation and/or when resources are limited, the focus of the assistance will be to:

- Liaise with appropriate organizations to provide emergency medical care when possible, for domestic pets
- Coordinate with local and volunteer agencies for personnel and resources to fill shortages
- Provide accurate information on animal issues before, during, and after the emergency/evacuation and coordinate messaging with partners
- Coordinate with EMO to establish a system of identification in order to reunite animals with their owners
- Coordinate with the Grey-Bruce Health Unit, Owen Sound, for the identification, prevention, and control of communicable diseases of animals which have public health importance, if applicable

Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Primary Agencies

- Municipal Emergency Control Group/Community Emergency Management Coordinator to request additional provincial/federal resources in supporting the site and preserving and protecting the balance of the community in relation to animal care needs.

Support Agencies

- Municipal By-law Officer is designated to carry out the roles and responsibilities and administration, and enforcement of by-laws applicable to regulate animals
- Ontario Provincial Police
- Northern Bruce Peninsula Fire and Emergency Services
- The Municipal Emergency Information Officer will communicate with the public and media on important animal care information and emergency actions as they relate to animals
- Municipal Public Works Department is responsible for setting up barricades, equipment, pick up of waste products and disposal of dead animals (as applicable to municipal plans/work responsibilities)

Ontario Provincial Government

- Emergency Management Ontario will provide assistance to municipalities before, during, and after an emergency and coordinates provincial ministries in response to emergencies. The PEOC Duty Officer is the initial point of contact during an emergency.
- Emergency Management and Security Unit provides coordination of ministry assets, including policing services, Ontario Provincial Police, Ontario Fire Marshal, and other internal components through the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre during an emergency response.
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness provides emergency support to the farming community related to livestock issues. It assists in providing resources and supplies/equipment, and information.
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provides personnel and equipment for the care of wild animals

Other Agencies

- The Canadian Food and Inspection Agency is the lead agency responsible for the control and elimination of contagious diseases such as 'foot and mouth disease'. As the 'lead' agency responsible for dealing with such an outbreak, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency will designate control zones and direct all other agencies in combating the outbreak
- Municipal pound keepers will provide support in the event that large livestock animal requirements arise
- Bruce County can deploy a couple of mobile units (trailers) to an area. They have a large travel trailer that can be deployed. It is a 30-foot travel trailer with a washroom, fridge, stove, sleeping area, equipped with Wi-Fi capability, a set of 8 or so hand-held radios, and other equipment such as a printer, hard hats, rain suits, body bags, etc.
- Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians supports humane medical care of animals
- Grey-Bruce Health Services, Owen Sound
  Phone: (519) 376-9420 or 1-800-263-3456
  Email: publichealth@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Agency Roles and Responsibilities (Animal Specific)

The owners of pets and/or livestock, when notified of an emergency, will take all reasonable steps to shelter and provide for animals under their control.

Search and Rescue

- Domestic pets loose or in need of assistance due to the emergency, to the death, or the evacuation of their owners will be the responsibility of municipal and provincial officials.

- Livestock loose or in need of assistance due to the emergency or to the death or the evacuation of their owners, will be the responsibility of municipal and provincial officials.
- Wild animals out of their natural habitat that are endangering either themselves or the human population will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry personnel in cooperation with municipal and provincial officials.
- Stranded animals that cannot be rescued due to the emergency situation will be provided food and medical assistance by the appropriate agency, when possible.

Shelters Overview

The following is a brief summary of animal sheltering considerations.

Animal Evacuation Shelter

If the need arises, the Municipality and/or province may open an evacuation pet shelter. Pets of evacuated citizens will be transported to this shelter as citizens arrive with their pets at the designated evacuation shelters or reception centres.

Evacuated Citizens with Special Needs

Citizens with special needs (individuals with mental or physical challenges who require evacuation assistance) may require assistance in evacuating their pets. If special needs individuals are unwilling or unable to make special arrangements for the sheltering of their pets, then the individuals and their pets will be transported to the evacuation shelter. Upon arrival at the shelter, pets not trained specifically to assist the individual (e.g., Seeing Eye dogs) will be transported to a private boarding facility or other appropriate facility. In the event that the individual and the pet cannot be separated due to the individual's infirmity, the pet will be sheltered in the same facility in a separate room or area.

Stray/Lost Domestic Pets

All stray/lost domestic pets recovered by Municipal By-law Animal Control officers will be sheltered at facilities slated as animal care shelters, as determined by the Municipality and provincial officials. Any pets whose owners cannot care for their pets or domestic pets found by citizens will also be sheltered at these locations. Private boarding kennels and veterinarian shelters will serve as overflow shelters and will be requested as necessary, and if availability exists. Unclaimed animals will be dealt with according to approved procedures.

Evacuated and Stray/Lost Livestock

Due to the size of most livestock and the inability to transport large numbers of farm animals, owners are expected to develop shelter and/or evacuation plans for their animals.

Private farms located throughout the County of Bruce will be investigated to see if they may be used as shelter facilities for livestock. In the event of an emergency situation, provincial authorities, with the assistance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, will contact prearranged farms and request their assistance in sheltering operations.

Wild Animals

When possible, wild animals outside of their natural habitat endangering the public will be transported back to their natural habitat If the responsible agencies are unable to transport the animal back to its natural habitat due to the nature of the emergency or to injuries the animal sustained, the animals will either be transported to the animal shelter or Ontario College of Veterinary Medicine for shelter or medical treatment or disposal of in accordance with established animal control procedures.

Veterinary Medical Care

Normally, veterinary medical care in a community is provided in a community and clinics throughout the area. The majority of veterinary medical care provided by area shelters is made available for animals in their care, but is not provided for non-shelter animals.

During a disaster, area veterinary medical care may become compromised. The local veterinarian community and the Municipality must determine the extent of disruption of vet services and a potential need for local, provincial, and federal assistance.

Incapacitation of Shelters

In the event that established shelters are destroyed or are incapable of functioning due to the nature of the emergency situation, private boarding kennels, stables, veterinarian hospitals, and other facilities may be requested to open a boarding and/or medical facility.

In rare cases, during large-scale emergencies, animals may be moved outside the Municipality for care and protection.

Registration of Animals

In order to return animals to their owners following an emergency or disaster, a system of registration and inquiry is required. Before an animal is transported to any location, it must be tagged and registered.

As soon as possible, a central registry should be established, preferably at the Municipal Office, so that residents seeking information about their pets' location can be informed.

Staff/Supplies

Due to no animal shelters and or pet hospitals within the Municipality, if available, personnel from the province and the Municipality will assist where possible.

Each area designed as an animal shelter will identify resources for potable water, food, medical, cleaning and shelter supplies in advance of an emergency situation.

If the need arises, resource agencies (e.g., kennel clubs) may be requested to donate cages and other various shelter supplies.

Medical Considerations

Injured Animals

If large numbers of injuries to animal occur in a disaster, provincial staff will decide whether the injured animals should be euthanized or treated.

The PEOC may contact the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association or others to coordinate assistance of volunteer veterinarians and/or other animal professionals.

Sick Animals

Licensed veterinarians will treat all refugee animals if their condition requires it. The staff and volunteers will need to refer an animal to the veterinarian service if the following signs are present:

- Lethargy
- Hair loss
- Vomiting
- Ocular and nasal discharge
- Presence of chemical or biological contaminants on the animal
- Physical injury
- Neurological symptoms
- Difficulty while moving

Release/Destruction Protocol

Domestic Pets/Livestock

The Municipality and Province will support efforts to identify owners of stray/lost animals. If owners cannot be found, Animal Control and the representatives will attempt to adopt or sell the animals according to established procedures.

Animals for which no owners can be found, and which cannot be placed in adoptive care or sold, will be disposed of in accordance with established animal control procedures.

Wild Animals

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry will support efforts to reintroduce wild animals back to their natural habitats.

Disposal of Animal Carcasses

The Municipality's Public Works Department will remove and dispose of dead animals at the request of the Province and/or MECG, if deemed appropriate. If the required response is greater than the Municipality's ability to deploy staff and resources, a request for assistance can be sent to the province (EMO) at the request of the Municipal Emergency Control Group. They will attempt to arrange for assistance in the disposal of euthanized animals and animals killed as a result of the emergency situation.

Emergency Management Program Overview

The Municipality will be responsible for maintaining the phases of the activities to be undertaken before, during, and after a disaster.

Phases of Management

Phase 1: Mitigation – the actions taken to reduce or eliminate the effects of an emergency.

Phase 2: Prevention - measures put in place prior to an emergency to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of people, property, and the environment.

Phase 3: Preparedness – the actions taken prior to an emergency or disaster to ensure an effective response. These actions include the formulation of an emergency response plan, a business continuity plan, training, exercises, and public awareness and education.

Phase 4: Response – the actions taken to respond to an emergency or disaster.

- Open and staff animal shelters/mass care facilities
- Provide food as needed
- Establish a distribution centre for emergency supplies and equipment
- Register evacuees' animals
- Provide public information
- Maintain communications between facilities
- Coordinate medical care
- Coordinate rescue efforts

Phase 5: Recovery – the actions taken to recover from an emergency or disaster. (The response phase will usually overlap the recovery phase)

- Deactivate shelter/mass care facilities as necessary
- Assess continuing needs of evacuees' animals
- Inform the public of extended care availability

Shelter Selection Considerations

When temporary animal housing facilities are required, the Municipality and the EMO will decide the best location to open these animal care shelters. Two Municipal Waste Disposal Sites each have large covered facilities to assist with sheltering options.

Locations and Set-up of Pet/People Shelters at the Same Facility or Close-by Premises

Selecting a shelter that may potentially house both people and animals would be ideal; however, due to the Municipality's limited choices, we can't accommodate both. In addition, it is recommended for the safety of non-pet owners who may have allergies or animal-related anxieties, separate facilities are better suited for this area.

Shelters housing both people and animals should be arranged based on the following principles:

- An area for waste excretion must be designated for animals that are unable to use a litter box
- When possible, animals should be separated by species (i.e., cats in one area or room, dogs in another, multi-pet families in yet another)
- Individuals entering the facility must be informed that there are animals on the premises

- All animals must be restrained. Crates are the preferred method of restraint, but leashes are acceptable
- Crates should be positioned to limit the animal's view of another animal. This is recommended to minimize the animal's stress level
- A source of water must be provided. It is not recommended, however, that the Municipality arrange for the provision of animal food
- Owners should be encouraged to make arrangements for their pet's food

Shelter Selection

These suggested locations should be considered when selecting a site for a temporary shelter:

Location	Considerations
Agriculture areas	These work best for livestock, but other animals can also be housed at this type of facility
Dog park	This is a good possibility, as the park will already have an existing perimeter fence and people in the neighbouring community will be familiar with its location
Field	An empty field can be adapted to house almost any kind of animal. It is best if the field has a sturdy perimeter fence for security reasons and to prevent animals from escaping from the facility
Park	This type of location works as well as empty field. There is a greater chance though that there will be more people from the public curious about the facility and ask if they can look at the animals
Tennis courts	Tennis courts should not be used, even though they are usually completely enclosed with a chain link fence. This is because of the wear and tear on the court surface
Warehouse	An empty warehouse can work really well, especially if it rains during the emergency. If there is no air conditioning though, the facility can be extremely hot during the summer months. In winter, it can be extremely cold if there is no heat

Temporary Animal Housing Areas

At temporary animal housing areas, a volunteer or staff member from the Municipality or other applicable agency should be present at these check-in areas to receive the animals, give them an identification number and get the appropriate form signed.

The forms will be used for releasing the animal to the control of the Municipality (or other authority depending on who is taking responsibility for housing these owned animals).

When animals are evacuated from multiple jurisdictions, it is recommended to work with those jurisdictions' animal infrastructure (i.e., animal control, humane societies, etc.) to house animals in the jurisdiction they came from. This should allow the owners to re-claim their animals after the event.

Number of Pets Needing Temporary Housing

It is difficult to estimate the number of people who would bring animals with them to the shelters during an evacuation, even if they knew there were facilities for animals available.

The temporary housing and care of pets is based on a planning assumption that approximately 20% of the population being evacuated will require emergency lodging and 30% of evacuees will be bringing a pet with them when they present themselves at a reception centre.

Example of Pet Registration Form – MNBP Evacuee Reception Centre

To Whom it May Concern,

Due to the _____emergency and subsequent evacuation, I am currently unable to house my animal(s) at my current accommodations. As such, I require foster assistance for my animal(s). This service will be provided by _____.

I agree to have my animal(s) cared for by _____ and agree to allow this organization to make appropriate care decisions for my animal while my animal(s) is/are in their care. I understand that when my accommodation circumstances allow for me to care for my animal(s), that my animal(s) will be returned to my care immediately. In order to recover my animal(s), I need to call_____.

If I am unable to care for my animal(s), I will contact _____ to advise them that I am surrendering my animal and it can be placed up for adoption.

Owner Information:

Name:
Address: Postal Code:
Home Phone: Cell Phone:
Type of Pet(s):
Name of Pet(s):
Gender of Pet(s):
Spayed/Neutered (which animals):
Vaccinations Due:
Current Vet Clinic:
Name of Owner: Date:
Signature of Owner:
Reception Centre Staff Name and Signature: _____ _____

Supplies/Personnel Needed to Set up

Shelter Cleaning Operations

The main purpose of cleaning animal areas is the prevention of infectious disease spread. Because of its importance for animal health, cleaning should be approached systematically. Germs are tracked by human and animal traffic throughout any shelter. Additionally, germs are spread by hands, on doorknobs, clothing, carriers, exam tables, instruments, animal transport vehicles, and so on.

If the shelter is operated for up to four days, the staff will do only necessary 'spot' cleaning. If the shelter is operated longer than four days, staff will do general cleaning of the whole sheltering area as described below.

List of Areas to be Cleaned

Different protocols and products may be needed for different areas. The following is a list of some areas and items to consider:

- Office areas (lower priority if shelter animals are not allowed in offices, but employees will still track germs in and out from animal areas)
- Main lobbies and hallways
- Dog runs, including central walkways, walls, doors, gates, etc.
- Cat rooms, including floors, walls, doorknobs, etc., as well as cages (if applicable)
- Quarantine areas
- Isolation areas
- Medical/surgical areas, including instruments and equipment
- Other indoor animal areas, such as grooming, treatment rooms, intake rooms, visiting rooms, training areas, etc.
- Exercise yards or other outside animal areas
- Vehicles
- Carriers and transport cages
- Hand washing
- Employee clothing (separate clothing should be worn while doing heavy cleaning or handling infectious animals)
- Bedding
- Dishes
- Toys
- Tools, such as poop scoopers and mops
- Ventilation and heating ducts
- Storage areas (especially food storage)
- Entire building, especially doorknobs, phones, keyboards, and other frequently handled items

Products for Cleaning

Three types of products are generally used for environmental cleaning:

- Soap/detergent: a cleaning agent which works by suspending dirt and grease. Does not kill harmful microorganisms.
- Disinfectant: a chemical agent which kills harmful microorganisms. Does not necessarily remove dirt or grease.

- Degreaser: more powerful soap/detergent specially formulated to penetrate layers of dried-on body oils and other greasy debris.

Effective sanitation requires applying a germicidal agent to a basically clean surface. This requires the use of both detergent and disinfectant products. Detergents in themselves do nothing to kill germs. Although some disinfectants can also act as detergents, many (such as bleach) do not. Virtually all disinfectants used in shelters are inactivated by organic material (such as feces, kitty litter, saliva, sneeze marks and plain old dirt) to some extent, so if they are not applied to a clean surface, they will not work. Periodically, a stronger degreaser should be used to deal with body oils and other grunge that builds up in kennels over time and can render disinfectants ineffective.

Closure of Shelters

As soon as possible, temporary shelters will be closed, and the remaining animals transferred to the appropriate animal control authority or humane organizations to complete their hold period. After the hold period is over, it is up to the discretion of the holding agency to determine how to handle the unclaimed animals based on established protocols and input from the local and provincial health authorities. It is the responsibility of each agency in charge of temporary animal housing areas to demobilize and remove supplies from the shelter location in a timely manner.

Health Considerations

Risk to Human Health

During the response and recovery, responders and the general population may come in contact with animals that are placed in unfamiliar situations and behave unpredictably. This presents several risks to human health:

1. There is the risk for an animal to respond to unfamiliar people or animals by biting or scratching. In addition to the potential for physical trauma from these attacks, there is the potential for secondary infections such as rabies.
2. The animal may carry other zoonotic agents such as Campylobacter, Giardia, Leptospira, Toxocara, etc.
3. There is the potential for the animals to act as fomites and carry on their skin and coats any chemicals they might have been exposed to during the disaster.

Preventative Measures

The following are key steps that should be taken to protect staff members and volunteers:

1. Any agency or group involved in the rescue and evacuation efforts must be approved by the Municipality and/or the province and ensure that disease and bite prevention methods are exercised. Personal protective equipment needs to be made available as recommended by the local health authority. It is up to each animal control authority and humane organization to determine the appropriate PPE for its officers, employees, or volunteers.
2. Bite cases should be reported to the animal control authority in the jurisdiction where they occur. It is up to that animal control authority to investigate and determine who is responsible for each bite case.
3. All animals collected from the disaster areas where they may have been exposed to unknown chemicals or agents should be examined, and based on the event, the Municipality and/or the Province will determine right course of actions.

Recommended Vaccination Practices for Emergency Shelters

Transmission of infectious disease is a serious concern at shelters caring for refugee animals. Many of these animals will be arriving unvaccinated, some inevitably incubating serious diseases such as parvovirus and canine distemper in dogs, and panleukopenia in cats. Large shelters create difficulties for meaningful isolation and effective disinfection, and the overwhelming volume of animals coming in and out of these shelters exacerbates the problem. For these reasons, it is particularly urgent that vaccination practices be optimized in order to provide maximum protection for vaccinatable conditions.

All incoming animals should be assessed. The Municipality and/or the Province will determine whether these animals need to be immediately vaccinated upon intake with modified live or recombinant vaccines for core shelter diseases. If reliable vaccination records exist, the vaccination requirement can be waived.

Animals that will be housed in temporary human/animal shelters for only three to five days will not need to be vaccinated, given the limited contact with other animals and humans; however, if animals become the property of the Municipality (due to abandonment, etc.), they will be vaccinated according to current protocols.

Considerations for Large Animals (Livestock/Horses)

In the Municipality, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency are the lead agencies for governing the laws and codes of large animals.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness is responsible for the oversight of the livestock industry, and the CFIA is responsible for the prevention and control of diseases or conditions therein. Any stray livestock or horse is ideally returned to the pasture or enclosure it came from, temporary repairs made to

the fencing and the owner contacted. If the animal cannot be returned to its enclosure or the enclosed area is considered unsafe or unable to adequately hold the animal, it is to be transported to the livestock facilities and the owner contacted. Animals that are not redeemed become the property of the Municipality and may be taken to auction.

Responsibilities of Owners

During the inter-disaster period, owners are responsible for preparing their animals for possible movement or disaster. This includes providing for food, supplies, vaccine, and proof of required infectious disease testing and/or vaccination (i.e., Coggins' testing for horses, Brucella certification or testing and Tuberculosis certification or testing for cattle).

Support

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and the CFIA are responsible for supporting locals in responding to disasters involving livestock and horses. Requests for temporary housing of large animals will be forwarded to the Municipality's Emergency Operations Centre, and requests for ministry and agency assistance will be requested through the Municipality's CEMC and Emergency Management Ontario.

When requests for assistance or housing of large animals exceed the resources of local agencies, requests for assistance will be forwarded to other lower-tier municipalities in Bruce County.

Disposal of dead animals will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If there are more carcasses than can be adequately handled by the local resources, a request for assistance will be sent through the PEOC and other agencies.

Amendment	Review Date	Change Date	Changed By
Removal of references and contact information to OSPCA	November 21, 2023.	November 21, 2023.	J. Burt
Adding in prevention Phase Information	November 21, 2023.	November 21, 2023.	J. Burt
Removal of bite/Disease Control methods from the OSPCA	November 21, 2023.	November 21, 2023.	J. Burt
Removal of the OSPCA Scope of Emergency Information	November 21, 2023.	November 21, 2023.	J. Burt
Annual Review and Revisions	November 21, 2023	November 21, 2023.	J. Burt
Annual Review and Revisions	November 19, 2024.	November 19, 2024.	J. Burt

Amendment	Review Date	Change Date	Changed By
Annual Review and Revisions	December 2, 2025.	December 2, 2025.	J. Burt
Annual Review and Revisions	November 10, 2026.	November 10, 2026.	J. Burt