

MICHIGAN CITY ANIMAL CONTROL DISASTER PLAN

I. The purpose of this document is to establish the working structure for animal rescue, evacuation, shelter, veterinary services and mortality management during animal disasters in Michigan City. The plan organizes and coordinates the response of state agencies in assisting local government and volunteer organizations to address the said needs of pets.

II. Primary and support agencies:

Primary agencies:

Michigan City Animal Control
Animal Control
Response Teams (DART)

Support Agencies:

Michigan City Emergency Management, County Emergency
Management, County Animal Control, DNR, Humane Society

Adjunct Agencies:

Red Cross
Fried's Cat Shelter

III. Direction and Control

A. It is assumed that the following activities have occurred prior to initiating the actions outlined in this document:

- The State assumes that local government has taken all necessary actions to respond to the emergency prior to requesting assistance from the state.
- Local and county government has responded to the emergency by activating its Animal Disaster Plan and activated local animal response teams.

B. During an animal disaster, if local resources are insufficient to meet existing needs, local emergency management may request assistance through County Emergency Management. If county resources are overwhelmed, county emergency shall request assistance from the state of Indiana.

C. Michigan City Animal Control is the lead agency for animal-related issues. Michigan City Animal Control shall activate response teams when needed.

- D. DART is the program through which Michigan City Animal Control will coordinate all animal disaster response related to animal rescue, shelter, veterinary services and mortality management. DART staff shall be supported by Michigan City Emergency Management staff to ensure 24/7 coverage at the incident command post and to facilitate access to that agency's resources.
- E. Michigan City Animal Control, DART will coordinate with emergency management to identify and task state agencies to assist local government with animal-related issues in accordance with Incident Command. Michigan City Animal Control through DART, may also identify non-government organizations, community based organizations and private sector resources to assist local government during disaster response and recovery.
- F. During times the (EOC) is not activated, the city may access information and/or direction by contacting Michigan City Animal Control.
- G. DART response activities are coordinated through the appropriate county EOC and in coordination with the State EOC.
- H. The county animal coordinator or county emergency management director will be the contact for DART at the county level. These people should be skilled professionals with knowledge of local animal plans and available resources.
- I. Michigan City Animal Control through DART shall coordinate all requests for federal assistance through the City Emergency Management.
- J. All response will be managed through (ICS)

IV. Organization of State Animal Disaster Response

- A. Local emergency management should develop and maintain a current coordinated and cooperative supplement or annex to the local emergency response.
- B. When activated, all agencies involved in animal disaster response shall operate under the plan and its supporting documents in accordance with ICS.

1. Animal Control through DART, shall use ICS and facilitate the assignment of personnel to handle requests for assistance and to ensure those requests for assistance are prioritized, completed, and documented.
 2. Animal Control as the primary agency shall provide sufficient personnel to support DART by staffing the ICP 24 hours per day, seven days per week while operational or as requested by emergency management. Personnel shall be skilled professionals qualified to expedite decisions for the agency.
- C. Responding agencies shall operate through the leadership of Michigan City Animal Control personnel through DART.

V. Operational Activities:

A. Mitigation:

1. Information shall be provided to the information officer to inform the public about disaster planning and safety for animals through news releases and/or brochures. Michigan City Animal Control will be responsible for the content.

B. Preparedness:

1. Local and county emergency management should work cooperatively with Michigan City Animal Control, Animal response teams, and/or community-based organizations to develop and maintain an animal response plan as an annex or reference to their county emergency plan, identify sources of and procure necessary equipment and supplies and identify other professional volunteer and facility resources in their county.
2. County emergency management should have an animal disaster plan and exercise it regularly.
3. Michigan City Animal Control through DART, will maintain a database of local resources to be used for animal disaster response. The resources shall include county animal coordinator contact information, trained and professionally qualified volunteers and personnel, and available supplies, equipment, facilities and transportation. This database is made available by DART through online access to all county emergency managers, and through periodic mailings of hard copies.

4. Animal disaster response participants should engage in training and disaster exercises as requested by Michigan City Animal Control through DART.
5. Other types of assistance may be utilized to further preparedness efforts including legislation, preparation or certification of training materials, and/or the creation of memoranda of understanding.

C. Response:

1. Michigan City Animal Control shall activate DART. However, at any time during a local emergency, information and direction from DART can be accessed by contacting Michigan City Animal Control.
2. Primary and support agencies shall through DART share information about animal locations, available storage sites and staging areas for animal food and medical supplies, animal shelter and confinement areas, transportation resources, and any other additional supplies.
3. A DART representative shall coordinate with the information officer and the Red Cross to ensure that information and the location and availability of animal shelters and animal care resources is provided to the public and to other response organizations before, during and after a disaster.
4. Primary and support agencies through DART, shall assist at the ICP to coordinate the evacuation of animals prior to an impending disaster and rescue, or capture animals impacted by a disaster.
5. Primary and support agencies shall, through DART, assist with emergency shelter for affected animals. Service animals will be allowed access to Red Cross shelters in accordance with the national American Red Cross care and shelter policy.
6. Primary and support agencies shall through DART assist with efforts to provide food, water, shelter and veterinary care to affected animals.

7. Michigan City Animal Control shall coordinate with the Health Department to identify, prevent, and control animal diseases that may impact public health.
8. Primary and support agencies may be requested to assist with the allocation of supplies and resources to disaster affected areas.

D. Response:

1. Support agencies shall coordinate with DART and emergency management for the consolidation, distribution, or deactivation of resources.
2. DART participants shall coordinate at the ICP to remove and properly dispose of animal carcasses.
3. The information officer shall assist with providing information, the reunification of animals with their owners.

VI. Responsibilities:

A. Michigan City Animal Control

1. Shall activate Dart

B. DART Team Leader

1. Shall, in coordination with Michigan City Animal Control, develop and maintain lists of resources, including trained volunteers and animal professionals able to provide assistance.
2. Shall conduct training for animal coordinators, animal professionals, first responders and other interested volunteers.
3. Shall develop and maintain a roster for 24 hours per day, seven days per week, to staff coverage of the ICP.
4. Shall, through information officer, release information on disaster planning safety for animals through news releases and/or brochures.

5. Shall notify, activate and mobilize all agencies involved in animal disaster related issues.
6. If requested, shall assist county animal coordinators with identification of suitable facilities for shelters and other resources.
7. Shall be prepared at all times to make reports on animal response.
8. Shall coordinate activities with the appropriate local and county EOC's.
9. With assistance from Michigan City emergency management, shall coordinate animal issues during multi-state disaster responses with FEMA or emergency management agencies in other states.
10. With assistance from the DART, shall annually review and update the plan after a major event and complete an after-action report with 90 days.

C. Support Agencies:

1. City Emergency Management Agency
 - a. Shall, through Michigan City Animal Control provide notification of impending disasters and ERT activation to DART leader.
 - b. Shall coordinate, through Michigan City Animal Control, public information with the information officer.
 - c. Shall assist DART in coordinating emergency response resources during disasters.
 - d. Shall assist DART in maintaining, reviewing and refining this plan.
 - e. Shall assist state agencies participating in animal response in coordinating and reporting damage assessment.

- f. Shall assist state agencies participating in animal response in releasing information on disaster planning and safety for animals through news releases and/or brochures.
- g. Shall conduct disaster exercises in conjunction with DART

2. Indiana DNR

- a. Will address wild animals that are a danger to the public using the guidelines and protocols set forth in its "Administrative Policy Regarding Nuisance Wildlife."

3. Indiana Department of Animal Health

- a. Shall coordinate with Michigan City Animal Control and DART to diagnose, prevent, and control zoonotic diseases and other animal related conditions that may impact public health.
- b. Shall coordinate with DART to provide information and the location and availability of potential animal shelters, and animal care resources to the public and other responding organizations before, during and after a disaster.

4. County Emergency Management, ACO's or County Animal Coordinators

- a. Should identify possible locations within the county for emergency animal shelters and confinement areas.
- b. Should support the local County Animal response team.
- c. Should maintain a list of local sources of equipment, supplies, food and water for sheltered and confined animals.
- d. Should maintain a list of local transportation resources.

- e. Should establish an adoption procedure and holding and disposition protocols consistent with local statutes for unclaimed animals.
- f. Should develop plans and agreements for the disposal of animal carcasses.
- g. May request assistance from DART when local resources are insufficient to meet needs.
- h. Should identify and document animal injuries and deaths as a result of a disaster.

5. Indiana Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA)

- a. Should identify and document animal injuries and deaths as a result of a disaster.
- b. Should assist DART in coordinating volunteer veterinarians and technicians to provide veterinary medical care.
- c. Should assist with the procurement of emergency medical equipment, supplies and personnel for animals.
- d. Should document animal injuries and deaths under the care of the participating veterinarians.

6. Michigan City Animal Control

- a. Shall investigate animal bites
- b. Should facilitate transport of injured, stray or nuisance animals to animal care facilities.
- c. Shall assist animal response teams with animal control problems.
- d. Shall enforce animal control statutes.
- e. Shall assist with quarantining animals for observation or to control the spread of disease.
- f. Should provide emergency animal shelter staffing assistance.

7. Adjunct Agencies

- a. Should notify, activate and mobilize appropriate personnel and equipment to perform or support assigned functions and designated within this plan.
- b. Should designate appropriate personnel as requested to staff designated shelter facilities if possible.
- c. Should coordinate all actions with appropriate primary agencies when performing their assigned missions.

VII. Financial Management

Michigan City Animal control shall maintain trained staff to document and track response related costs in coordination with the finance and administration section. Local and state agencies participating in animal rescue and shelter during a disaster should keep complete and accurate records of incurred costs for potential reimbursement.

VIII. Authority and References