

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #17

ANIMAL PROTECTION & AGRICULTURE



2019

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 Animal Protection

Primary Agency:	Santa Rosa County Animal Services
Support Agencies:	Santa Rosa County Health Department/ Environmental Health Santa Rosa County Cooperative Extension Office US Department of Agriculture: (County Office) Northwest Florida Veterinarian Association Santa Rosa County Livestock Officer (SO) North West Florida Animal Clinic (large Animal Veterinarian) Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

I. Purpose

The purpose of ESF 17 is to provide for the coordination of local resources in response to small pet, livestock, and exotic animal care needs before, during, and following a significant natural or technological disaster. Animal issues are often overlooked in the planning process for disasters. This lack of planning, caused by the belief that animals can fend for themselves, leads to serious problems when these animals are forced from their habitats due to injury or hunger. By developing operational procedures to care for these animals prior to such an event, this ESF will help reduce animal-related problems in emergencies.

ESF 17 will provide overall management, coordination and prioritization of county-wide Animal Control services and assets to support pet and livestock animal needs in the event of a major emergency or disaster.

ESF 17 readiness planning is guided by the following assumptions:

- Human lives may be lost due to the refusal of owners to evacuate without their pets or livestock. Public education by the County and animal-related organizations is needed to make the people aware of pet sheltering facilities available, and the need to plan in advance.
- The large number of homeless/injured pets, livestock, and exotic animals would be a health and nuisance/bite threat which would necessitate a response to address the capture and subsequent sheltering of these animals.
- Triage and treatment of sick and injured animals to include euthanasia, if necessary, would have to be accomplished by veterinarians at designated shelters and private offices.
- Commercial pet/livestock food would need to be imported into the county by prior arrangement with vendors. Food drops for wild animals would be organized by various wild-animal-related groups and state agencies.
- The accumulation of shelter animal waste and carcasses must be removed to approved solid waste dumping sites.
- The accumulation of animal carcasses throughout the County must be removed to approved solid waste dumping sites and/or burnt on site.
- Sheltered animals will need to be re-united with their owners after the disaster.

II. Concept of Operations

A. GENERAL

1. ESF 17 is organized consistent with State Emergency Operations Center and the requirements of the National Response Plan, the National Incident Management System, and the Incident Command System. This structure and system supports incident assessment, planning, procurement, deployment, and coordination and support operations to Santa Rosa County through the Santa Rosa County Emergency Response Team, Area Operations and State Emergency Response Teams to assure a timely and appropriate response to an emergency or situation.
2. Procedures protocols and plans for disaster response activities are developed to govern staff operations at the Santa Rosa Emergency Operations Center and in the field. These are in the form of Emergency Operations Plan (i.e. Base Plan) and corresponding Appendices, Incident Annexes, Support Annexes and Standard Operating Guidelines, which describe ESF 17 capabilities (based on the National Planning Scenarios, the Universal Task List and the Target Capabilities). Periodic training and exercises are also conducted to enhance effectiveness.
3. In a large event requiring local or State mutual aid assistance, ESF 17 will work with its support agency counterparts to seek and procure, plan, coordinate and direct the use of any required assets.
4. Throughout the response and recovery periods, ESF 17 will evaluate and analyze information regarding the availability of animal protection services.
5. At the time of activation of the EOC, ESF 17 will be staffed on a 24-hour schedule to interface and communicate with other agencies and prioritize assistance requests. The Director of Animal Services, or a designee, will be deployed to the EOC to coordinate actions with other agencies represented in the EOC.
6. ESF 17 Animal Issues, will provide overall management, coordination and prioritization of countywide Animal Services assets and services to support pet and livestock needs in the event of a major emergency or disaster. Animal-related services under this Annex are categorized in the following functional areas:
 - Investigate animal bites and provide rabies control.
 - Assist in the capture of animals that have escaped confinement or have been displaced from their natural habitat.
 - Assist emergency response teams with animal-related problems.
 - Provide coordination for Animal Services and or Support agencies to transport animals as needed, during and after disasters for “space utilization control” at the Santa Rosa County Shelter. Will assist in coordination of any sites of animal needs stations to be set up in the County.
 - Coordinate appropriate equipment and resources for pre- and post-disaster sheltering and rescue of horses and farm animals.
 - Coordinate any field mutual aid from supporting agencies for emergency care to all injured animals.
 - Coordinate any needs local or support agencies for disposal for animal carcasses to include massive numbers.
 - Through ESF 8 Environmental Health release information to the general public regarding such issues as quarantine areas, zoonotic

issues alert, public service information announcements, etc.

7. Issues requiring consideration include but are not limited to:
 - Assessment of animal needs.
 - Disease Control/Epidemiology.
 - Animal care personnel.
 - Public information release.
 - Deceased animal identification/disposal.
 - Resources: See “**Resource Information for support agencies**”
8. The primary and support agencies of this ESF must plan to self-sufficient as feasibly possible during the first 72 hours following an event, as there may be limited assistance.
9. ESF17 will provide animal assistance using its primary and support agency authorities and capabilities, and via coordination with other ESF to support its missions. ESF17 will allocate available resources to each mission based upon priorities identified by the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
10. If sufficient animal assistance resources are not available within this ESF, then ESF17 will request assistance from the State EOC, through the Santa Rosa County EOC,
11. Requests for Animal Services assistance will be telephonically submitted to the Animal Services during office hours. During non-office hours, calls taken by E-911 dispatcher and on-call Animal Services Officer notified. At the time of the activation of the EOC, this ESF will be staffed on a 24-hour basis to interface and communicate with other agencies and to prioritize assistance requests. The Director of Animal Services or a designee will be at the EOC to coordinate actions with other agencies represented in the EOC.

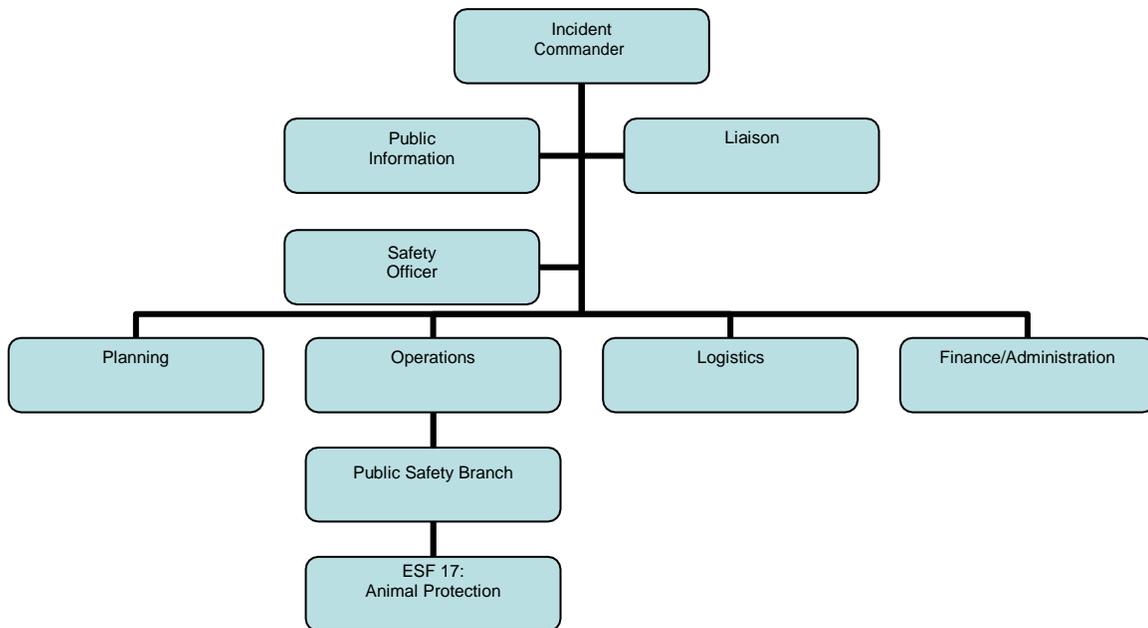


Figure – Incident Command System Structure: ESF 17 – Animal Protection

B. ORGANIZATION

1. COUNTY

- a. The Santa Rosa County Director of Animal Services or designee at the Emergency Operations Center is responsible for all activity of the Emergency Support Function. All volunteer animal-related agencies will coordinate directly with this Emergency Support Function at the EOC; The Agriculture and Consumer Protection Inspector for our County under the Division of Animal industry and Bureau of Animal Disease Control will coordinate with ESF 17 Livestock issues
- b. During an activation of the County Emergency Operations Center, support agency staff is integrated with the Santa Rosa County Animal Services staff to provide support that will provide for an appropriate, coordinated and timely response.
- c. During an emergency or disaster event, the Emergency Operations Center, Operations Section Chief will coordinate the support resources from the support agencies with the Public Safety Branch Director.
- d. During the response phase, ESF 17 will evaluate and analyze information regarding volunteers and donations requests. Also, ESF 17 will develop and update assessments of the requirements for resources to provide animal protection services in the impacted area and undertake contingency planning to meet anticipated demands and requirements.
- e. Santa Rosa County Animal Services develops and maintains the overall ESF 17 Emergency Operations Plan and accompanying Appendices, Annexes and Standard Operating Guidelines that govern response actions related to emergencies. However, support agencies may develop and maintain their own similar documents for internal use, which must be compatible with and in support of the overall Emergency Operations Plan. All such documents will be in compliance with the National Response Plan, the National Incident Management System, the Incident Command System and the County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- f. Staffing of ESF 17 positions will be accomplished through using resources of the Santa Rosa County Animal Services along with personnel from ESF 17 support agencies and trained and screened unaffiliated volunteers.

2. AREA

- a. The Public Safety Branch Director, in consultation with the requesting jurisdiction, may obtain additional animal protection services via established mutual aid agreements.
- b. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, serves as the lead agency for animal protection services and support and will designate a liaison to the EOC from the Regional Office and/or the Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF). The liaisons have been trained to carry out Emergency Support Function 17 responsibilities and will function as coordinators, assessors, and operational personnel in support of EOC or field activities.
- c. If more than one County emergency management operation center is activated, State ESF 17 may support the coordination of the response with regional resources or request additional resources from the State Emergency Operations Center. Under such circumstances, the State ESF 17 agencies will participate in a Multi-Agency coordinating entity to coordinate requests for Animal Protection resources among multiple Emergency Operations Centers.

3. STATE

- a. During an activation of the State Emergency Operations Center, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is the designated lead agency for State animal protection services and will provide a liaison to facilitate requests for ESF 17 resources to local Emergency Operations Centers.
- b. During an emergency or disaster event, the primary and support agencies of ESF 17 at the State Emergency Operations Center will report to the Human Services Branch Chief who reports to the Operations Section Chief under the overall direction of the State Coordination Officer.
- c. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services develops and maintains the overall Emergency Support Function 17 Emergency Operations Plan and accompanying Appendices, Annexes and Standard Operating Guidelines that govern response actions related to emergencies. However, support agencies may develop and maintain their own similar documents for internal use, which must be compatible with and in support of the overall Emergency Operations Plan. All such documents will be in compliance with the National Response Plan, the National Incident Management System, the Incident Command System and the County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

C. ALERTS/NOTIFICATIONS

1. The Santa Rosa County Animal Services will notify the County Warning Point when information comes to their attention indicating that an emergency or disaster situation is developing. The report will include all relevant information that is known at this time. Additional information should be reported as it becomes available.
2. The County Warning Point will notify the "on call" Emergency Duty Officer and/or Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO) for ESF 17 when the County or an area of the County has been threatened or impacted by an emergency or disaster event as provided in the County Warning Point procedure.
3. ESF 17 will be activated or placed on standby upon notification by the County Emergency Management Office. The primary and support Animal Services representatives or designees will jointly manage the emergency activities of ESF 17.
4. Initial notification will be sent by the Emergency Operations Center to Santa Rosa County Animal Services as the primary agency of this ESF. Immediately following notification to activate this ESF, Santa Rosa County Animal Services will complete the following:
 - Assure necessary emergency operating facilities and reporting systems are established.
 - Establish communications with the EOC, obtain status report, contact Santa Rosa County Extension Service, Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Livestock Officer, the County Large Animal Veterinarian and other area veterinarians and kennels, contact the Santa Rosa County Wildlife Rescue (Helping Our Wildlife, Inc.) and the Humane Society of the United States, Southeast Regional Office, and Tallahassee
 - Provide appropriate representation to the EOC.
5. Immediately following notification by Santa Rosa County Animal Services to

commence response actions for this ESF, each support agency will complete the following:

- Staff facilities as per each individual agency disaster/recovery plan.
- Provide for a call down of each agency's staff.
- Provide for on-going needs relative to each agency's designated area responsibility.
- Provide personnel and resources for assessment and field teams as required.

D. ACTIONS

Actions carried out by ESF 17 are grouped into phases of emergency management: prevention, preparedness, protection, response, recovery and mitigation. Each phase requires specific skills and knowledge to accomplish and requires significant cooperation and collaboration between all supporting agencies and the intended recipients of service. ESF 17 encompasses a full range of activities from training to the provision of field services. It also functions as a coordinator and, at times, assumes direct operational control of provided services.

1. PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

- a. Actions and activities that develop Animal Protection response capabilities may include planning, training, orientation sessions, and exercises for ESF 17 personnel (i.e., County, State, Regional, and Federal).
- b. Conduct planning with ESF 17 support agencies, Regional Domestic Security Task forces, and other emergency support functions to refine Animal Protection operations.
- c. Deliver preparedness programs that address small pet issues. The Santa Rosa County Extension Service will coordinate preparedness and response measures that address livestock or other large animals.
- d. Promote awareness of animal protection through a public education brochure entitled, "You and Your Pets...Preparing for Hurricanes"
- e. Stockpile water and food supplies at the Santa Rosa County Animal Shelter on 4451 Pine Forest Road for domestic small animals.

2. RESPONSE ACTIONS

- a. Identify, mobilize and deploy assessment representatives to the disaster area(s) to determine the specific health and safety needs and priorities. ESF 17 will coordinate with other Emergency Support Functions represented at the EOC to provide support to aid in the relief of nuisance and health-related problems involving animals and their impact on human relief efforts.
- b. During this phase, animal-related services will become more generalized. ESF 17 will proceed with assistance on a limited basis and participate with damage assessment teams. Additionally, due to the complexity of injured, dead, and nuisance animal problems, conditions may require special expert advisory groups. ESF 17 will coordinate advice from expert advisors and will determine specific strategies to manage and respond to these situations.

1) Sheltering

The responsibility for providing safe shelter for animals lies with the owner. Owners who must evacuate are encouraged to make arrangements ahead of time for pet evacuation and are advised of the following options:

- Stay with friends or family members in a safe area.
- Make reservations at a hotel, which will accept pets (List Available at SRC Animal Services)
- Make arrangements to board animals at a kennel or a Veterinarians Office.
- Relocate larger animals to open pasture areas.
- Pet disaster information is available on the County web.

3. RECOVERY ACTIONS

Provide continued care of sheltered animals, provide an extended network for the adoption of unclaimed animals, and assist in the relocation of sick and injured animals to permanent facilities until a return to normal operations.

- a. ESF 17 will immediately identify, mobilize and deploy assessment representatives to the disaster areas(s) to determine the specific health and safety needs and priorities. ESF 17 will coordinate with other ESF represented at the EOC to provide support to aid in the relief of nuisance and health related problems involving animals and their impact on human relief efforts.
- b. ESF 17 will continue to provide assistance in the following areas: capture of injured and displaced animals, sheltering, medical care, feeding, relocation and reunification with owners, acquisition of additional food and supplies from vendors to support the relief efforts, continued coordination with other ESF for timely and proper carcass disposal.
- c. Long-term animal issues include the return of animals to their owners or natural environment, long-term health recovery, and proper disposal of carcasses with the aid of Public Works department.
- d. ESF 17 will provide continued care of sheltered animals; provide an extended network for the adoption of unclaimed animals, and to assist in the relocation of sick and injured animals to permanent facilities until a return to normal operations.

4. MITIGATION ACTIONS

Develop and deliver guidance for farmers and owners of livestock on measures that can be taken to reduce losses from scenario disaster events

- a. This phase would be the actual pre-impact care and sheltering of the animals. This would also include some public education.
- b. Santa Rosa County Animal Services has developed a public education brochure entitled "Pets and Hurricanes - Are You Prepared?" The brochure is available from Santa Rosa County Animal Services, the Division of Emergency Management and local Veterinarians.

E. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

1. ESF 17 complies with the National Response Plan, and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The NIMS guides the direction and control system adopted by the Department of Public Safety, which functions as the official disaster prevention, protection, response, preparedness, recovery, and mitigation organization within Santa Rosa County.
2. The ESF 17 system operates at two levels: 1) County Emergency Operations Center; and 2) field operations.
3. During emergency activations, all management decisions regarding County or regional response are made at the County Emergency Operations Center by the ESF 17 coordinator. Under the Incident Command System structure, the Planning, Logistics, Finance/Administration, and Operations Section Coordinators and staff at the County Emergency Operations Center assist the commander in carrying out the overall mission. Sections, Units, Teams, staffing levels, etc. are

modular and scalable, depending on the type, size, scope and complexity of the emergency or disaster event.

4. A staffing directory and the ESF 17 Emergency Operations Plan, its accompanying Appendices, Annexes and Standard Operating guidelines are maintained by the with status of the call lists updated at least monthly and all other documents at least annually.

F. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. PRIMARY AGENCY – SANTA ROSA COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

- a. Notify, activate, and mobilize all agencies assigned to the ESF.
- b. Coordinate all support agency actions in performance of missions assigned to this ESF.
- c. Coordinate requests for assistance and additional resources necessary during performance of the mission with the appropriate agencies.
- d. Function as the County's representative/liaison to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Team for the activities and responsibilities carried out by the primary and support agencies of this ESF.
- e. Investigate all animal bites.
- f. Facilitate the transportation of injured, stray, or nuisance animals to animal care facilities.
- g. Assist emergency response teams with animal-related problems.
- h. Make the arrangements for the removal and disposal of dead animals.
- i. Coordinate with the Santa Rosa County Public Health Unit for the release of public information regarding animals and related health issues.
- j. Enforce the Santa Rosa County Animal Services Ordinance.
- k. Provide for quarantine of bite animals for observation. Impounding animals roaming at large.
- l. Euthanize sick and/or injured animals through assigned and authorized persons.
- m. Return wild animals to their natural environment.
- n. Respond to animal-related inquiries.
- o. Investigate animal cruelty and neglect complaints.

2. SUPPORT AGENCIES:

(NOTE: Each Support Agency should review its own roles and responsibilities and revise in conjunction with the Santa Rosa County Animal Regulation and Control).

- a. Notify, activate, and mobilize all personnel and equipment to perform or support assigned functions.
- b. Designate and assign personnel for staffing of all facilities at which this Emergency Support Function is required and providing representation when it is determined by the primary agency of this Emergency Support Function to be necessary.
- c. Coordinate all actions of the support agency with the primary agency when

performing the assigned missions of this Emergency Support Function.

- d. Identify all personnel and resource requirements to perform assigned missions which are in excess of the support agencies' capabilities.
- e. Santa Rosa County Health Department/ Environmental Health
MOU with Health Department to provide closure of Quarantine with animal bites and provides recommendations for any Zoonotic disease concerns or events.
- f. Northwest Florida Veterinarian Association
Report issues to ESF 17 with status of operations after event with, unmet needs and additional kennel space available.
- g. North West Florida Animal Clinic (large Animal Veterinarian)
Responds to injured large animals/ Livestock. Reports to ESF 17 with status
- h. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Responds as needed for wildlife issues
- i. Santa Rosa County Cooperative Extension Office
- j. US Department of Agriculture: (County Office)
Natural Resources
Conservation Services
Farm Services Agency
- k. Santa Rosa County Live Stock Officer

G. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1. ESF 17 is responsible for managing financial matters related to resources that are procured and used during an event. During a response, each agency/department is responsible for recording and tracking its own expenditures and seeking reimbursement from the appropriate resource after the event. If a federally declared disaster exists, then a reimbursement formula is established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that may be as much as 100 percent, but usually does not exceed 75 percent.
2. Expenditures by support entities will be documented by those entities and submitted directly to the Finance/Administration Section or a designated Finance Service officer as soon as possible.