

Lenoir County Animal Protection Plan

Acknowledgments

The Lenoir County Office of Emergency Services wishes to acknowledge the members of the *Animal Protection Committee* for their full participation and coordinated efforts, which will make this procedure viable. Membership of this multi-jurisdictional task force consist of the following persons and agencies:

Animal Protection Committee

Eve Honeycutt, Lenoir County C.A.R.T coordinator, N. C. Cooperative Extension
Tammy Kelly, Lenoir County Extension Director
Bee Barnett, Solid Waste Director
Chris Barwick, Lenoir Co. Livestock Asso. President
Coburn Bigler, Lenoir County Animal Control
Dalton Cox, Forestry Service
Roger Dail, Department Head, L. C. Emergency Services
Bill Elmore, FSA Director
Cathy Henry, NCEM Area 3
Dede Herring, L. C. Extension R.E.I.N.S Volunteer
Linda Hodges, S.P.C.A. Board Member
John Howard, Howard Farms
Joey Huff, L. C. Health Department Director
Kenneth Jones, Farmer
James Lamberth, City of Kinston
Reggie Lee, Assistant L. C. Manager
Paul Linder, Wildlife Officer
Bert Noble, L. C. Forester
Robert Norville, Wildlife Biologist
Jim Kittrell,, DVM Veterinary Division
Roy Outlaw, NCDA
Bruce Parsons, Chamber of Commerce
Doug Radford, USDA-NCRS Director
Dr. Ray Randall, Riverbank Animal Hospital
Chris Seaberg, County Planner
James Smith, Emergency Management, Regional
Carol Sykes, Pink Hill Town Clerk
Becky Barnett, L. C. Red Cross
Phillip Winslow, NCDA Caswell Farm Director

1.0 **Introduction**

1.1 **Purpose Statement**

To protect wild and domesticated animal resources, the public health, the public food supply, the environment,

and to ensure the humane care and treatment of animals in case of a large-scale emergency, including hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, wind driven water, drought, fire, explosion, building collapse, commercial transportation accidents, chemical spills, or other situations that cause animal suffering.

1.2 **Scope**

This Plan is intended for use by local government to take immediate action in providing a means of care and control to minimize animal suffering in the event of a large-scale emergency. This action will be aimed at all animals that may need help whether such animals are owned, stray, domestic, or wild.

Within Lenoir County, the Office of Emergency Services Coordinator or his authorized representative(s) may place into effect, established plans and procedures, and direct both the emergency and recovery aspects of the incident. He may deviate from these procedures when, in his judgment, immediate and direct action is necessary to protect the public safety.

2.0 **Affected Agencies / Responsibilities**

2.1 **Primary Agencies**

A. **Lenoir County Cooperative Extension**

1. Coordinate support agencies to manage animal protection in large-scale emergencies.
2. Provide and coordinate personnel, equipment, and shelter as required to aid in the protection of livestock during an emergency situation.

B. **Lenoir County Animal Control**

1. Coordinate support agencies to manage animal protection in large-scale emergencies.
2. Provide and coordinate personnel, equipment, and shelter as required to aid in the protection of domestic and sick and/or injured non-domestic animals.

C. **Lenoir County Office of Emergency Services**

1. Activate the Emergency Operations Center, if necessary. Responsible for the overall direction and control of the emergency incident.

D. **USDA-NCRS**

1. Provide personnel and support in locating displaced animals. Provide support for mortality disposal.

2.2 **Support Agencies**

A. **S.A.R.T.**

Provide volunteers, assistance, information, supplies and expertise in caring for **animals.**

B. **American Red Cross, Lenoir County Chapter**

Provide volunteers to assist in the protection of animals during an emergency shelter situation. Work with

Environmental Services personnel in the coordination of animal shelters in Lenoir County.

C. Municipal Animal Control

Provide personnel and equipment as required within the respective corporate limits to protect domestic and sick and/or injured non-domestic animals.

D. NC Department of Agriculture

Enforce state regulations concerning livestock health and the movement of animals affected by those regulations. NCDA will also assist in providing information and direction whenever possible with regard to the general health of livestock in these areas.

2.3 Additional Resources

A. North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association

Provide personnel to aid in the medical treatment of animals. Activate regional Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT).

B. Lenoir County S.P.C.A.

Provide personnel and equipment as required to rescue and care for domestic and non-domestic animals.

C. American Humane Association

Provide personnel and equipment as required to rescue and care for domestic and non-domestic animals.

D. N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission

Provide personnel and equipment as required to protect wildlife.

E. Lenoir County Fairgrounds

Provide shelter and supplies to care for displaced livestock

F. Private Boarding Kennels, Stables, Dog Clubs, and Horse Clubs

Provide personnel, equipment, and shelter as required to shelter and care for pets from evacuated citizens and in cases when established animal shelters are filled or destroyed.

G. Private Farms

Provide shelter and supplies to care for displaced livestock.

H. NC Forestry Service

Provide communication service with other agencies and help open roads to areas.

I. Private Citizens

J. C.A.R.T.'s - other Counties

K. Lenoir County Parks and Recreation Department

- L. NC Cooperative Extension R.E.I.N.S. Volunteers
- M. Lenoir County Livestock Association
- N. Farm Service Agency
- O. Integrated Poultry and Livestock Companies

3.0 Planning Assumptions

- A. The owners of pets or livestock, when notified of an upcoming emergency, will take reasonable steps to shelter and provide for animals under their care and/or control.
- B. Natural, technological, or manmade disasters could affect the well being of domesticated or non-domesticated animals.
- C. The county should plan for both emergency situations and to carry out response and recovery operations utilizing local resources. Outside animal care and rescue assistance would likely be available in most large-scale emergencies affecting the county.
- D. Animal protection planning should ensure the proper care and recovery of animals impacted during an emergency. These plans may include measures to identify housing and shelter for animals, communicate information to the public, and proper animal release.
- E. Public information statements will be issued through the various media outlets. This information will include locations where domestic and non-domestic animals (including livestock and wild animals) may be accepted during emergency situations.
Note: Animals are not permitted in Red Cross shelters with the exception of trained assistance animals.
- F. A large-scale emergency in Lenoir County may warrant immediate response from state and local personnel, agencies, and organizations. However, emergency situations may become compounded due to the nature of the emergency and also require activation of additional specialized agencies through mutual aid.
- G. Through effective animal protection planning and organization, disaster relief efforts would be more expedient.

4.0 Concept of Operations

4.1 General

- A. The primary and support agencies identified in the Standard Operating Guideline will manage and coordinate local animal protection activities. These agencies will use established animal protection and support organizations, processes, and procedure. Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs in the event of a large-scale emergency lies primary with the Lenoir County Office of Emergency Services in cooperation with the Lenoir County Cooperative Extension, Lenoir County Animal Control, and local incident coordinators.
- B. Requests for animal protection assistance and resources such as food, medicine, shelter material, specialized personnel, and additional veterinary medical professionals, will be transmitted from the Lenoir County Office of Emergency Services to the North Carolina Emergency Management Office. Should the need for Federal or State resources exist, the State Emergency Operations Center will

coordinate the requests for assistance.

- C. Animal protection operations will be managed under the Lenoir County Incident Command Master Plan (ICS). Public health concerns will be managed in accordance with appropriate Lenoir County plans and procedures.
- D. Animals included under the plan:
 - 1. The sheltering and protection of domestic and non-domestic animals (including livestock) are the responsibility of their owners.
 - 2. Domestic and non-domestic animals that are lost, strayed, incapable of being cared for by their owners, or in danger to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of the county or municipal animal control officers or other identified agencies. These animals will be sheltered, fed, and, if possible, returned to their owners. If the animals cannot be returned to their owners, they will be disposed of in accordance with established animal control procedures.
 - 3. Wild animals should be left to their own survival instincts. Wild animals out of their natural habitat that are in danger either to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of the N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission personnel, in cooperation with local animal control officials, and returned to their natural habitat if possible.

4.2 **Notification**

This plan and implementing procedures will be activated in the event of a large-scale emergency causing a significant need for animal protection. The Lenoir County Animal Control Office in cooperation with the Lenoir County Cooperative Extension and with notification to the Lenoir County Office of Emergency Services will determine when these procedures will be implemented and notify the appropriate primary, support, and mutual aid agencies. A call down notification system will be maintained by the primary agencies.

4.3 **Communications**

Communications between the primary and support agencies will occur primarily through telephone, facsimile, and cellular telephone. Amateur radio will be used as a backup system if other communication is impossible due to the nature of the emergency situation.

4.4 **Public Information Officer (PIO)**

A spokesman from Lenoir County will be responsible for the coordination of all media activities and press releases associated with the protection of animals.

PIO responsibilities may include:

- 1. Notifying the public of appropriate shelters to drop lost/stray animals, animals that they cannot care for, or animals that need immediate medical assistance.
- 2. Delivering instructions to the public to prepare their pets for an impending emergency and/or instructions for minor 'at home' medical responses for pets injured in an emergency situation.
- 3. Initiating a system to direct inquiries on lost pets to the appropriate animal shelters.
- 4. Other information as appropriate to the situation.

4.5 **Response**

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

A. **Search and Rescue**

1. **Domestic Pets**

Domestic pets loose in need of assistance due to the emergency or to the death or evacuation of their owners will be the responsibility of county or municipal animal control officers.

2. **Livestock**

Livestock loose or in need of assistance due to the emergency or to the death or evacuation of their owners will be the responsibility of the county cooperative extension.

3. **Wild Animals**

Wild animals out of their natural habitat that are endangering either themselves or the human population will be the responsibility of N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission personnel in cooperation with municipal or county animal control officials.

4. **Stranded Animals**

In the event that animals cannot be rescued due to the emergency situation, food, and medical assistance may be delivered to the animals by the appropriate agency when possible.

5. **Additional Aid**

In the event that municipal and county animal control resources are unable to meet the need for search and rescue personnel, a representative from the Lenoir County CART will request search and rescue assistance from the Emergency Operation Center for Lenoir Co. possible resources include American Humane Association.

B. **Shelters**

1. **Evacuated Domestic Pets**

a. **Private Resources**

Domestic pets from evacuated citizens will be sheltered at private boarding kennels and veterinarian hospitals as close to the evacuation shelters as possible.

Upon the activation of evacuation shelters for citizens, a representative from the Lenoir County CART will be contacted by the shelter manager and requested to initiate the opening of prearranged private boarding kennels and veterinarian hospitals as boarding facilities.

Each of the evacuation shelters for citizens will have an available volunteer on the premises to evaluate the pets of evacuated citizens. Pets with significant injuries or illness will be transported to an animal hospital designated for the medical treatment of animals.

A representative of CART will be available for ensuring the transportation of the evacuated pets to either the shelter facility or hospital and in ensuring that a tracking system is in place to unite sheltered pets with their rightful owners.

b. Animal Evacuation Shelter

If the need arises, the county may open an evacuated pet shelter. Pets of evacuated citizens will be transported to this shelter as citizens arrive with their pets at the evacuation shelter for citizens.

c. Evacuated Citizens with Special Needs

Citizens with special needs (individuals with mental or physical handicaps who require evacuation assistance) may require assistance in evacuating their pets.

Upon arrival at the shelter, pets not trained specifically to assist the individual (e.g. seeing eye dog) will be transported to a private boarding facility or other appropriate facility.

2. Stray / Lost Domestic Pets

All stray/lost domestic pets recovered by CART will be sheltered at the Wayne County Animal Shelter. 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 to open through the CART representative as necessary. Unclaimed animals may be disposed of according to [S.P.C.A.](#) procedures.

3. Evacuated and Stay / 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 own animals.

When possible, livestock may be sheltered at private stables, farms, or the Lenoir County Fairgrounds. In the event of an emergency situation, Lenoir County Cooperative Extension will contact prearranged farms and request their assistance in the sheltering operation.

4. Wild Animals

If 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 that the animal may have sustained, the animals will either be transported to the Lenoir County Animal Control or disposed of in accordance with established animal control procedures.

5. Incapacitation of Shelters

In the event that established shelters are destroyed or incapable of functioning due to the nature of the emergency situation, private boarding kennels, veterinarian hospitals, and stables may be requested, to open as boarding and/or medical facilities. In rare cases, during large-scale emergencies, animals may be moved outside Lenoir County for care and protection.

6. Staff / Supplies

a. **Staff**

Private boarding kennels and veterinarian hospitals will be responsible for the staffing of their own boarding facilities and will be compensated by the citizens who use the animal shelter according to the established policies of the animal shelter.

Each individual animal shelter will be responsible for developing the work schedules for employees and volunteers.

b. **Supplies**

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

Prearranged domestic and non-domestic animal food companies, medical suppliers, water suppliers, and cleaning product suppliers will be contacted and requested to begin the shipment of supplies to an established delivery point. The delivery point will serve as a storage center and a distribution center for various shelters and hospitals.

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

C. **Medical**

1. **Hospitals**

The Lenoir County Animal Control will coordinate the resources for a medical facility for domestic animals, which cannot be accommodated by the various shelters due to the animals' injuries. Private veterinarian hospitals may serve as alternative medical facilities and medical shelters as space permits.

2. **Staff**

Volunteers from the Lenoir County Veterinarian Association and others will assist in providing the medical care in these medical shelters.

Depending on the extent of the emergency situation, volunteers or Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams from the American Veterinary Medical Association may be requested to assist in the medical treatment of domestic and non-domestic animals.

D. **Bites / Disease Control**

The Lenoir County Health Department will make at-cost vaccinations available to rescue and shelter personnel and coordinate treatment of bites and injuries available to affected persons.

Outbreaks of rabies are a serious threat during an emergency situation. Appropriate steps to control that threat will be implemented by the Lenoir County Health Department.

4.6 **Recovery**

A. **Release / Destruction**

1. **Domestic Pets / Livestock**

Lenoir County Animal Control will support efforts to identify owners of stray/lost animals. If

owners cannot be found, Lenoir County S.P.C.A. will be responsible for the outcome of the animals according to their 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.

2. **Wild Animals**

Lenoir County Animal Control in cooperation with the N.C. Wildlife Commission will support efforts to reintroduce wild animals back to their natural habitats.

B. **Disposal of Animal Carcasses**

Deceased animals will be disposed of according to health officials (NC Statute).

5.0 **Review and Update**

On a regular basis, this procedure will be reviewed and updated as appropriate by Lenoir County Cooperative Extension, Lenoir County Animal Control, Lenoir County Office of Emergency Services, and other affected agencies.

This procedure will be periodically tested by an appropriate exercise method.

Effective Date:

6.0 **Approval**

6.1

Lenoir County Office of Emergency Services

Lenoir County Cooperative Extension

Lenoir County Animal Control

6.2 **Support Agencies**

Lenoir County Chapter, American Red Cross

Kinston Animal Control