

# Disaster Animal Sheltering

Module 2 - Shelter Setup

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**Disaster Animal Shelter  
Education and Response**



# Disaster Animal Sheltering

## ***Goals:***

- Type of shelter
- Role of Leadership
- Staffing
- Layout
  - Colocation
  - Disaster Evacuation for stray

# Disaster Animal Shelter

## *Setup*

- Safe – People and Animals
- Flexible setup
- Efficient arrangement

# Disaster Animal Sheltering

## *Types of Shelters*

- Companion animal
  - Owned and Stray
- Large animal/livestock
  - Owned and Stray

# Companion Animal Shelter

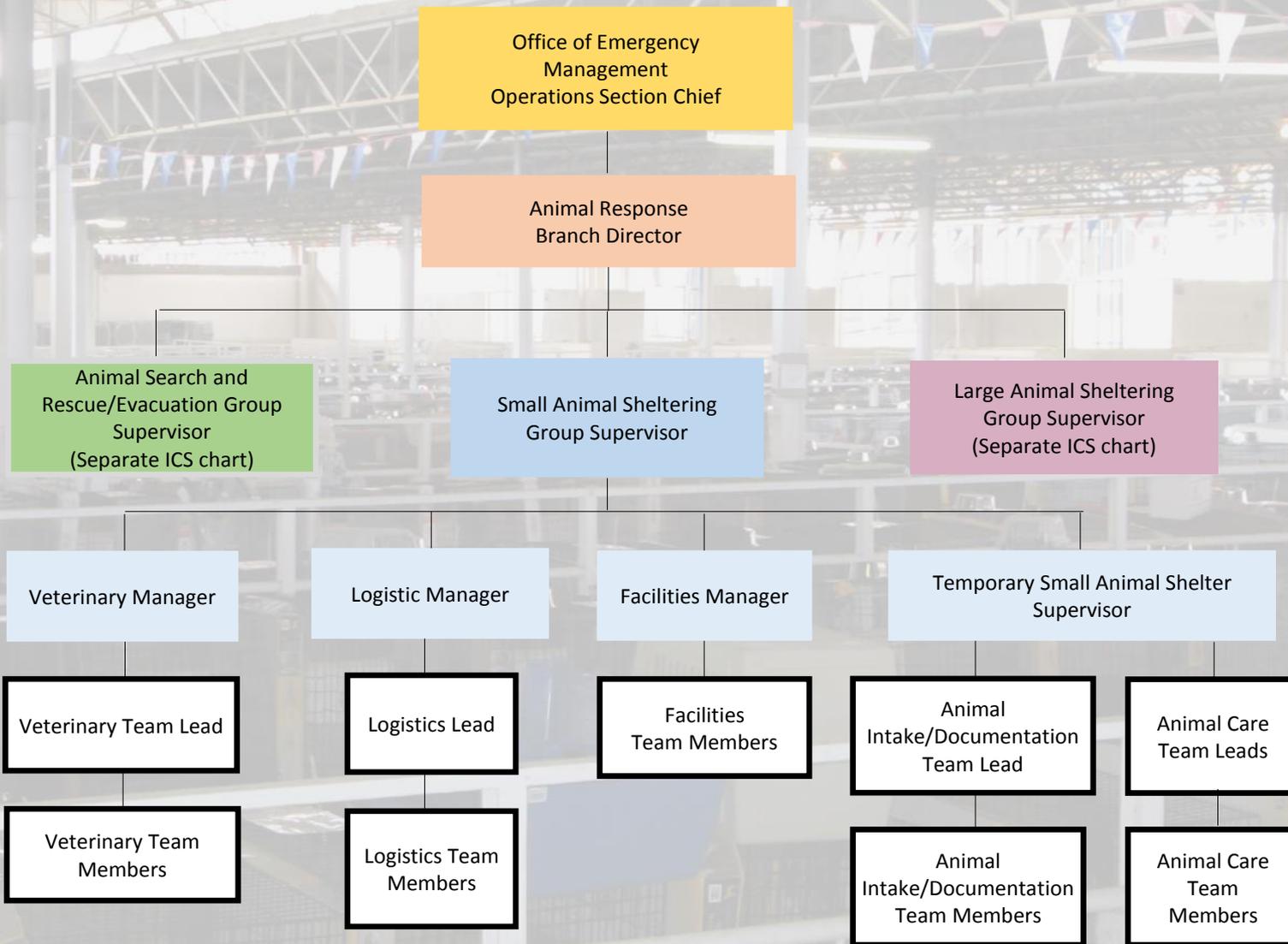
- Colocation shelter
  - Owned
- Disaster evacuation shelter
  - Stray and Owned

# Companion Animal Shelter

- More difficult to control the environment of a colocation
  - Heavier traffic in and out of the facility
- Placement may vary to assist with owner provided care

# Large Animal Shelter

- Owned and stray animals
- Many large animal species



# Facility Leadership

## *Leadership Roles*

- Shelter Supervisor
- Safety Officer
- Lead Veterinarian

# Facility Layout Evaluation

- Animal housing
- Veterinarian
- Intake
- Staffing break area
- Donations and Supplies “Warehouse”

# Facility Layout Evaluation

- Cleaning and feeding stations
- Cleaning and sanitation
- Facilities
  - Restrooms
  - Waste removal

# Facility Leadership

## *Shelter Supervisor*

- Overall leader of the shelter
- Responsible for:
  - Layout
  - Daily routines
  - Care givers
- Main contact with Field Manager

# Facility Layout

## *Shelter Supervisor*

- Animal housing placement
  - Species specific
- Intake/Documentation
- Supplies storage
- Volunteer space

# Facility Leadership

## *Safety Officer*

- Scene safety
- Safety of the people
- Safety of the animals

# Facility Layout

## *Safety Officer*

- Evaluates for safety
  - Repairs
  - Concerns
  - Modifications depending on setup

# Facility Leadership

## *Lead Veterinarian*

- Oversees the veterinarian teams
  - Ensures protocols are followed
- Oversees the health of the animals
  - Exams
  - Medicating
  - Vaccinating
  - Follow-up on animals sent out for advanced medical care

# Facility Layout

## *Lead Veterinarian*

- Evaluates for health and well-being of the animals
- Vet Station
- Triage?

# Staffing: Volunteers and shelter staff

- Lots of volunteers
- Prescreened and trained volunteers
  - ICS
  - Experienced
- Just-in-Time (JIT)

# Planning and Setup: Leadership

- Best placement of each areas
  - Plans the layout
- Special considerations:
  - Airflow and temperature control
  - Fresh air in and stale air out
  - Moderate hot and cold conditions



# Planning and Setup: Volunteers & Staff



- Clean facility
- Make needed repairs
- Set up and organize the equipment
- Organize cleaning and feeding supplies

# Shelter Setup: Volunteers

- Setup the wire kennels
- Zip-tie each corner to prevent escape
- Place kennels and kennels according to the planned layout



# Facility Layout: Flexible Design

- Many unknown factors
  - Species
  - Number of animals
  - Needs of the animals
  - Timeline for arrival and departure

# Facility Layout: Flexible Design

- Same size kennels
- Large space
- Separation between areas
  - Space
  - Rooms
  - Barriers

# Facility Layout: Animal Housing

## ***Dogs***

- Largest space
- Near exit to exercise yard
- X-Large wire kennels

# Facility Layout: Animal Housing

## *Dogs*

- Line kennels side by side and back to back
- Barrier between each kennel
- Barrier is visual and disease

# Facility Layout: Animal Housing

## *Dogs – Family units*

- Small dogs can share XL kennel
  - Beware of resource guarding
- Big dogs beside each other
  - Remove barrier

# Facility Layout: Animal Housing

## *Cats*

- Smaller space
- Can be stacked
- Away from high traffic area
- Large wire kennels

# Facility Layout: Animal Housing

## *Cats*

- Line kennels side by side and back to back
- Barrier between each kennel
- Barrier overlay between top and bottom to prevent debris from above

# Facility Layout: Animal Housing

## *Cats – Family units*

- Share kennel
- Assess behavior for conflicts
- Remove barrier

# Facility Layout: Animal Housing

## *Small pets, birds, reptiles*

- Generally don't need a large space
- May come in their container
- Specific needs may or may not be able to be met
- Critical to understand the specific needs of each

# Large Animal Shelter

- Pre-established space
  - Fairgrounds
  - Agricultural facilities
- Placing animals in stalls
- Multiple buildings for separation

# Large Animal Shelter

- House horses individually
  - Resource guarders
  - Food aggressive
- House stallions away from mares
- Mares and foals in larger stalls
- Frightened animals in quieter area

# Large Animal Shelter

- Sick in isolation area
  - Extra precautions for contagious
- Species can be in different buildings

# Large Animal Shelter

- House family units near each other when possible
- Multiple species may need to be housed in different areas
  - Not unlike with cats and dogs
  - Consult with large animal veterinarian experts for specific requirements

# Facility Layout: Animal Housing

## *Isolation*

- Sick
- Contagious
- May need multiple areas to separate contagions
- Secure location and well controlled to prevent cross contamination

# Facility Layout: Animal Housing

## *Special needs: Maternity, Elderly*

- Away from noise and high traffic
- Calmer and quieter
- Closer monitoring
- Specialty care/veterinarian monitoring

# Large Animal Shelter

- Isolation area
- Maternity
- Special needs
- Intact males
  - Stallions
  - Bulls

# Facility Layout: Animal Housing

## ***Bite hold/Aggressive***

- Bite hold – jurisdictional authority
- Special housing
- Special handling

***May not be best in the disaster shelter***

# Facility Layout: Veterinary Area

- Quieter, calmer area
- Less foot traffic
- Space to work
- Access to Isolation animals

# Facility Layout: Veterinary Area

- Power
- Lighting
- Refrigeration
- Security
- Documentation

# Facility Layout: Intake

- Front of the shelter
- Large space
  - Room for crowd control
  - Separate species intakes

# Facility Layout: Intake

- Table and chairs
- Drinking water
- Office supplies
- Animal supplies
  - Slip leads
  - Carriers
- Documentation
  - Forms
  - ID bands
- Microchip scanner

# Facility Layout: Staffing Break Area

- Volunteers and staff
- Away from the shelter (whenever possible)
- Food, water, cots, chairs

# Facility Layout: Donations and Supplies

- Warehouse all supplies
- Restocks feeding and cleaning stations in the shelter

# Facility Layout: Cleaning and Feeding Stations

- Specific to each area or unit
- Supplies necessary for daily care
- Supplies should not be taken from other areas especially Isolation

# Facility Layout: Cleaning and Sanitation

- All equipment, kennels, bowls, toys
- Away from animal and people traffic
- Running hot and cold water
- Rinse, wash, rinse, sanitize, rinse and dry

# Facility Layout: Waste

- Daily waste
  - Paper towels
  - Gloves
  - Animal waste
  - Dirty towels
- Dumpsters

# Facility Layout: Waste

- Restrooms
  - Fully operating in the facility
  - Portables

A floor plan diagram of a building. The main structure is a large rectangle with a thick black border. On the left side, there is a vertical line labeled "Loading Dock". On the right side, there is a vertical line labeled "Restrooms". Below the main structure, there is a rectangular area labeled "Exercise Area". To the right of the Exercise Area, there is a trapezoidal area labeled "Lobby Entrance".

Loading Dock

Restrooms

Lobby  
Entrance

Exercise  
Area



# Facility Layout: Conclusion

- Plan ahead when possible
- Map it out
- Exercise to test it out
- If it's not working fix it!
  - Move things around so it flows efficiently

# Always: Be Flexible

**Questions in Colorado?**

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