



“Emergency Evacuation Animal Welfare Plan”

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Why

- Civil Contingency – One Council responsibility is the establishment of an Emergency Support Centre.
- Experience shows that in such an evacuation people will want to bring their pets with them.
 - International - Hurricane Katrina and Ike where members of the public refused to abandon their pets even if it meant forgoing rescue
 - Local - Pallace Barracks and other security related incidents



Types of Reception Centre

Rest Centre:

Premises used for temporary accommodation of evacuees from an incident.

Survivor Reception Centre:

Secure area where survivors not requiring acute hospital treatment can be taken for short-term shelter, first aid, interview and documentation.

Family and Friends Reception Centre:

Secure area set aside for use by and interviewing of family and friends arriving at the scene (or location associated with an incident, such as an airport or port).



Formation of a working group

- Established following agreement at EESG and ECCG in May 08 to plan for the care of **animals brought by evacuees to a rest centre at time of an emergency**
- Chairmanship and membership agreed along with TOR and timetable.
- Costs to be established and funding agreed
- Involvement of other key stakeholders – DARD, USPCA, Neighbourhood Watch



Terms of Reference (TOR)

- Establish and maintain the health, safety and welfare of the animal owners, other evacuees and staff in an emergency evacuation
- Develop a plan to ensure the welfare of animals brought to a rest centre by evacuees for up to a maximum of 72hours
- That the plan supports and can be integrated with the overall emergency planning process and structures
- To ensure the cost effectiveness, and ease of implementation of the plan
- To ensure consistency of approach across the five council areas
- To establish a process by which resources can be shared and mutual support mechanisms, where appropriate, provided







Lessons learnt from Exercise MASH

- The extent of the resources and organisation required.
- Additional facilities/consideration required re cats and other animals... not just dogs.
- The need to properly identify staff roles on site ie tabards.
- The need to continually inform the public and others of progress and what is happening.
- Existing resources within each Council would not be enough to cater for even a minor situation.
- **Overall the Plan worked**



Other benefits

- Structure development – GIS, Media, NRE...
- Mutual Aid Protocol signed off across 5 Councils and Eastern Group
- Mutual Aid Protocol agreed at LGEMG & SOLACE to be signed off across NI



Sustainability & Transferability

- The Animal Welfare Plan is fully transferable to other individual Councils or Groups of Councils.
- The plan allows Borough Inspectors and Dog Wardens to utilise the skills they use daily in extraordinary circumstances in line with good practice guidance.
- The plan has been made available through the established Emergency Planning structures within Local Government.
- The Plan is reviewed on an annual basis (as a minimum criteria) after an exercise or after any deployment of the team/equipment.
- The Development Group still meet every quarter to discuss storage and deployment issues or to be involved in preparations for either single Council or multi-council/agency exercises.
- Issues raised by the team have been taken on board by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in respect of planning for a Rabies outbreak.



Thank you

Questions?
