

# Home Alone and On Your Own

## Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Stafford Act
- PETS Act of 2006
  - Requires all city, county and state EOPs to include provisions for companion and service animals
- Is it in your EOP?



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- EOP
  - Do you have a local animal group in your EOP?
  - Do they know they are in your EOP?
  - Do they have the knowledge/expertise/training to perform the task?
  - Can they operate for 72 hours or more without assistance?
  - Do they have financial resources to operate/wait for reimbursement?
    - Reimbursement for government vs. non-profit
  - Insurance/Liability
    - Acting as caretaker for owned animals



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Cities and Towns
  - Do you contract for animal control services?
    - Your animal control contract may not cover emergencies
  - A separate MOU/IGA may be needed
    - Contracted animal control service may not respond without it
    - May be able to amend current contract
  - City/County animal control may be 1 or 2 person, can they handle it?
    - Consider an MOU/IGA with neighboring county/city or humane society



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Counties
  - Is your animal control prepared for unincorporated?
    - Rural/agricultural areas have different needs than urban
  - Can/Will the animal control officers handle livestock?
    - Consider including Department of Agriculture in your EOP



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Needs
  - Rescue
    - Will those designated to evacuate people know how to deal with animals?
    - Will animal control/humane society be allowed into evacuation zone?
  - Sheltering
    - Areas should be pre-designated for temporary animal shelters
  - Decon/HAZMAT
    - Only trained personnel should decon



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Rescue
  - Trained
    - Rescuers must have basic animal handling training
    - National programs are available for training in animal evacuation, rescue and swift-water rescue
  - Equipment
    - Specialized equipment needed for some rescues
    - Properly equipped vehicles will be needed for evacuation
  - PPE
    - All rescuers must have proper PPE, any animal can be dangerous
- USAR – Evacuations
  - Urban Search and Rescue teams now will evacuate pets and service animals with the owners



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Sheltering
  - Planning
    - Does your jurisdiction have a plan on how and where to shelter evacuated animals?
  - Setup, Equipment and Supplies
    - Do you have the appropriate equipment and supplies to set up and maintain an animal shelter?
  - Enough personnel
    - Emergency sheltering will strain even the largest animal control/humane society
    - Consider training Citizen Corps volunteers to assist
    - Shelters should be located near the human population and owners should be required to assist with the care of their pets
  - Veterinary Care
    - All dogs and cats should be vaccinated upon intake
    - Some animals may need medical treatment



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Decontamination/HAZMAT Issues
  - Can your animal control or humane society decon animals?
    - Do they have the proper training and PPE?
  - Will HAZMAT/Decon teams decon animals?
    - Probably aren't trained to handle aggressive animals
  - Consider having the owners decon their animals
  - Pre/Post Decon exam
    - All animals should be examined before decon to determine if they are healthy enough to undergo the process
    - Animals should be given a routine exam after decon



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Decontamination/HAZMAT Issues (cont.)
  - Will you decon service animals with owners or separately?
    - Per the ADA, “people with disabilities should not be separated from their service animals even in places where pets are typically not allowed.”
    - May decon separately only if owner consents
  - Animals too sick/injured to treat/decon
    - May need to be euthanized immediately
    - If not euthanized, must be isolated



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Companion vs. Service Animal
  - Service animals must be allowed to stay with their owners
  - Owner may ask to have the service animal housed for short periods
  - Animal shelter workers must be aware of regulations regarding service animals



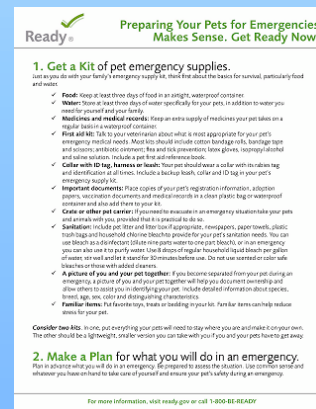
# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Evacuation/Shelter-In-Place orders
  - Are animals included in your evacuation or shelter-in-place broadcasts?
  - Companion and service animals should always be taken when evacuations are advised
  - If shelter-in-place is advised, broadcasts should include instructions for taking animals inside



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Residents need to be prepared
  - Ready.gov has tri-fold brochures and flyers for pet owners
- 72 hr kit for animals
  - Pet owners should have a 72 hour kit for each pet
- Evacuation plan for animals
  - Individuals and communities should have evacuation plans for pets



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- 72 hour kit for Companion and Service Animals should include:
  - Leash and/or Carrier
  - Collar with tag
    - Tag should have cell and out of area phone numbers
  - Medications and instructions
  - Pet's current food
  - Photos of you and your pet
  - Pet's toys, bedding and familiar objects



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Large Animals kept as pets
  - Transportation
    - Many backyard owners don't have transportation for their animals



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Or maybe they do



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Large Animals
  - Transportation
    - Consider community evacuation plans for large animal neighborhoods
      - Neighborhood Watch
  - Feed
    - Evacuation shelter may only have hay
    - Large animal owners should make plans to take feed
  - Halters/Lead Ropes
    - Only experienced people should handle livestock



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

- Housing Large Animals
  - Fairgrounds
  - City/County Parks
  - Rodeo Arenas



# Community Preparedness for Companion and Service Animals

John Reynolds

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control

2500 S. 27<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85009

602-506-2744

[johnreynolds@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:johnreynolds@mail.maricopa.gov)

