



Animal Planning Guide for Emergency Managers

Classes of Animals

The state of Minnesota emergency operations plans recognize four classes of animals:

1. **Livestock:** Farm animals including cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry.
2. **Exhibition/large animals:** Animals intended for show or recreational purposes; not for consumption, and not as household pets.
3. **Household pets:** Domesticated pets including dogs, cats, birds, turtles, rabbits, etc. (can travel in commercial carriers).
4. **Service animals:** Guide dogs or other animals trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.

State Activities by Emergency Classification Level (ECL)

Following is a list of activities specific to animal planning and evacuation.

Alert

- As part of the messaging, animal owners are advised of the situation and of the shelter-in-place or evacuation decision.
- At this point, some owners relocate their exhibition animals (i.e., put the horses into trailers and leave the area).

Site Area Emergency (SAE)

- People are advised to prepare for an evacuation (including preparing to evacuate their household pets or service animal).
- The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will issue a livestock advisory for livestock owners to shelter their animals and place them on stored feed and water.
- The Minnesota Department of Public Safety will issue an exhibition/large animal message telling owners to shelter their animals and put them on stored feed and water.

General Emergency (GE)

- An evacuation order is given for people in the affected area. Animal advisories are issued well before this, so people at this point can prioritize their needs.
- People are encouraged to bring their household pets and service animals to the reception centers for monitoring and, if necessary, decontamination.
- Evacuees should bring identification, health and immunization records, prescription medications, travel cages and handling equipment for their household pets and service animals to the reception centers.
- The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will establish agricultural control zones for all shipments of food, feed, livestock and poultry into and out of the affected area.

Considerations for Evacuation of Animals

- Pre-identify a place to bring your exhibition/large animals and transportation needs.
- Obtain copies of your records (ownership, vaccination, etc.) that are ready to take with you in case you have to evacuate or leave and shelter your animals.

Discussion Questions for Animal Planning

- How much food and water do you have on hand? Is it stored and covered?
- How many cages will be needed at the reception center to accommodate all the pets?

This fact sheet is designed to augment planning for an emergency response to an incident at a nuclear generating plant; it does not supersede any plans, procedures or guidelines currently in use.