

ANIMAL WELFARE IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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Aims/Objectives:

Outline the scope and animal impacts of disasters including: natural (drought, flood, hurricane, fire, pandemic disease, transboundary disease, and others) and man-made (war, toxicological events, nuclear events, and others). Describe the roles of veterinarians and disaster management personnel. Discuss the responsibility and value of attention to animal welfare issues.

Discussion / Conclusions:

Disasters with wide spread impact across of spectrum of natural and man-made. Effective disaster management must account for animals, the human-animal bond, and animal welfare. These elements are critical to manage evacuation, recovery, maintain public trust, support behavioural health, restore economic stability, and other key elements of effective disaster management. OIE and AVMA animal welfare standards and guidelines provide valuable frameworks for planning for animals in disasters. Planning, training, exercising, risk management, and coordination are all required to ensure animal welfare issues are addressed in disaster response.

Keywords: OIE – animal welfare – disaster – veterinary.