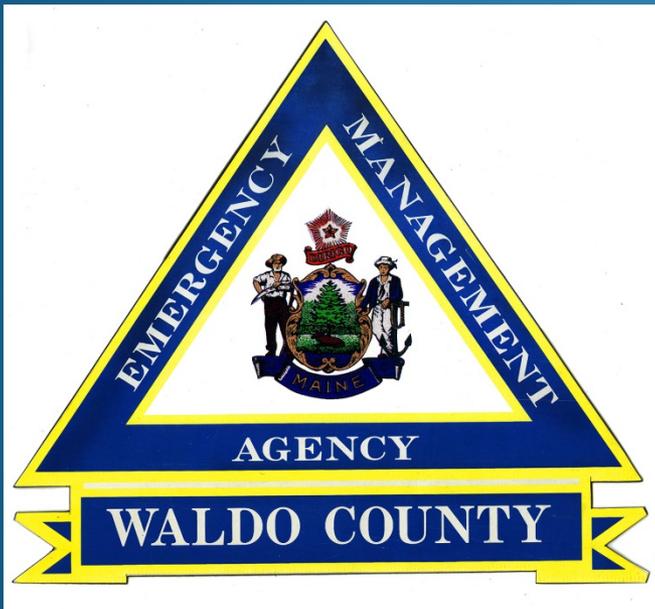


Animal Sheltering in Disasters



Pet Sheltering

In past disasters, it was found that some people did not go to a shelter because they could not bring their pet with them.

As such, there was interest in creating “Emergency Pet Shelters” that coexist with an American Red Cross emergency “people” shelters.

Waldo County started its Pet Shelter Team program in 2004. It was used in a real world emergency in 2013.

Sheltering in our county

- Not every disaster requires a shelter to open and not every disaster requires sheltering for pets.
- Typically, EMA will request the activation of a Red Cross shelter either as the result of a long term winter time power outage or a hurricane.
- EMA would activate a Pet Shelter to co-exist with the Red Cross Shelter.

The Pet Shelter Team

- The Pet Shelter Team is fully equipped with supplies and equipment.
- EMA will provide transportation support to move the equipment to the shelter.
- EMA may also provide additional equipment such as radios, cots, heaters, tarps, tables and chairs.
- Consumable, shelf life supplies like food and litter will need to be acquired during the activation and set up of the shelter.

The Pet Shelter Team

- The Team should reach out to area vets to let them know about the shelter in case there is a medical emergency.
- Only Cats and Dogs will be sheltered.
- Pet Shelters may be established at any overnight shelter
 - Troy Howard Middle School
 - Mount View School Complex
 - Lincolnville Central School
 - Searsmont Community Center
 - or in Penobscot or Knox counties

The Pet Shelter Team

- Some things to have in place before an activation:
 - Training in Pet First Aid and Pet Sheltering
 - Periodic Shelter Setup and Operation Drills
 - Team Roster with all contact information
 - Up to date inventory of all on-hand equipment & supplies
 - Current support agreements (schools, personnel, etc)
 - Operational Checklists
 - Blank Forms

The Pet Shelter Operations

- Alert the Team members
- Identify and staff shifts
- Identify what equipment is needed
- Transport the equipment to the shelter
- Set up a Registration Desk and in process clients
- Set up an Animal Housing Area; separate cat and dog areas.
- Feeding and sanitation
- Out process clients
- Tear down and clean up

The Pet Shelter Operations

- Alert the Team members
 - EMA will contact the Team through e-mail & telephone
 - Team members form up at EMA and sign in
 - EMA will report on which shelter location is being used and expected shelter population
 - EMA will provide a facility manager and a Red Cross point of contact

The Pet Shelter Operations

- Identify and staff shifts
 - Team to determine how many members are needed for each shift and the length of the shifts
 - Team to determine which members will cover each shift

The Pet Shelter Operations

- Identify what equipment is needed
 - Only take what you think you will need
 - If other items are determined to be needed later, then EMA will deliver
 - Identify what supplies are needed and provide list to EMA
 - A team member will be authorized to purchase supplies

The Pet Shelter Operations

- Transport the equipment to the shelter
 - EMA has utility trailers that can be used



The Pet Shelter Operations

- Set up a Registration Desk and in process clients
 - Working with Red Cross, determine best location for registering and in processing clients
 - Complete the Shelter Admission form on each animal.
 - Owners must sign agreement form or we can't take pet.
 - Take a picture of the pet and owner together.
 - Escort the owner and pet to the pet housing area.
 - During the registration process, owners must provide vaccination records.
 - Keep in mind that the owner needs to be reassured that the animal will be safe and in good care.

The Pet Shelter Operations

- Set up an Animal Housing Area
 - Separate cat and dog areas.
 - Line floors and walls with tarps
 - Locate the pet housing area so that barking doesn't impact the people dormitory
 - Identify and label all belongings of the pet including bedding, leashes, food, carriers and any medication.
 - All pets should have their own cage.
 - Cards are attached to each cage to identify them and their owners.

The Pet Shelter Operations

- Set up an Animal Housing Area
 - Designate dog walking areas.
 - Make sure there are adequate feline litter boxes.
 - Pet owners can come and go as they need to. Owners are responsible for care of their animals.
 - Shelter staffing during the day should be proportionate to the shelter population in each area to ensure security for animals and also to monitor any health issues. Evening/overnight staffing can be reduced.

The Pet Shelter Operations

- Feeding and sanitation
 - Work with the clients on any special pet diets
 - Need to keep the pet shelter as clean as possible
 - Best if owners feed their own pets, but you can assist as needed.
 - Owners should take their dogs outside.
 - Work with the Facility Manager to identify appropriate areas.
 - Your safety is most important.
 - Set up lined trash cans for handling pet waste.

The Pet Shelter Operations

- Out process clients
 - Ensure that you have the right owner! Pets have been stolen!
 - Complete the bottom half of the Admission form.
 - Record the time and date the pet left the shelter.

The Pet Shelter Operations

- Tear down and clean up
 - Sanitize everything that you can.
 - We need to return the facility to the same state we found it.
 - Bring all the equipment back to EMA.
 - Dispose of waste and supplies with expirations.

Informing the Public

- EMA will publicize that a pet shelter has been established with a Red Cross shelter.
 - Need to have Pet Owners bring vaccination records, special or favorite food, medications, and identification.
 - Only cats and dogs will be taken.
 - Unruly and dangerous pets will not be taken or will be ordered to leave if discovered to be so.

Next Step

- Volunteer Agreements
- Practice
- Prepare
- Respond!

