TOWN OF MILAN

COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

ANNEX VII

ANIMAL EVACUATION AND SHELTERING PLAN
INTRODUCTION:
Disaster plans are naturally developed with the safety of people in mind. This Annex recognizes that people and companion animals establish bonds, which may hinder the success of any disaster response plan that does not take into account the welfare and safety of both the owner(s) and their pet(s).

Animal protection planning should ensure the proper care and recovery of animals impacted during an emergency. The responsibility for evacuating and/or caring for these animals are primarily the responsibility of the owner. These plans may include measures to identify housing and shelter for animals, communicate information to the public, and proper animal release.

PURPOSE:
This plan is intended for use as part of the Town of Milan's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to provide guidance for immediate action in enacting a means of care and control to minimize animal suffering and to assist in protecting public health and safety where humans and animals interact in the event of a local disaster.

For the purposes of this Annex, a disaster is defined as an emergency situation which displaces up to a maximum of fifteen (15) total animals due to health and safety of those animals and/or residents.

SCOPE:
This plan is primarily intended to ensure the safety of companion animals that may need help, following a disaster. This will primarily be small animals such as cats and dogs, that are incapable of being cared for by their owners, or are a danger to themselves or the public. If possible, all animals will be reunited with their owners. If they cannot be returned to their owners, they will be handled in accordance with established animal control regulations and procedures.

Although the focus of this plan is companion animals, the broad scope of animals addressed in this plan is based upon the New York Animal Response Emergency System definition. The New York Animal Response Emergency System defines "animals" as "commercial livestock, companion animals, exotic pets, and restricted species" and further defines these terms as follows:

Livestock: Any cattle, sheep, swine, goat, or any horse, mule, or other equine whether live or dead.

Pet Animal: Any household animal including, but not limited to, cats, dogs, or other carnivores whether or not for public exhibition.
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Restricted Species: Any animal requiring a license or permit from the NYS Department of Conservation.

Service Animals: Animals specifically trained to guide, signal, or assist people with disabilities or special needs.

Wild animals will be left to their own survival instincts as much as possible. Should assistance be required for wild animals, their care will be the responsibility of the Department of Environmental Conservation and their licensed wildlife rehabilitators.

Large animals and livestock will be the responsibility of the owners. Should assistance be required for large animals or livestock, Town of Milan ASO will assist livestock owners to request assistance from Dutchess County Emergency Management Animal Response Team (DART).

PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS:
1. Any disaster that threatens humans could potentially threaten animals. Owners should take reasonable steps to provide shelter and care for animals under their ownership or control when notified of an upcoming emergency. The first line of protection for companion animals following a disaster is the owner.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS:
GENERAL
1. Town of Milan Supervisor is primarily responsible for assessing the situation after a disaster and determining the priorities of work for animal safety operations. The Animal Safety Officer (ASO) will assist the Town Supervisor to determine the priorities of work and will be primarily responsible for identifying resources that will be needed to secure the safety of domesticated animals and coordinating the animal rescue efforts of the Town of Milan.

2. Requests for animal protection assistance and resources such as food, medicine, shelter material, specialized personnel and additional veterinary medical professionals will be transmitted through the Town Supervisor/ESC, or, if established, through the Town EOC to the ASO. Once established, The ASO will work out of the Milan EOC.

3. The ASO will be responsible for coordinating animal protection efforts in the Town of Milan. The ASO will need to work closely with the Town of Milan Supervisor and/or ESC to prioritize response efforts and will coordinate directly with Milan Dog Control Officer and Dutchess County Emergency Management Animal Response Team (DART), as needed, during the execution of animal protection operations. A major portion of the ASO’s responsibility will be to coordinate with outside agencies to provide adequate support for animal safety operations in the Town of Milan following a disaster. The ASO will be responsible for establishing and coordinating the efforts of an Animal Safety Team, which will be comprised of the Milan Dog...
Control Officer and private citizens who are familiar with the care of various domestic and non-domestic animals.

4. Animals included under the plan:
   a. The sheltering and protection of domestic and non-domestic animals (including livestock) are the responsibility of their owners.

   b. Companion animals that are lost, strayed, incapable of being cared for by their owners, or in danger to themselves or to the public will be the responsibility of the Town of Milan. These animals will be sheltered, fed, and, if possible, returned to their owners. If the animals cannot be returned to their owners, they will be handled in accordance with established animal control procedures and under the control of the Animal Control Officer.

**NOTIFICATION:**
This plan and implementing procedures will be activated in the event of a large-scale emergency causing a significant need for animal protection. The Town of Milan Supervisor or ESC will determine when these procedures will be implemented and notify the ASO, who will in turn notify the appropriate primary support and mutual aid agencies.

Communication, Public Relations and Public Information will follow under the procedures outlined in the Town of Milan Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

**RESPONSE:**
The Owners of pets or livestock, when notified of an emergency, will take all reasonable steps to shelter and provide for the animals under their control or ownership.

**DOMESTIC PETS:**
1. **Search and Rescue**
Domestic pets loose or in need of assistance due to the emergency or to the death or evacuation of their owners will be the responsibility of the Dog Control Officer. The Milan Volunteer Fire Department and Milan Highway Department will assist with the identification of such animals during the performance of their duties as part of a response effort. These agencies may also assist with the securing and transport of such animals to the designated shelter, if circumstances allow.

The ASO will work to support the rescue operations by:
- Identifying key people to assist rescue efforts in field who have animal handling training and understand the basic emergency management concepts.
- Identifying transportation equipment and enclosures.
- Identifying sources for animal restraint equipment muzzles, leather gloves, rabies poles, leashes.
2. Evacuated Domestic Pets
   a. Animal Evacuation shelter:
   If the need arises, the Animal Safety Team may open an evacuated pet shelter at the Milan Recreation Park Pavilion. Pets of evacuated citizens will be transported to this shelter as citizens arrive with their pets at the citizens' evacuation shelters. The ASO will supervise the creation of the shelter at the Milan Recreation Park Pavilion. Tarps will be utilized to create an enclosed shelter and propane/kerosene space heaters will be used, if needed. Generators will be used to power the well pump in bathrooms and to provide lighting in the shelter. The Town of Milan will work to secure Kennels and store them in the shed located along Highway Garage perimeter fence. The baseball fields at the may be utilized as turn-out areas.
   Food and other supplies, such as collars, slip-collars, muzzles, leashes, cleaning supplies (bleach), magic markers, index cards, identification collars, microchip scanner, tables, chairs, and food and water bowls will be cached at a pre-determined site. Also, the ASO will work to secure a box trailer and Volunteers will be trained by DART.

   b. Private resources:
   If the Milan Animal Shelter is at full capacity, domestic pets from evacuated citizens will be sheltered at private boarding kennels and veterinarian hospitals at the owner's expense, and as close to the evacuation shelters as possible. Upon the activation of evacuation shelters for citizens, the Town of Milan ASO will be contacted by the Town Supervisor or ESC and requested to initiate the opening of prearranged private boarding kennels and veterinarian hospitals as boarding facilities.
   Each of the citizens' evacuation shelters will have an available animal caretaker volunteer on the premises to evacuate the pets of evacuated citizens. Pets with significant injuries or illnesses will be transported to an animal hospital for the medical treatment of animals. A representative of the Animal Safety Team will provide assistance in the transportation of the evacuated pets to either the shelter facility or hospital and in ensuring that a tracking system is in place to unite sheltered pets with their rightful owners. Transportation is under animal control designation. Maintain a list of participating shelters and vet clinics.

   c. Evacuated Citizens with Special Needs:
   Citizens with special needs (individuals with mental or physical handicaps who require evacuation assistance) may require assistance in evacuating their pet(s). If special needs individuals are unwilling or unable to make special arrangements for the sheltering of their pets, then the individuals and their pets will be transported to the evacuation shelter. Upon arrival at the shelter, pets not trained specifically to assist the individual (e.g., seeing eye dogs) will be transported to a private boarding facility or other appropriate facility. Boarding will be provided at owner's expense.

3. Stray/Lost Domestic Pets
   All stray/lost domestic pets recovered by the Animal Safety Team or Dog Control Officer/Milan Volunteer Fire Department/Milan Highway Garage personnel will be sheltered at the Dutchess
County SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) shelter or temporary shelters set up for this purpose. Any pets whose owners cannot care for them or domestic pets found by citizens will also be sheltered at these locations. Private boarding kennels and veterinarian clinics will serve as overflow shelters, as requested by Town of Milan Supervisor/ESC.

4. Recovery Domestic Pets
All reasonable efforts will be made to identify owners of stray/lost animals. If owners cannot be found, the animals will be handled by the established procedures of the municipality with priority given to adoptive care efforts. Animals for which no owner can be found and which cannot be placed in adoptive care or sold will be disposed of in accordance with established animal control procedures.