Overview of Emergency Pet Sheltering
For MRC
• 501c3 Nonprofit
• Supports County Animal Response Teams
• Assists NJ Department of Agriculture
• Trains County and State Animal Response Teams
• Provides presentations to owners for pet emergency preparedness and to community partners about pet emergency sheltering
• Can accept donations on behalf of NJDA and CARTs
Emergency Pet Sheltering

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Presentation Topics

• Overview of Emergency Pet Sheltering with County Animal Response Teams (CART)

• How MRC can help CART

• Review of Service Animals in emergency sheltering
Emergency Pet Sheltering
With
County Animal Response Teams
Animal concerns in disasters

1. Public safety *
2. Public and animal health *
3. Food security
4. Economy
5. Animal welfare
6. Service/police animals
7. Captive animal populations
8. Wildlife/environment
Lessons Learned

Hurricane Floyd 1999   Hurricane Katrina 2005
Hurricane Sandy 2012

70% of households have pets
Lessons Learned

People will risk their lives and/or not evacuate

- 65% of people will not leave home without pets
- Put themselves and responders at risk
- These situations occupy & endanger first responders
Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act
Federal Disaster Planning H.R. 3858

• Requires Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to include plans for household pets and service animals (to qualify for grants from FEMA)

• Requires FEMA to ensure locals and states provide rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs for pets and service animals

• Authorizes federal funds that may be eligible for reimbursement in a Presidentially declared disaster
Providing Pet Sheltering

CART - County Animal Response Team

• Volunteers serving as first responders to animal issues in disasters

• Provide temporary emergency pet sheltering for animal owners’ domestic pets = **Co-located emergency pet shelters**

• Educate animal owners on disaster preparedness

• Activated through County OEM
CART Typical Shelter Tasks

• Set-up, operate, and demobilize the pet shelter
• Register pets into the shelter
• Provide crates, pet food, supplies
• Monitor the animals and the owners’ pet care
• Ensure safety and health of staff, pets and owners
• Feed, exercise, and care of pets when needed
• Provide basic medical care
• Support and educate owners
CART Typical Shelter
How MRC can help CART

1) Join CART as a team member during blue sky days
   • Training
   • Skills
   • Safety
   • Handle pets (potential)

2) Just in time volunteer
   • Limited participation
   • No pet handling
CART Training Requirements

Required:
• IS-100.c Incident Command System ICS 100
• IS-700.b An Introduction to the National Incident Management System
• IS-10.a - Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness
• IS-11.a - Animals in Disasters: Community Planning
• IS-111.a - Livestock in Disasters
• Emergency Pet Sheltering Training Modules
  • Quizzes and Exam
• Hands on shelter skills training and exercises
Service Animals (SA) in Emergency Sheltering
Service Animals

• Americans with Disabilities Act website: www.ada.gov

• Dogs only (March 15, 2011)

• Dogs individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability

• Can not ask to remove service animal from the premises unless:
  ➢ Animal is out of control
  ➢ Animal poses a direct threat
  ➢ Disrupts their business
Can only ask 2 questions:
1. Is the service animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?

Can **NOT** ask:
• The nature or extent of an individual’s disability
• The dog demonstrate its ability to perform the task or work
• Can not require proof that the animal has been certified, trained or licensed as a service animal
• Can not require the animal to wear an identifying vest or tag
Service Animal Trained Tasks

- Alerting a person with hearing loss to a sound
- Assisting individuals who are blind / low vision with navigation
- Assisting an individual before or during a seizure
- Reminding a person to take medication
- Providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities
- Helping individuals with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors
- Assist someone with an anxiety disorder by jumping on to its owner to interrupt a panic attack.
- Help a person with severe arthritis to pick up or carry objects.
Common misconceptions

All False:

• Must be certified or registered as a service animal
• Complete formal training program
• Must wear a vest / tag
• Never barks
• Only Labradors or German Shepherds are service animals
• Don’t have to have town license or maintain vaccination
• Doctor’s note allows emotional support animal
• Restricted to "pet-friendly" rooms in hotels
Service Animal or Pet?

- Emotional Support Animal
- Psychiatric Service Animal
- Therapy / Comfort Animal
Yes – Service Animal

Psychiatric service animals are trained to perform specific tasks that assist individuals with disabilities to detect the onset of psychiatric episodes and ameliorate their effects.

Tasks performed by psychiatric service dogs may include reminding the handler to take medicine, providing safety checks or room searches for persons with PTSD, interrupting self-mutilation, and removing disoriented individuals from dangerous situations.
Emotional Support Animal

Not a service animal.

 Eliminate or lessen the symptoms of an individual’s disability simply by being in their owner’s presence.  

Provide companionship, relieve loneliness, and sometimes help with depression, anxiety, and certain phobias.

Not been trained to perform a specific task for their owner.

Emotional support animals are not limited to dogs.
Therapy / Comfort Animal

Not a service animal

Therapy animals provide people with healing contact, typically in an institutional or clinical setting, to improve their physical, social, emotional, or cognitive functioning.

Receive training, but they are NOT trained to perform a specific task for an individual with a disability.
Service Animals in Shelters

- Stays in the human shelter with their handler, NOT in the CART Shelter

- CART can assist with Services Animals in the:
  - Human shelter
  - Medical Needs shelter
  - MRC, DOH, Red Cross events
  - Homeless Shelters
  - Cooling/warming centers

- CARTs can:
  - Designate SA relief areas
  - Assist with Veterinary Care
  - Provide pet food and supplies
Human Shelter Staff Standards for Service Animals:

• Document – record animal information
• Ask for proof of vaccines (EX: rabies vaccine)
• Confirm supplies (food, water, poop bags)
• Designate a pet relief area
• Obtain Veterinary care
• Collaborate with CART to assist with Service Animals
Service Animal Supplies

Human Shelter preparation for Service Animals

- Dog crate - Size XL
- Bedding/blankets
- Dog food (if owner did not bring)
- Bowls & utensils
- Poop bags
- Refrigerator for pet food or animal’s medication
- Disinfectant & cleaning supplies & PPE
Covid 19 Brief Overview

• Pets can acquire COVID-19 from humans
• Currently, no extensive data that people get COVID-19 from pets
• Testing not routinely done in a any state
• Use same recommended precautions and social distancing practices
  • Do not put a mask on an animal
• CARTs have protocols to utilize for CART sheltering in a pandemic environment

Why we are here today:

Human Animal Bond