

To: All New Jersey Certified Animal Control Officers
From: Animal Emergency Working Group (AEWG)
Date: October 6, 2004
Re: Emergency Response for New Jersey Animals

The Animal Emergency Working Group (AEWG) is a committee of government, public, private, and volunteer organizations working together to provide for animal needs during an emergency. The goal of AEWG is to develop and implement a comprehensive animal emergency response plan for the state of New Jersey. One role of AEWG during a disaster will be to assist local animal recovery, sheltering, and care efforts by providing personnel, shelter, and supply resources coordinated at the State level. To meet this goal, we are currently building a database of potential animal related resources throughout the State of New Jersey for use in time of need.

As a Certified Animal Control Officer, you are one of the most knowledgeable persons regarding the locations and vulnerability to disaster of animals in your area. In addition, your expertise in animal handling is a skill of great importance during a disaster. We understand that your primary responsibility will be to the local jurisdiction for which you work, but we are now asking you to look beyond that domain. If your locale were to experience an emergency, others would be there to help you. The AEWG is asking if you would be able and willing to assist others when they experience an emergency. If you are willing to assist, we request multiple methods of contacting you in the event of disaster so that we may keep you advised as to current conditions, concerns, and needs. Please complete the attached questionnaire and return it to the address on the form. This information is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of contacting you in times of emergency.

Finally, as many of you may already be aware, disaster response is now managed under the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This is a standardized method of managing disaster response, including natural disaster, animal disease, or terrorism. In order to work within this system, a certain amount of background training is required so that you will understand both the terminology and the protocols used by *all* responders at an incident scene. The training is not difficult but is vital to providing a coordinated response. Police, Fire, and other departments will recognize your efforts as an important part of theirs if you know how to communicate in their common language.

We recommend that all ACOs consider taking at minimum the basic ICS-100 'Introduction to Incident Command' which will teach you the language and structure of the system. We also recommend FEMA courses IS-10 and IS-11 'Animals in Disaster Modules A & B' and IS-111 'Livestock in Disasters'. These, and many other courses, are available on the Internet through <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>. Certain courses may also be available to you through your local or County Office of Emergency Management.

Finally, all Counties in New Jersey are in the process of forming CARTs (County Animal Response Teams). Please consider contacting your County OEM and joining. When local government is overwhelmed, these will be the next line of response to help displaced or endangered animals in your area. Thank you!

ANIMAL EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP
Certified Animal Control Officer Contact Information - CONFIDENTIAL

Name and ID:

Last Name: _____
First Name: _____
NJCACO #: _____
NJCACI #: _____

Home Address:

Street/P.O. Box: _____
Town: _____
County: _____
State: _____
Zip Code: _____

Contact Information:

Home Phone: _____
Home E-mail: _____
Personal Cell Phone: _____
Personal Beeper: _____
Emergency Contact Person: _____
Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Employer Address:

Street/P.O. Box: _____
Town: _____
County: _____
State: _____
Zip Code: _____

Work Contact Information:

Work Phone: _____
Work E-mail: _____
Work Cell Phone: _____
Work Beeper: _____
Work Emergency Contact Person: _____
Work Emergency Contact Phone: _____

ALL INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL FOR USE IN DISASTER RESPONSE ONLY

Please return to:

Bob Harris - NJCACO #989, NJCACI #20
594 Morsetown Road
West Milford, N.J. 07480

Or email as an attachment to: shelcon2000@yahoo.com