

## Animal Planning Guidance

### Classes of Animals

The state of Minnesota emergency operations plans recognize four classes of animals:

1. **Livestock:** Farm animals including cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry.
2. **Exhibition/large animals:** Animals intended for show or recreational purposes; not for consumption, and not as household pets.
3. **Household pets:** Domesticated pets including dogs, cats, birds, turtles, rabbits, etc. (can travel in commercial carriers).
4. **Service animals:** Guide dogs or other animals trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.

### State Activities by Emergency Classification Level (ECL)

Following is a list of activities specific to animal planning and evacuation to each ECL.

#### Alert

- As part of the messaging, animal owners are advised of the situation.

#### Site Area Emergency (SAE)

- People are advised to prepare for an evacuation (including preparing to evacuate their household pets or service animal).
- The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will issue a livestock advisory for livestock owners to shelter their animals and place them on stored feed and water.
- The Minnesota Department of Public Safety will issue an exhibition/large animal message telling owners to shelter their animals and put them on stored feed and water.

### General Emergency (GE)

- An evacuation order is given for people in the affected area. Animal advisories are issued well before this, so people at this point can prioritize their needs.
- People are encouraged to bring their household pets and service animals to the reception centers for monitoring and, if necessary, decontamination.
- Evacuees should bring identification, health and immunization records, prescription medications, travel cages and handling equipment for their household pets and service animals to the reception centers.
- The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will establish agricultural control zones for all shipments of food, feed, livestock and poultry into and out of the affected area.

### Considerations for Evacuation

- Pre-identify a place to bring your exhibition/large animals and transportation needs.
- Obtain copies of your records (ownership, vaccination, etc.) that are ready to take with you in case you have to evacuate or leave and shelter your animals.

### Discussion Questions for Animal Planning

- How much food and water do you have on hand? Is it stored and covered?
- How many cages will be needed at the reception center to accommodate all the pets?