

ANIMAL CARE SERVICE

Animals will always be exposed to higher risks during emergencies in the same way as human beings. Therefore, steps should be taken to protect them and to alleviate their sufferings. A concentration of animals can be seen in rural areas and a good number of mulch cattle & domestic pets in urban areas

Evacuation of Animals

Plans will be prepared for evacuation of dangerous animals including animals kept in the zoo to safer places. Animals posing serious threat to public safety will need to be destroyed.

Dairies should be evacuated since the difficulty of inward transport of fodder might be greater than the transport of milk from outside areas. Stray cattle should be sent to Goshalas or other places of safety.

Evacuation of dogs, cats and other pets and transport animals will be considered the responsibility of respective owners. All unclaimed stray animals must be reined and kept in custody of local authorities, wherever possible or destroyed by authorities specially authorized for the work.

Preparatory Arrangements

The veterinary services or the Society for the prevention of Cruelty of Animals (S.P.C.A) should be entrusted with the care of animals. Treatment of Animals will be decided as under -

- The animals which had been seriously wounded or become dangerous to human health will have to be destroyed.
- The less seriously injured animals will be treated by the Veterinary Services. Therefore arrangements must be made for the expansion of these services and he S.P.C.A.
- Carcasses of dead animals and those which are destroyed will have to be disposed of by local authority by incineration, burial or any other suitable method.
- Wardens, Police etc. should intimate any cases of injured animals to the local Animal Care authorities or the S.P.C.A who then take necessary action.

General precautions

- An Injured animal in pain can revert to wild state and can cause severe injury even to those to whom they are deeply attached. Therefore, during preparatory period dogs should be muzzled and kept on a short strong lead to prevent their getting out of control or causing injuries.
- The general procedure for horse or other draught animals in towns is that when an emergency warning is sounded or an disaster event takes place, vehicles should be driven into side streets in order to keep the main road clear. The animal should be removed from the vehicles. Stables may not afford protection for horses or other animal unless they are specially constructed. But they may prevent them from getting wounded and will also

protect the public from the danger caused by frightened animals. The animals may not be driven harnessed to stables and they may be tied at convenient place allowing sufficient rope for their heads to come down to the ground.

- The bits in the mouth of animals may be removed during air raids, but it would be advisable to put on nose bags containing grains.
- The best emergency measures for cattle and farm animal in general, particularly where fire breaks out, is to get them out of the stables into the fields where possible.
- For the protection of milch cattle the general principles of dispersal must be followed where necessary. Milch cattle will stand a better chance of preservation if they are removed from vulnerable areas and scattered about outside of those areas.
- Arrangements must be made to clear the roads of dead or injured animals immediately after the emergency to avoid obstruction of routes for emergency services.

The organization and equipment for the service will be planned by the District Animal Husbandry / Veterinary department and incorporate the services of SPCA. There will be a need to increase the facilities at the veterinary hospitals. The S.P.C.A. should be encouraged to organize Emergency Veterinary Service teams and Centres to treat the injured animals.