Emergency Pet Sheltering During a Disaster

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Introduction

• Youth workshop

• Engage in disaster preparedness

• Increase family and community resilience
Background Information

• 2011 MSU full-scale exercise

• What is the role of youth in disasters affecting pets?

• Provide 4-H youth and leaders opportunity to practice roles in event of an incident
Learning Objectives

• Write a pet emergency plan
• Assemble a pet emergency kit
• Understand the PETS Act
• Identify pet containment needs
Workshop Goals

Enable youth to:

- Engage in disaster preparedness for pets
- Understand the community’s role in local small animal response
Workshop Overview - Classroom

✓ Initial knowledge check

✓ PETS Act

✓ Developing a Pet Emergency Plan

✓ Creating a pet emergency supply kit

✓ Final Knowledge Check
Workshop Overview – Hands-on Activities

- Constructing a transportation crate
- Animal identification
- Filling out a shelter intake for their pet

Alternate activities:
- Set up a temporary animal shelter
- Youth led demonstrations
- Engage veterinarian for safe pet handling tips
Evaluation Results

“I understand you gave it all to the poor, but do you have any receipts?”
Evaluation Results

- Pet disaster planning is important - 96%
- Improved knowledge about EM preparedness - 91%
- Intend to develop home plan for pets - 83%
- Will assemble pet emergency supply kit - 70%
- Increase community involvement - 70%
Lessons Learned

• Urban and rural need are different

• Activities are GOOD!

• Get local animal shelters or volunteer FEMA search and rescue involved

• Topic best suited for a younger audience

• People like free stuff – especially youth!
Where do we go from here?

• Get this information to your community
• Adapt the workshop to your needs
  – Build a temporary animal shelter
  – ID facilities/locations for temp animal shelter
  – Discuss special concerns with animals such as rabbits, rodents, birds, etc.
  – Tour local animal shelter
Questions?

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