Superstorm Sandy: A Case Study
Multi-Disciplinary Response to Commodity Distribution of Donated Pet Food/Supplies
Why did it work?

Post-Katrina collaboration in preparedness:

- National Animal Rescue & Sheltering Coalition (NARSC)
- National Alliance of State Animal & Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP)
- Federal Partners (FEMA, USDA, HHS)
The new face of Animal Emergency Management

- Collaboration in Preparedness
  - NASAAEP
    - Summit on Animal Emergency Management
    - Best Practice Resource Library
    - EMAC-able resources

- NARSC
  - Significant “surge” capability for response
  - Code of Conduct – share resources, adhere to ICS
  - Professional, well-trained animal responders, national subject matter experts
  - AVMA – Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams
The new face of Animal Emergency Management

- Collaboration in Response
  - Multi-Agency Coordination of Animal Issues
    - Provides coordination resources, where needed, to support animal response
      - Local
      - State EOC (or Ag EOC)
      - FEMA IMAT
      - RRCC, JFO
      - NRCC
    - Fully integrated with emergency management structure
    - Can be activated through ESF 6 or 11
    - Can be single resource or team
Superstorm Sandy Best Practices

- Effective large-scale pet response cannot be accomplished by any single entity
- Commodity distribution of donated pet food and supplies
  - 421 tons of donated pet food/supplies was distributed in WV, PA, NY, and NJ
  - Multi-agency coordination and participation by all partners essential
  - New partners also helped ensure success of mission
Food “Re-bagging” Operation
West Virginia

- Animal issues coordinated through ESF 11
- WVDA default agency for State’s PETS Act
- No statutory authority for companion animals
- No state-wide animal/humane organizations/CARTs
- Many county EMAs not interested in animal issues – overwhelmed with power outages, mass care, other issues
West Virginia

- Working together = dogs and cats received food
- FEMA established Point of Distribution at Yeager Airport
- WVDA assisted with coordination of human commodities (MREs, water, infant kits)
- FEMA, USDA, HHS, NARSC, NASAAEP collaborate to strategically support states
West Virginia

- NRCC, Region III RRCC, WVDA, PetSmart Charities coordinate delivery of 80,000# pet food to WV
- 11 of 55 counties request pet food
- In-state collaboration to use existing POD structure for pet food distribution
- Operation ran 11/2-11/9
West Virginia

- Lessons Learned
  - A need was met: dog and cat food provided to animals
  - People stayed in their homes
    - Few human shelters; no pet shelters opened
    - Existing shelters/facilities received animals
  - Once county needs were met, remaining food was distributed to humane organizations
  - WV animal organizations came together and networked
  - Could better utilize resources/knowledge of Extension
West Virginia

Lessons Learned
- National efforts facilitated coordinated pet food distribution through WVDA
- WVDA leadership supported initiative
- WVNG was very supportive of mission
- Counties determined where and how to distribute pet food
- Many county EMAs were grateful for assistance
West Virginia
New York

- Sheltering supply distribution center
  - Collapsed with PetSmart Charities to set up a temporary distribution center on state fairgrounds
    - ASPCA provided logistical support
  - Quickly deploy assets to impacted States
    - 1,000 wire crates, 900 plastic crates, 3,000 steel bowls, 3,000 litter pans, 500 volunteer hours
New York

- Congregate animal sheltering
  - ASPCA established an Emergency Boarding Facility
  - Worked in collaboration with NYC APTF
  - NVRT provided veterinary support; mitigated effects of respiratory disease
  - Communicated daily with the State
  - Provided daily summaries of number of animals sheltered
New York

- Pet food distribution
  - Donations from national manufacturers coordinated through one POC – PetSmart Charities
  - ASPCA leased warehouse space and provided logistical support for the pet food distribution center
  - PetSmart provided volunteers to break down large bags of pet food into 1 gallon (dog) and 1 quart (cat) food bags
New York

- Pet food distribution
  - American Red Cross distributed the smaller bags of pet food along with their bulk commodity distribution
  - Originally hoped to distribute the pet food along with human food from Emergency Response Vehicles
  - Pet food eventually distributed by Red Cross with other bulk commodities
New York

- Pet food distribution
  - Logistical issues with NY slowed distribution to staging areas and PODs
  - Coordinated distribution of pet food to regional food banks
New York

Images depicting a relief effort in New York.
“It Takes a Village!”

- Multi-agency coordination is essential to effectively meeting pets mission needs:
  - NARSC/NASAAEP presence at NRCC
  - Animal “whole community” has tremendous capacity if integrated effectively into response
  - Collaboration among NARSC agencies was key to effective coordination with states
  - NASAAEP’s role in response was key to providing situational awareness on animal response activities
  - Pet food distribution was efficient & successful in meeting feeding needs of disaster survivors
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