

WILSON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

ANIMAL CONTROL AND PROTECTION

I. PURPOSE

This section predetermines actions to be taken to control, protect and ensure the humane care and treatment of domesticated animals during a disaster/emergency situation that could cause animal suffering.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Any disaster that threatens humans, also threatens animals. It will be necessary to provide water, food, and first aid.
2. Relocation, shelter, or relief efforts for livestock, wildlife, or domestic animals may be required.
3. Shelter locations may be required to provide domesticated animal control due to sheltered persons bringing pets with them. **Pets are prohibited at general public shelters, an alternate shelter site for citizens with pets will be provided. Trained assistance animals are allowed in accordance with ADA laws.**
4. Livestock left in evacuated areas will need to be cared for and provision will need to be made for re-entry to facilitate this need.
5. Wilson County maintains a trailer with supplies to care for up to thirty pets
6. A local verinary office has agreed to assist with the evaluation of welfare of various animals in a disaster situation. The need for this will be coordinated through The Animal Enforcement Division of the Wilson County Sheriff's Office.

B. Assumptions

1. Wilson County will request assistance from the State and private sector.
2. Animal protection planning will ensure the proper care and recovery of animals impacted during an emergency.
3. Personnel with proper training and protective equipment will be available to re-enter evacuated areas for the purpose of rescue or care of livestock or domestic animals.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. The sheltering and protection of companion animals and livestock is the responsibility of their owners. Animal owners should plan for animal care during a disaster as they prepare their family preparedness plan.

- B. The Wilson County Office of the Sheriff, Animal Enforcement Division will be the lead agency for situation and assessment and determination of resource needs. As needed, the County will assist in the protection of animals affected by disaster, to include rescue, shelter, control, feeding, and preventive immunization of animals left homeless, lost, or strayed as a result of the disaster. **Costs incurred will be passed to animal owners when located.** Local Humane Society, or similar organizations may be asked to assist in this effort, at the discretion of Animal Enforcement.
- C. During emergencies, requests for animal protection assistance and resources such as food, medicine, shelter, specialized personnel, and additional veterinary professionals will be routed through the Wilson County Emergency Operations Center.
- D. Wild animals out of their natural habitats that are a danger to themselves, or humans will be handled by the Wilson County Animal Animal Officers with assistance from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission personnel.
- E. Most shelters that have been established for disaster victims will not accept companion animals, **with the exception of animals trained as human assistance companions.** However, if an evacuee comes to a shelter with their pet(s) a separate shelter location has been established to house both citizen and their pet. They will be instructed as to the location of this facility