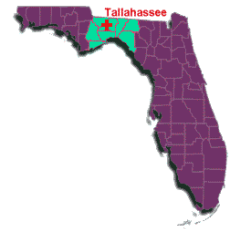


PET FRIENDLY SHELTER



Lead Agency: Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross

Support Agencies: Big Bend Disaster Animal Response Team

General Information

This standard operation procedure outlines the procedures for co-locating and operating a pet friendly shelter with an emergency shelter provided for the public during an evacuation due to hazardous conditions.

Situation and Assumptions

- A. Situation: The public will be required to evacuate their homes during hazardous conditions at the direction of local emergency management officials. If the situation is unsafe for persons to remain at home, it is unsafe for their pets as well. The American Red Cross provides emergency shelter for those persons being evacuated, however, current policy does not allow emergency shelters to accept pets.
- B. Assumptions: Persons being evacuated who have pets and have not made other arrangements for their pets may arrive at an American Red Cross operated emergency shelters with their pets. Through a partnership with Big Bend Disaster Animal Response Team (DART), these pets can be sheltered in a facility co-located, but separate from the emergency shelter for persons.

Concept of Operation

Big Bend DART is responsible for establishing and operating the Pet Friendly Shelter at the request of the American Red Cross. Big Bend DART will have a representative located at the Chapter EOC during the initial activation of a disaster response and will deploy resources upon request. A location for a Pet Friendly Shelter will be identified and a Big Bend DART representative will be assigned to that location as a liaison to the Shelter Manager and to provide information back to the Chapter so that the decision for opening a Pet Friendly Shelter can be made.

Pet owners have an obligation to make contingency plans for their pets in the event of an emergency. The Pet Friendly Shelter is intended to support those persons evacuating to emergency shelters who have no other alternatives for locating a safe place for their pet prior to the event.

The Pet Friendly Shelter will not be advertised in general radio, television, and newsprint media. Media releases by both Big Bend DART and the American Red Cross shall encourage pet

owners to have a plan for their pets during a disaster since most emergency shelters do not accept pets.

Should persons arrive at emergency shelters with their pets, Big Bend DART shall first attempt to place pets within the local community resources for safe care. The decision to open the Pet Friendly Shelter will be made in a timely manner so as not to endanger volunteers in transporting and setting up the necessary equipment.

The Pet Friendly Shelter will be set up in a location convenient, but separate, from the emergency shelter. Big Bend DART will provide all equipment and supplies necessary for operating the Pet Friendly Shelter. Care for pets at the Pet Friendly Shelter shall adhere to generally accepted veterinary practices and the facility shall be periodically inspected by a veterinarian. Big Bend DART shall keep the facility clean and sanitary at all times and provide a thorough cleaning of the facility at its close.

Big Bend DART shall provide all persons whose pets are cared for at the Pet Friendly Shelter with an information packet for future disaster planning for their pets and encourage them to develop a plan for their pet and not to rely on there always being shelters of this nature for pets.