

Section I

Introduction

Page

Letter from Sebastian Heath, Committee Chair

2

Editorial, Journal and Courier, Lafayette, Indiana

4



INDIANA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

4901 Seville Court • Indianapolis, Indiana 46208 • Telephone 317/293-1317 • Fax 317/293-1317

PRESIDENT

Ralph E. Bailey, D.V.M.
1123 Melbrook Drive
Munster, IN 46321

May 30, 1995

Dear friends and colleagues,

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Bret D. Marsh, D.V.M.
805 Beachway Drive, #50
Indianapolis, IN 46224

VICE PRESIDENT

James R. Scott, D.V.M.
9015 Pendleton Pike
Indianapolis, IN 46236

TREASURER

Sandra K. Norman, D.V.M.
402 W. Roswell Court
Indianapolis, IN 46234

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gale E. Coons, B.S., M.P.H.
4901 Seville Court
Indianapolis, IN 46208
Telephone: 317/293-1317
Fax 317/293-1317

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

John S. McKibben, D.V.M.
675 Kelly St. EXT
Rome City, IN 46784

BOARD CHAIRMAN

Lawrence A. Horstman, D.V.M.
737 Cumberland
West Lafayette, IN 47906

AVMA DELEGATE

James H. Hennegan, D.V.M.
1621 W. 86th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46260

AVMA ALTERNATE DELEGATE

John R. Scamahorn, D.V.M.
1674 E. Range Line Rd
Greencastle, IN 46135

North American society is undergoing changes in its attitude towards animals. Some of the most important changes are urban society's increasing acceptance of companion animals as family members and the increasing size of animal production units in rural areas. Concurrent with these changes there is increasing appreciation of the value of the human-animal bond, improved food safety and conservation of the environment. The human-animal bond contributes to a large segment of society's quality of life and motivates improved animal well being. Environmental concerns arise out of the discussion on how to integrate animal production units with the conservation of the environment. Veterinary disaster preparedness interfaces with all of these issues, as they can all become threatened and disrupted because of disasters.

Over the last two years a dedicated group of people, representing state wide organizations in Indiana, worked steadily towards a common goal which was to introduce a state wide plan to help animals and their owners during declared disasters. The process by which that occurred is summarized in this booklet. Our committee's expertise included animal control, veterinary medicine and public health for large, small and exotic animals. Our strengths included a persistence and focus to work towards a common goal, which was to contribute to society as a whole. We derived considerable motivation for our efforts by the directors of the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency, Jerome Hauer, who initiated much of this program in 1993 and Mel Carraway, who implemented it in 1995. They both had the foresight to mitigate the impact that disasters can have on the large constituent of animal owners, public health and the environment.

As chair of the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association Committee I was given the opportunity to facilitate the development of the Veterinary Services and Animal Care Annex, which was added to the Basic State Emergency Operations Procedures today. Facilitating the development of this state wide plan that addresses the needs of animals and their owners in disasters has been one of the most comprehensive undertakings I have been involved in as a veterinarian. It has also been one of the most rewarding exercises, because it has allowed me to work closely with individuals and groups that are genuinely dedicated to apply their expertise with animals to help society as a whole. It has broadened my personal and professional horizon far beyond where I could once see. I would like to thank all of you who helped me better recognize the real needs of others in disasters and for helping me find ways in which I could make a difference.

My special thanks go to all the members and consultants to the committee, who always came to all the meetings: Dave Barrabee, State Planner, who just would not give up; Hugh Lewis, Dean of the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine for his support and encouragement for me to go to Miami after Hurricane Andrew, and to get my first exposure to the issues surrounding animals in disasters, and Mari Hulman George, who allowed me to make this into a full time commitment.

Veterinary Disaster Medicine is an area where professional animal care personnel are able to apply their expertise as a unambiguous contribution to society. It is about helping the large segment of society that owns animals; it is about maintaining the quality of life that the human-animal bond provides; and it is about insuring an optimal level of care for our environment and safety in public health. I sincerely hope for others who develop and implement disaster preparedness plans that they will enjoy the same professional and personal growth that comes from contribution to society as I have been able to experience. Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sebastian E. Heath', written in a cursive style.

Sebastian E. Heath VetMB, MVetSci, Dipl.ACVM, MRCVS

Assistant Professor

Chair, Indiana Veterinary Medical Association Disaster Preparedness Committee (1993-1995)

Journal and Courier

Page

A8

Opinions editor,
Shirley Ragsdale / 420-5258

Tuesday, May 30, 1995



Richard L. Holtz,
Publisher

Denise Richter,
Managing Editor

Shirley Ragsdale,
Opinions Editor

Joe Gerrety,
Reporter

Melinda O'Neil,
Reader member

Frank H. Bria,
Reader member

Kent Schuette,
Reader member

Animal crisis plan is worthy project

■ Disaster plan must include pets, livestock.

A crisis plan for animals may sound like a waste of state funding. But in an agricultural state like Indiana, it is a visionary concept.

The terrible aftermath of Hurricane Andrew made emergency planners aware of the tremendous suffering and dislocation for animals caused by such catastrophes. With their shelter and pens destroyed, terrified animals ran loose. Those not injured by the storm often injured themselves in the chaos. Loving pets reverted to pack behavior. And many faced starvation.

Indiana will become one of the first states in the nation to have a formal plan for rescuing and caring for animals after a major disaster. We applaud the efforts of the State Emergency Management Agency and the veterinarians, health groups and county extension agents who worked so diligently to incorporate care for animals into the state's overall emergency preparedness operations.