

**Section II****Reports to the IVMA Board of Directors and general Membership**

<b>Report Number</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	Proposal for the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association to form a Disaster Preparedness Committee	8
2	Composition of the IVMA Disaster Preparedness Committee	10
3	First Annual Progress Report of the Disaster Preparedness Committee	11
4	Proposal to the IVMA Board of Directors to agree to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding	13
5	Informing the IVMA Membership on Disaster Preparedness	14

**PROPOSAL FOR THE INDIANA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TO FORM A COMMITTEE FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR ANIMALS**

June 15, 1993

To the Board of Directors of the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association

Recent years have provided many examples in the United States for the need to be prepared for disasters. Indiana has also had its share of disasters, to the extent that over the last five years only three counties have not requested federal emergency aid following a disaster. The most effective way of dealing with disasters is to be prepared for them. In most disaster preparedness plans the impact of animals as potential public health hazards and essential human property has been overlooked. Veterinarians are best qualified to develop and implement plans for the care of animals before, during and following disasters.

Following Hurricane Andrew the AVMA initiated the development of disaster preparedness plans for animals. Their plans currently suggest a mechanism for national activation of resources and an example for coordinating resources at the county level. The implementation of disaster preparedness plans, however, will depend on organizations within individual states. This is where state veterinary associations can assume a leadership role.

In states that are at the fore front of disaster preparedness for animals, such as Maryland, California and Ohio, state veterinary associations have formed disaster preparedness committees to coordinate the efforts of the veterinary profession to prepare for disasters. The following are some of the functions that these committees have:

- Provide resource lists of, e.g., veterinarians, veterinary medical suppliers, feed manufacturers to help during disasters
- Nominate an Emergency Service Veterinarian to the State Emergency Management Agency
- Interface with other active groups, e.g., AVMA; Veterinary Colleges; State Veterinary Associations; Veterinary Technician Associations; Departments of Agriculture; state, county and city planning agencies; USDA-APHIS, Humane Associations; Wildlife and Zoo management officials; laboratory animal care takers; and the American Veterinary Academy for Disaster Medicine.
- Make recommendations to Emergency Management Agency on how to deal with animals during disasters
- Distribution of Information
- Coordination of fund raising

Many of these responsibilities can and should be shared with the groups that would be most affected.

In Indiana there is already leadership in the area of disaster preparedness for animals. This includes the membership of a veterinarian in the Forward Response Team of the State Emergency Management Agency, the directorship of the Consortium on the Model Disaster Response for Animals based at Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine, and considerable interest in the Regional State Veterinarians Association to take an active role in providing resources to deal with disasters.

By forming a Committee of Disaster Preparedness for Animals the IVMA has the potential to demonstrate state, regional and national level leadership in disaster preparedness for animals. We, therefore, recommend that the IVMA form such a committee Yours sincerely

Dr. Robert Gillespie DVM  
Immediate Past President IVMA  
Chair, Long Range Planning Committee

Sebastian E. Heath BSc, VetMB, MVSc, Dipl ACVIM, MRCVS  
Section Chief Large Animal Medicine  
Assistant Professor

**COMPOSITION OF IVMA DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE AND ITS CONSULTANTS**

Indiana Veterinary Medical Association Disaster Preparedness Committee

The composition of this committee is of representatives of groups that would likely be called upon as responders in the event of a disaster, as well as who should be able to provide practical information that will allow appropriate level of preparation

State Emergency Management Agency	Dave Barrabee
Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine	Dr Sebastian Heath, Chair
Indiana State Board of Animal Health	Dr. Michael Kopp
Large Animal Practice	Dr. Robert Gillespie
Small Animal Practice	Dr. John Schnarr
Veterinary Technicians	Peggy Pawlik Swain
Humane Associations	Max Champion
Exotics	Rose Baker
Cooperative Extension Service	Dave Petritz
Commissioner of Agriculture	Doug Pond
Indiana State Board of Health	Dr. Charles Sinclair

In addition to these contributors the agenda and minutes of every meeting were to distributed to any persons that had shown an interest in the development of the plan. The goal of communicating with these persons was to be open about everything that we were doing and to encourage everybody's input. The persons in the "IVMA Disaster Preparedness Committee Interest Group" included people in:

Indiana Veterinary Medical Association Administration  
 Colleagues at several universities and in practice  
 American Veterinary Medical Association  
 American Academy on Veterinary Disaster Medicine  
 California Veterinary Medical Association  
 University administration  
 University Public Relations  
 Media (local, state, newspapers, magazines, radio and television)  
 Veterinary students  
 Department of Defense

## FIRST ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

### **Committee composition and representation as of June 18, 1994:**

**Members** Robert Gillespie (IVMA), Sebastian Heath (chair, IVMA, Purdue), Warren Buchler (Indiana Board of Animal Health (IBAH), John Schnarr (IVMA).

**Consultants:** Dave Barrabee (State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Rose Baker (Indianapolis Zoo), Max Champion (Indiana Association of Animal Control), Dave Petritz (Cooperative Extension Service (CES) and State Emergency Board (SEB)), Doug Pond (Commissioner of Agriculture (CoA), Peggy Swain (Indiana Veterinary Technician Association (IVTA)), Anne Trout (Marion Co. Search and Rescue, Research laboratory Manager, Methodist Hospital).

### **Mission and Goals:**

**Phase I.** Development and implementation of a Veterinary Care Annex into the State Emergency Plan, following the guidelines of the AVMA as closely as possible.

**Phase II:** Recruitment of Emergency Field Veterinarians to work in disaster areas in Indiana

**Phase III:** Maintenance of a current list of Emergency Field Veterinarians, continuing education in Veterinary Disaster Medicine

### **Phase I progress report**

Since the last IVMA Board of Directors meeting the Disaster Preparedness Committee has met twice. In March 1994 the committee met and drafted the outline the chain of command for a disaster response plan. In June the committee met to discuss drafts of the Veterinary Care Annex, and draft Memoranda of Understanding between the State Emergency Management Agency and IVMA, Indiana Association of Animal Control, Indiana Veterinary Technician Association and accredited zoos.

The "plan" in technical terms will be an annex to the state emergency plan. An annex is usually preferred for issues that are likely to require multiple and/or extensive resources in an emergency. Other examples of annexes include for fire and human mass casualty. Lesser issues are usually dealt with as Tabs to existing annexes. The desire of the state to have an annex reflects their sincerity about the care of animals during disasters.

The state emergency plan is activated only once a disaster has been declared. These can be at the local or state level. If a disaster is declared at the state level a representative from the state veterinarian's office will take up a seat in the State Emergency Operations Center in Indianapolis to coordinate all efforts related to animals. This would be possible, as this person would receive details from the field on the situation and required resources, as well as be able to interact with other state agencies, such as Departments of Transport, Environmental Management, Natural Resources, Food Safety Inspection Service, etc., who are also represented in the Emergency Operations Center. The State Veterinarian's Office also interacts commonly with the State Diagnostic Laboratories and State Chemist, which may play an important role in the response to disasters.

In the field all activities related to animals will be coordinated by Emergency Field Veterinarians. These will be recruited by the IVMA. "Animals" include domestic livestock, poultry, companion animals and non-native wildlife. The Emergency Field Veterinarian will coordinate all efforts to rescue, capture, triage, treat injured, inspect preslaughter or humanely destroy animals affected by the emergency in the field. The Emergency Field Veterinarian will also determine the housing, feed and care requirements of animals affected by the disaster, and determine the needs for carcass disposal. The Emergency Field Veterinarian will enact these functions through collaboration with Emergency Animal Control Personnel, Emergency Field Veterinary Technicians, Emergency Non-native Wildlife Personnel and other qualified persons. The Department of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, apparently have their own mechanism for dealing with native wildlife.

Some of the most important steps forward are the formation of a Veterinary Care Annex committee by the State Emergency Management Agency. This committee has been named "S A V.E." (State Annex for Veterinary Emergencies) and will be responsible for updating and maintaining the Veterinary Care Annex, once it has been incorporated into the state plan. This committee is modeled after the current IVMA Disaster Preparedness Committee, and will also include representatives from D.N.R. Another major step forward is the commitment of a State Veterinarian Field Officer (Dr. Warren Buehler) to help develop the interactions between the Emergency Management Agency and the State Veterinarian's Office. The significance of these two issues is that they represent the first steps towards institutionalization of the care of animals during disasters.

### **Phase II progress report**

At this stage the mission of the IVMA Disaster Preparedness Committee is to facilitate the development and implementation of a Veterinary Care Annex. Once this goal has been achieved, the purpose of the IVMA Disaster Preparedness Committee will be to recruit and maintain a list of Emergency Field Veterinarians that are capable of response during a disaster, and to supply a member to the S.A.V.E. committee of the State Emergency Management Agency. These functions will be similar to the Disaster Preparedness Committees of the IAAC, IVTA and accredited zoos.

In preparation for this phase a questionnaire to recruit interested veterinarians and job descriptions are being drafted. These will be presented for publication in the Hoosier Veterinarian. A major recruitment effort is planned for the coming State meeting in the Spring of 1995.

### **Phase III progress report**

With the completion of Phase II, the disaster preparedness committee should become a standing committee of the IVMA. Additional help may be needed. One avenue for this would be to use additional volunteers. Volunteers from the general public have offered their help in the development of disaster preparedness plans for animals. Some of these could be recruited to help maintain a list of Emergency Field Veterinarians, to coordinate continuing education and to help establish a pet sheltering plan.

### **Where are we now and where are we going?**

Completion of Phase I is close. Dave Barrabee (SEMA) is currently rewriting a draft Veterinary Care Annex. This should soon be completed. Memoranda of Understanding between the State Emergency Management Agency and the IVMA, IAAC, IVTA and accredited zoos have been drafted. These documents describe how the different organizations intend to interact during an emergency. These have all received tentative approval by SEMA. Once SEMA has approved these draft documents they will be presented to Boards of Directors of each organization to read, modify, approve and sign. Discussion by the IVMA Board of Directors of the Memorandum of Understanding between SEMA and the IVMA must be scheduled at the next most convenient time, so that the development of the Veterinary Care Annex can remain on schedule.

Once the Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed upon and signed by each party we are ready to move into the second phase of the committee's operation, which is to recruit Emergency Field Veterinarians. A tentative schedule for a ceremonial signing of the Memoranda of Understanding between SEMA, IVMA, IAAC, IVTA and accredited zoos is tentatively planned for late October. We are hoping that we will be able to get Governor Bayh to attend.

In future the IVMA may consider earmarking some emergency funds to assist the veterinarians and animals of Indiana affected by disasters.

Respectfully submitted by Sebastian E. Heath, chair, Disaster Preparedness committee.

**PROPOSAL TO THE IVMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO AGREE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

September 6, 1994

To the Board of Directors of the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association,

Please find attached a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the IVMA. If both parties agree to this document, this MoU outlines each party's responsibilities in the event of a disaster affecting animals in Indiana. As described in the report of the IVMA Disaster Preparedness Committee at the last IVMA Board meeting, this MoU had to first be approved by SEMA. This is because SEMA is ultimately responsible for the management of emergencies in our state. In principle SEMA has approved this document. However, it also means that the IVMA becomes recognized at the state level for its proactive role in the care of animals. At this stage it is up to the IVMA to carefully read and critique it, to ensure that, as an organization, we can and want to meet these responsibilities. That will be the focus of discussion for the IVMA Board meeting on September 9, 1994.

Most of the text should be self explanatory. However, I would like to discuss two issues that I have been commonly asked about.

1. Under the current MoU there is no mechanism for compensation for veterinarians' time in responding to disasters. This may not be satisfactory to practitioners who would have to give up work to help in disasters, and result in low enrollment numbers for the Emergency Task Force. Potential solutions to this are either to accept emergency response activities by veterinarians as a volunteer activity, or to come to an arrangement with the State Veterinarian's Office. In the latter solution Emergency Field Veterinarians would become temporary employees of the State Veterinarian's Office and receive reimbursement for time from here. The latter is perhaps a more favorable solution, but it is too early to say whether this is even possible. The IVMA Board may wish to discuss this as a separate issue, once more facts are known. This issue does not affect this MoU.

2. The issue of liability is an important one to understand. Any member of a recognized emergency response team that is activated by the state is covered for liability by the state. The important term here is "recognized". Veterinarians would become recognized as responders to disasters through this MoU. However, I anticipate that the IVMA Disaster Preparedness Committee will want to set some standards for its members, i.e., the Emergency Field Veterinarians, by expecting that they each attend some basic courses in emergency management. (The state pays for attendance at some of these courses.) In the future, attendance at Emergency Management courses may, e.g., meet part of a Continuing Education requirement for Indiana veterinarians. It would also qualify Indiana veterinarians to help at the national level in disasters, which would bring much positive recognition to our association.

For additional questions and explanations I will be available at the IVMA Board meeting on September 9, 1994. I look forward to seeing you all there. Yours sincerely

Sebastian E. Heath BSc, VetMB, MVetSci, MRCVS  
Section Chief, Large Animal Medicine  
Assistant Professor  
Chair, IVMA Disaster Preparedness Committee

Enclosed: Draft MoU (IVMA-SEMA), IC 10-4-1-8, IC 10-4-1-12. Reader note: see pages 54,55

## INFORMING AND RECRUITING THE IVMA MEMBERSHIP FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Hoosier Veterinarian, December 1994

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR ANIMALS

In the years 1988 to 1993 only 3 of Indiana's 92 counties did not receive federal emergency aid, i.e., a state of disaster was declared in nearly every county, in some on multiple occasions. Even though Indiana has approximately 71 million animals and is primarily an agricultural state the need of animals in these disasters has never been addressed. One of the major reasons for this is that to provide any kind of care to people or animals affected by disasters responders have to be recognized by the authoritative agency that coordinates the response to a disaster. In Indiana this is the State Emergency Management Agency. At present there is no mechanism in our state by which animals or their owners can receive official help during disasters. (This is similar to 48 other states!). As professional animal care providers we should make every effort to become recognized as responders for animals in disasters.

In June of 1993 the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association Board of Directors decided to take proactive measures to help animals and their owners affected by large scale disasters. To achieve this an Ad Hoc "Disaster Preparedness Committee" was formed with the mission to collaborate with the State Emergency Management Agency to develop a state plan that would provide appropriate recognition to mitigate the impact of and provide care for animals during disasters. The IVMA Disaster Preparedness Committee has been developing a plan in collaboration with the State Emergency Management Agency, Indiana Board of Animal Health (State Veterinarian), Indiana Association of Animal Control Personnel, Indiana Veterinary Technician's Association, accredited zoos, Cooperative Extension Services and the Commissioner of Agriculture. A state plan will allow these groups to be the recognized (and therefore official) responders and will establish a mechanism to provide resources for animals and their owners affected by disasters. Once the plan is accepted, each of these groups will recruit appropriately qualified people to become responders.

We hope that by the time of the IVMA/IVTA conference in February we will have completed all the administrative steps necessary to start recruiting veterinarians and veterinary technicians who would like to help in the event of a disaster. Assuming that we will have reached that stage by then, the IVMA Disaster Preparedness Committee and State Emergency Management Agency will have an information booth at the conference. Here you will be able to find out more about this program, about the need for it, what it will involve to be an official responder, and how to enroll. Please stop by if you are interested.

Our current plans are to coordinate the response to a disaster as follows:

In the event of a disaster or mass incident in the State of Indiana, a state wide disaster preparedness plan will provide an official mechanism by which animals can be rescued, captured, provided with veterinary medical care, receive preslaughter inspection, euthanized, if necessary, as well as providing housing, feed, care and carcass disposal.

- A representative from the State Veterinarian's Office in the Emergency Operations Center will provide directions on strategy, tactics and overall directions of the operations for the Emergency Field Veterinarian.
- The Emergency Field Veterinarian will report to the representative of the State Veterinarian's Office located in the Emergency Operations Center during a state of emergency on progress in the field and to request necessary supplies.
- Emergency Field Veterinarians will provide and/or convey directions on strategy, tactics and overall directions of the operations for Emergency Animal Control Personnel, Emergency Field

Veterinary Technicians, Emergency Non-native Wildlife Personnel and other qualified personnel.

- Field Emergency Veterinarians may also receive directions for operations and procedures from other state agencies, such as to conduct post mortem examinations by the Director of the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories; blood sample collection as part of a disease eradication program by the State Veterinarian, or feed sample collection by the State Chemist. The Emergency Field Veterinarian will carry out these requests to the best of his/her ability
- Emergency Animal Control Personnel will rescue, capture, house and maintain domestic livestock, poultry and companion animals. In the case of domestic livestock and poultry the Emergency Field Veterinarian may delegate the care, feeding and housing responsibilities to the owner or regular care takers of the animals. Under these conditions the owner becomes a temporary volunteer for the State of Indiana, who follows directions on care, housing and treatment given by the Emergency Field Veterinarian or his/her delegate.
- Emergency Field Veterinary Technicians will be responsible for the treatment and care of injured animals. Treatments and care will be prescribed by the Emergency Field Veterinarian. Emergency Field Veterinary Technicians may also assist in the capture, rescue, housing and care of animals in collaboration with all other qualified groups.
- Emergency Non-native Wildlife Personnel (employed at accredited zoos) will be responsible for and assist in the rescue, capture, transport and euthanasia of non-native wildlife; and they will advise on housing and care requirements of non-native wildlife. The Emergency Field Veterinarian will designate a person responsible for the care, feeding and housing of non-native wildlife. This person may be the owner or regular care taker of the affected animals. Under these conditions the owner becomes a temporary volunteer for the state of Indiana, who follows directions on care, housing and treatment given by the Emergency Field Veterinarian or his/her delegate.

If you have any questions about this program please contact Dr. Sebastian Heath (veterinarians) at 317.494 8548 or Peggy Swain (veterinary technicians) at 219.879 2898. We look forward to seeing you