

Kanawha Putnam Emergency Management Plan Functional Annex	
Animal (Pet) Care Revised September 2022; Reviewed Biennially	A28
NRF Coordination:	
Primary Agency:	Humane Association(s) of both Kanawha and Putnam Counties
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kanawha County Office of Emergency Services • Putnam County Office of Emergency Services

I. Introduction

This Annex describes during major emergencies provisions that have been made to ensure that animals receive appropriate care and describes the responsibilities that have been tasked to specific individuals and organizations.

Kanawha and Putnam Counties recognize a need for pro-active disaster planning for its agencies, businesses and residents. Failure to plan for the care of pets in the advent of an evacuation or relocation of residents may delay a timely response.

Abandoned pets may become a danger for rescue or recovery crews.

II. Situation and Assumptions

A. Situation

1. Many residents have pets and service animals.
2. Housing is provided in individual households, Veterinary facilities, boarding facilities and animal shelters.
3. Animals may also be found in transit.
4. The pet population has a recognized social value and for many an important companion.

5. Emergency Service animals associated with law enforcement and search and rescue are an integral component of the community's Public Safety Infrastructure.
6. Animals can affect public health. They can be disease vectors for other animals, and they can infect humans.
7. There are agencies within each county that care for animals.

B. Assumptions

1. Under normal circumstances animals are the responsibility of their owners and are under their care and control. During an emergency, owners will take reasonable steps to shelter and provide care for their animals.
2. Emergency conditions may impose hardships on animal (pet) populations as well as the human population within Kanawha and Putnam Counties.
3. Animals may need community resources for rescue, emergency medical treatment, temporary housing/shelter and mass care and feeding.
4. Pet owners may be forced to stay in public shelters or other areas where animals are not permitted.
5. Pet owners may be forced to evacuate with little notice or preparation and be forced to leave the pets behind.
6. Pet owners may not be home when an emergency situation occurs and may not be able to return home to retrieve the animals.

III. Concept of Operations

A. General

Animal protection will be managed with this plan and by plans developed by Humane Associations of each county working in cooperation with each other and within the framework of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Animals included under this plan are pets only.

Kanawha and / or Putnam Counties Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) will serve as the central location for interagency coordination and executive decision- making, including activities associated with this annex.

The sheltering, protection, and identification of animals (pets) are the

responsibility of their owners. In times of emergency or disaster, public interest may take precedence with regard to sheltering, evacuation, and care of animals.

Domestic animals that are lost, stray, incapable of being cared for by their owners, or a danger to themselves or the public will be the responsibility of the relevant County Humane Association. These animals may be sheltered, fed, and if possible, returned to their owners. If the animals cannot be returned to their owners, their disposition will be handled in accordance with established animal control guidelines. The animal control guidelines regarding holding periods may need to be extended to provide time to locate owners during a time of disaster.

B. Organization

1. Animal Health Care

Kanawha and Putnam Counties have limited local capabilities for providing expedient health services to pets and service animals.

Specialized facilities (i.e. animal shelters, veterinary hospitals and clinic, boarding facilities) should make arrangements for emergency electrical power, food, water etc.

Families are encouraged to prepare all of their family members for disaster situations. Local veterinarians can assist in education of pet owners of the need to prepare for disaster. Pet owners can assist in the locating of lost or missing pets by providing a description or picture of the lost pet.

To the extent possible, the Kanawha and/or Putnam County Emergency Management agencies will coordinate efforts to meet any additional or unforeseen circumstances. Critical supplies may be minimal in the immediate area and supplies may have to be brought in from more distant locations.

In general, physical methods of euthanasia will be in accordance with established Animal Control Guidelines.

2. Stray Pets

Unclaimed animals where the owners are unavailable require special consideration. To the extent possible, the local Humane Associations will retain this responsibility within their own jurisdictions. Should the problem exceed local capability, assistance may be available through the county's

Emergency Operations Centers. The county EOC may arrange through the state EOC for state or federal assistance. Sheltering of Animals (Pets).

The local Humane Societies in cooperation with County or City Emergency Management have temporary shelters to be located at alternate sites or close to evacuation shelters.

Putnam County OES maintains portable cages and housing to keep animals in. These can be located by the regular Humane Society facilities or alternate care locations. Ideally these portable units can be located adjacent to or in close proximity to evacuation centers. This will allow pet owners to assist in the care of the animals. Control of the animal shelter will be by Humane Society personnel.

Animals that have not been claimed within 10 days after being received at a temporary shelter can be considered abandoned.

Pet owners who no longer have a home to take their pets to or whose temporary housing will not accept pets, should be prepared to make arrangements to board their animals with other facilities.

C. Shelter Operations

1. Each pet brought into the shelter will be checked in and documented.
2. If possible, a photo will be taken of each animal. Owners can use the photos to identify pets to reduce the human traffic through shelter areas.
3. Each operation will be adjusted to situation

D. Emergency Management

1. Emergency response begins as soon as an animal emergency is identified or reported. The numbering sequence is not meant to establish priority as all actions should be undertaken as soon as possible.
2. In the event an agency other than 9-1-1 receives a call reporting an animal emergency, that agency will immediately relay this information to 9-1-1.
3. The emergency (9-1-1) communication center will dispatch the appropriate response agency.
4. The Incident Commander will assess the need for additional resources.
5. Request for county, state or federal assistance will be through the local EOC.
6. Public information will be coordinated through the Public Information Officer

established by the Incident Command System.

7. This Animal Care Annex may be used in conjunction with other emergency response plans.