Disaster Strikes and You Want to Help: Career Options in Disaster Veterinary Medicine

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AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Poll Everywhere

Polleverywhere.com is a website that allows instant audience participation on your phone by two methods:

1. Web Browser – go to PollEv.com/warrenhess538 (smartphone/tablet/computer)
2. Text – text warrenhess538 to 22333 (any cell phone)

You must wait until the poll is active on the screen

Then choose your answer (Multiple Choice)

Press/Enter “Clear” to change your answer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veterinarian/Owner/Co-Owner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterinarian/Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterinarian/Not in Practice (Government/Research)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technician/Technologist/Vet Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Which Category Best Describes Your Business?

- Small Animal
- Mixed Animal
- Large Animal
- Mobile Practice
- Laboratory
- Government
- Other
Opportunities
Opportunities

What do I Need to Know?

• You have received a great education that makes you uniquely qualified to be an animal health subject matter expert (SME)
• Veterinarians need to reach out to local (county) emergency managers and offer your assistance as an animal health SME
• Where local/regional veterinary medical associations exist, this may be a great community outreach program
• Involve agency with jurisdictional authority (animal control)
Opportunities

OK, OK, but I want to help those impacted by disasters

- Untrained and poorly equipped individuals and teams will likely do more harm to a disaster environment than they will help
- States request teams that are trained to perform specific tasks and that are self-sustaining for at least 72 hours
- If you and your team are officially recognized in your own state, you stand a much better chance of getting requested by another state
AVMA Initiative (potential)

Veterinary Responder Certificate Program

• Establish Core Competencies required for an entry level veterinary responder to a disease/disaster/emergency incident
• National Standard (voluntary)
• Allow CVMs/SVMs or other organizations to teach to the core competencies (programs verified by AVMA)
• AVMA maintains database of certificate holders
• USDA, Disaster Response Teams, State Officials can access certificate database to verify members
• Part of Core Competencies assures certificate holder understands how to integrate into state/national response events
• Create a career path for veterinary responders
Opportunities

How do I get on a team?

• State Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (VMRC)
• State Agricultural/Animal Response Team (SART)
• CVM Response Team
• National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT)
• National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC)
• Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
Opportunities

Do I need to be licensed to provide assistance in another state?
Veterinary License Portability
Available Avenues

- Federal Teams (NVRT, NAHERC, USDA, Military)
- Governor’s Emergency Powers/Emergency Management State Laws
  - Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
  - Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act (UEVHPA)
- State Veterinary Practice Acts/Licensing Boards
Opportunities

Do I get paid when deploying with a team?
Opportunities (current)

What paid positions are available in veterinary disaster medicine?

• State Department of Agriculture
• State Board of Animal Health
• Military
• Federal Government (usajobs.gov)
• NGOs
Additional Training/Skills
Additional Training/Skills
Learning to play in the sandbox

• FEMA – Emergency Management Institute (EMI)
  ➢ https://training.fema.gov/

• IS-100.x: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100

• IS-200.x: Incident Command System for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents

• IS-700.x: National Incident Management System, An Introduction

• IS-800.x: National Response Framework, An Introduction
Additional Training/Skills
Additional EMI Courses

• IS-10.x: Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness
• IS-11.x: Animals in Disasters: Community Planning
• IS-111.x: Livestock in Disasters
• IS-346.x: An Orientation to Hazardous Materials for Medical Personnel
• IS-368.x: Including People With Disabilities & Others With Access & Functional Needs in Disaster Operations
• S-394.x: Protecting Your Home or Small Business From Disaster
Additional Training/Skills

Other Sources

- National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP.org)
- AVMA Veterinary Business Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) course
- Regional groups like Southern Agriculture & Animal Disaster Response Alliance (SAADRA)
- SART/VMRC
- Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician (FADD) training (USDA)
Additional Training/Skills
National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC)

AmericanHumane.org
asPCA.org
code3associates.org
Client Education
Client Education

Your Clients Expect You To Be The Expert

• Offer Disaster Preparedness Classes
• Dedicate a section on your website to disaster preparedness
• List of animal emergency kit contents
• Offer to teach CERT animal modules
• Take donations for reputable animal disaster organizations during major disasters
  • Donation jars
  • Checkout donations
VETERINARY EMERGENCY/DISASTER BUSINESS CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

Is Your Business Worth Preparing for the Unthinkable?

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American Veterinary Medical Association

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Personal/Family Preparedness

• Be Informed

• Plan Ahead

• Take Action

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Make a Personal/Family Plan

Step 4: Practice your plan with your family/household
Get Involved

Community Emergency Response Team

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates individuals about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Find a CERT program near you
Register a CERT Program
“In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower
Which of the following most accurately describes you?

I/We have a written personal/family emergency plan and practice the plan regularly

I/We have a written personal/family emergency plan

I/We have discussed or thought about a personal/family emergency plan and have even practiced it but it is not written

I/We have discussed or thought about a personal/family emergency plan but it is not written

I know I should develop a personal/family emergency plan but just haven't done it yet

I/We agree with Eisenhower; plans are useless, thus I haven't bothered
WHY?
Businesses that Face a Major Natural Disaster

- **43.0%**: Never Re-Open
- **40.5%**: Remain Open
- **16.5%**: Closed within 2 yrs

Businesses that Face a Major Fire

- Fail within 1 yr: 30.0%
- Fail within 3 yrs: 40.0%
- Remain Open: 30.0%

Fema.gov
Backup of Data

- 34% Never Backup
- 50% Backup but Bad Data
- 16% Good Data Backup

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Businesses that Face Data Loss for 10 Days or Longer

- **Immediate Bankruptcy**: 50.0%
- **Bankruptcy within 1 yr**: 43.0%
- **Survived**: 7.0%

National Archives & Records Administration, Washington, DC

Forbes.com (Sep 4, 2014)
What?
SIX COMPONENTS OF A COOP

What’s Involved?

Program Management (Leadership, Administration, Records Management)
Planning (Risk Assessment, Business Impact Analysis, Resource Needs Assessment, Performance Objectives)
Implementation (Requirements, Prevention, Mitigation, Communication, Procedures, Continuity & Recovery)
Education & Training
Exercises/Tests/Evaluations
Program Maintenance/Improvement
Sources

Where did this information come from?

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) publishes over 300 consensus codes and standards that are produced by more than 250 Technical Committees utilizing 8,000 volunteer Subject Matter Experts (SMEs).

NFPA 1600 (2016) – Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity/ Continuity of Operations Programs was recognized by the 9/11 Commission as our National Preparedness Standard and has been adopted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as a voluntary consensus standard for emergency preparedness.

5. PLANNING

Veterinary Specific Planning Ideas

• Do you have access to the materials to safely move and transport all animals in your facility with short notice?
  ❖ Appropriate Vehicles
  ❖ Adequate Leashes
  ❖ Animal ID
  ❖ Animal Medical Record
  ❖ Animal Carriers
  ❖ Food/Water and Bowls
  ❖ Owner’s Emergency Contact Information
  ❖ Critical Medications/Supplies
  ❖ Blankets/Cat Litter/Litter Boxes
5. PLANNING
Veterinary Specific Planning Ideas

• Have you identified an alternate site for your facility?
  ❖ Sister Practice
  ❖ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with colleagues
    ➢ % of income for use of facility
    ➢ Potential role for local/state VMA
  ❖ Vacant warehouses
  ❖ County fairgrounds for large animal practices
  ❖ Refer all clients to another practice until back up and running
    ➢ Who?
    ➢ MOU
    ➢ Messaging (pre-scripted)
5. PLANNING
Veterinary Specific Planning Ideas

Two-Thirds of Reported Outages Occurred in the Eastern RFC and SERC Regions Between 2003-2012

Percentage of total weather-related power outages from 2003-2012, by NERC region.
How to Promote Preparedness In Your Business/Practice

- Dedicate a page on your website to disaster/emergency preparedness
- Place AVMA/FEMA or your own preparedness brochures in your clinic
- Become involved in a CART program
- Teach CART classes or preparedness classes for your clientele
- Gather donations for your local/state 501(c)3 animal response organization or AVMF disaster grants
  - Donation jar
  - Ask to donate $1 at checkout
- Offer animal emergency kits for sale (or lists to create their own)
- Develop a social media presence and advertise that during an emergency that is how you will likely communicate with your clientele
- Ask for permission to text clients with animals in the clinic in case of emergency (on intake forms)
AVMA RESOURCES

• Last revised in 2008
• 8 page brochure
• Still contains good information
• Good handout for staff

Available for download from
https://ebusiness.avma.org/ProductCatalog/product.aspx?ID=139
AVMA RESOURCES
Emergency Preparedness and Response Guide

• Last revised 2012
• 400+ pages
• Outdated VMAT information
• 15 Fact Sheets on various disaster types
• Animal Care & Handling Guidelines on various classes of animals
• Sample Forms
• Resource lists

Available for download from https://ebusiness.avma.org/ProductCatalog/product.aspx?ID=193
AVMA RESOURCES

Saving the Whole Family

• Last revised 2015
• 28 pages
• Great handout for clients
• All species
• Includes items such as:
  – Animal ID
  – Transportation
  – Medical Records
  – Evacuation kit lists
• Free to order (shipping costs only)

Available for download from
https://ebusiness.avma.org/ProductCatalog/product.aspx?ID=140
AVMA RESOURCES

Emergency Contact Cards

- Pet & Livestock
- Flyer
- Wallet Card

Available for download from https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/disaster/Pages/Emergency-contact-cards.aspx

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AVMF RESOURCES

American Veterinary Medical Foundation

The American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) is the charitable arm of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

Disaster Relief

The AVMF provides two grant programs to help veterinarians and the animals they care for during times of disaster. Grants up to $5,000 support victims of hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, wildfires or oil spills. Thank you to our generous donors for making this emergency support possible.

Disaster Relief Grant APPLICATIONS are due no later than 9 months following a disaster. Limited funds are currently available and are approved on a first come, first served basis.  

https://www.avmf.org/programs/disaster-relief/
Disaster Reimbursement Grants for Veterinary Medical Care

Purpose:
The American Veterinary Medical Foundation Disaster Reimbursement Grants are for the purpose of ensuring the emergency veterinary medical care of animal victims of disaster.

Awards:
Up to $5,000 may be issued per grantee for out-of-pocket expenses incurred by veterinarians providing emergency veterinary medical care to animal victims of disasters. A disaster would include, but is not limited to, flooding, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires or oil spills in an area that has been declared a disaster at the local, county, state or federal level.

https://www.avmf.org/programs/disaster-relief/
Disaster Relief Grants for Veterinarians

Purpose:
The American Veterinary Medical Foundation Disaster Relief Grants are for the purpose of assisting veterinarians who have lost their home, car or essential personal items due to a disaster. The grants cover items such as clothing, temporary housing, transportation and meals.

Awards:
Up to $2,000 may be issued per grantee for out-of-pocket expenses incurred following the disaster. A disaster would include, but is not limited to, flooding, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires or oil spills in an area that has been declared a disaster area at the local, county, state of federal level.

https://www.avmf.org/programs/disaster-relief/
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