

Annex 17 to Florence County EOP
ESF 17
Animal Disaster Relief

PRIMARY: Florence County Environmental Services

SECONDARY: Clemson Extension Service, Florence County Office
S.C. DHEC

I. Introduction

The purpose of this annex is to establish procedures for assisting, protecting and sheltering household pets (cats and dogs) within Florence County in the event of an emergency or disaster.

II. Planning Assumptions

- a. An owner is responsible for the care, sheltering, feeding and transportation of their pet.
- b. During the short-term absence of an owner, pets will remain at home supplied with adequate food and water.
- c. During a large scale emergency a pet owner may become incapacitated, unable to fulfill their responsibility to care for their pet or forced to seek shelter in a Mass Care facility.
- d. Mass Care facilities opened within the county during an evacuation or other large scale emergencies do not permit animals, other than those used for special needs assistance (service animals).
- e. Because unattended pets may pose a risk to themselves and to the general public, Florence County, during such large scale emergencies, will implement this plan for animal disaster relief.
- f. Florence County has limited assets to care for animals during a disaster, therefore the assistance of local veterinarians, state agencies, federal agencies and volunteer organizations will be heavily relied upon. (See Appendix A, Pet Boarding)
- g. Because of the wide variety of domestic and exotic animals that are maintained as pets, resources do not exist at the county level to provide adequate shelter for each species. See Appendix A for a list of local boarding facilities which take exotic animals.

III. Concept of Operations

Due to personnel shortages, it is unlikely that any representative for the primary agency (Environmental Services) or from the support agencies will remain at the EOC throughout activation. Rather coordination will be conducted via radio, phone, WebEOC and during face-to-face meetings at the EOC or in the field.

Pet owners needing shelter for their animals will be directed to designated veterinary hospitals, kennels, boarding facilities, other private animal care shelters, area pet friendly hotels or to the county emergency animal shelter. As a last resort and only after all other pet sheltering options have been exhausted, Florence County will open an Animal Disaster Relief Shelter.

The animal exhibit building at the Florence County Fair Grounds will serve as the primary Animal Disaster Relief Shelter.

Issues concerning livestock, horses or other farm animals will be referred to the appropriate point of contact listed in Appendix C.

Issues concerning pandemic outbreak or any animal health issues which affect human health or requires law enforcement support fall under DHEC ESF-8 (Health and Medical) control.

IV. Specific Responsibilities

As the lead agency Florence County Environmental Services will accomplish or task to the appropriate support agencies, the following task.

1. Prepare resource list that identifies the agencies and organizations that are responsible for providing supplies (medical, food and other necessary items) needed to treat and care for injured and sick animals during catastrophic emergencies.
2. Assess the situation and make a decision on the number and location of shelters that will be used to house animals. Typical pet facilities include the jurisdiction's animal shelter(s), veterinary hospitals, boarding kennel, pet stores and fairgrounds.
3. Coordinate with veterinary and animal organizations to arrange for their support and services to help meet the needs of owners of companion animals.
4. Coordinate and/or manage public and private sector efforts to meet the animal service needs that arise including:
 - Rescue and capture of animals that have escaped confinement as well as displaced wildlife.
 - Evacuation
 - Sheltering
 - Care of injured, sick and stray animals
5. As appropriate, dispatch search and rescue teams to look for animals left behind by their owners, stray animals and others needing transport to a safe location.
6. Open shelters, register pets and provide food, water and medical care as necessary for the animals in the shelter.

7. Coordinate the rescue of injured and/or endangered wildlife and farm animals with the Fish and Game Department, State/National Wildlife officials/organizations, Department of Agriculture, county cooperative extension offices, veterinarians, etc.
8. Coordinate with DHEC prior to disposing of dead domestic animals and contaminated carcasses.
9. Pets will not be allowed in shelter(s) without health records.
10. To reunite animals with their owners, shelters will advertise through local agencies, newspapers, radio and internet. Animals will be held at the shelters for up to 30 days. After 30 days the Environmental Services Office will determine if animals will be held longer or euthanized.

V. State Interface

The counterpart for this annex at the state level is ESF-17 (Animal/Agriculture Emergency Response). There is no corresponding ESF at the federal level. The state lead state agency for ESF-17 is the Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health (CULPH) department.

Direct coordination with the state ESF by members of the local ESF is encouraged.

VI. Update and Maintenance

This annex will be updated in accordance with paragraph XI (Plan Development and Maintenance) of the Basic Plan.

Appendix A – Pet Boarding Facilities

Appendix B – Pet Friendly Hotels

Appendix C – Points of Contact

**APPENDIX A (Pet Boarding Facilities) to
Florence County EOP**

These facilities board animals in addition to normal clients. Number and types of animals accepted are listed.

PET BOARDING				
KENNEL	ADDRESS	PHONE	ANIMALS	CAPACITY
Glenview Farm Kennel	1540 Center Road Timmons ville	346-9001	Dogs & Cats	80
Fraley Farms	643 S. Morris Street Lake City, SC	374-3934	Dogs, Cats & Horses	30 Dogs 30 Cats

VET	ADDRESS	PHONE	ANIMALS	CAPACITY
Westside Vet Clinic	2230 W. Jody Road	673-9233	Cats/Dogs	50
Pee Dee Animal Hospital	815 W. Second Loop Rd.	662-9223	Cats/Dogs only	40
Palmetto Animal Hospital	2221 Second Loop Rd.	667-6720	Cats/Dogs only	40
Companion Vet Care	2020 S. Irby St.	676-0077	Cats/Dogs only	40

**APPENDIX B (Pet Friendly Hotels) to
Florence County EOP**

PET FRIENDLY HOTELS			
Hotel	Phone	Location	Charge/Per Night
Best Western	843-678-9292	1808 W. Lucas St., Florence	\$15
Comfort Inn	843-665-4558	I95 & US52, Florence	\$10
Days Inn	843-665-8550	Hwy 76 & I95, Florence	\$10
Days Inn of Florence	843-665-4444	2111 W. Lucas St., Florence	\$10
Econo Lodge	843-665-8558	I95 & US52, Florence	\$10
Holiday Inn Express	843-664-0346	150 Dunbarton Drive, Florence	No charge
Microtel	843-629-9522	1912 Enterprise Dr., Florence	\$20
Motel 6	843-667-6100	1834 W. Lucas St., Florence	No charge
Ramada Inn (Young's)	843-669-4171	3311 Meadors Rd., Florence	\$10
Rodeway Inn	843-669-1715	3024 TV Rd., Florence	\$5
Super 8 Motel	843-661-7267	1832-1/2 W. Lucas St., Florence	\$10
Travel Lodge	843-673-0070	3783 W. Palmetto St., Florence	\$5
Tree Top Inn	843-662-7712	Hwy 76 & I95, Florence	\$10

APPENDIX C (Points of Contact) to
Florence County EOP

This appendix contains information which is personal in nature (cell phone numbers, etc.) and therefore it is maintained in the Florence County Smart Book.

Copies of the Smart Book are located in the EOC and each member of the EMD staff has a copy.

The Smart Book is updated by the EMD Administrative Assistant.