



# CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE CALIFORNIA ANIMAL RESPONSE EMERGENCY SUPPORT (CARES) CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### PREFACE

The CARES Concept of Operations (CONOPS) is defined as a dynamic document, which may be continually edited and updated by either a limited or unrestricted group in the Animal Health Branch (AHB) – California Animal Response Emergency Support (CARES) Unit to accurately reflect the most current CARES activities, responsibilities and updates.

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

California has experienced many large-scale emergencies and disasters in the past decade that have raised the awareness of the needs of animals in disasters. Planning for the evacuation, and care and sheltering of animals is essential to mitigating excessive and unnecessary suffering and loss of animals, which contributes to the trauma of disaster victims.

Fires are the most frequent source of local and state proclamations and federal declarations. Per CAL FIRE, by the end of 2020, nearly 10,000 fires had burned over 4.2 million acres, more than 4% of the state's roughly 100 million acres of land, destroyed 9,248 structures, 28 civilians and three firefighters perished making 2020 the largest wildfire season and most devastating in California's modern history. The August Complex was the first California "Gigafire" that burned over 1 million acres and crossed seven counties<sup>1</sup>. However, California is susceptible to varying impacts from natural and human-caused disasters including floods, earthquakes, extreme and severe weather, etc. The [State Hazard Mitigation Plan Volume 1](#) addresses California's hazards. The importance of planning and preparedness for multi-hazards has become more evident as emergency management has seen an incremental increase in the complexity, frequency and duration of emergencies and disasters making it more difficult to respond to and recover from these events.

<sup>1</sup> [CAL FIRE 2020 Fire Siege Report](#)

State and local government, and tribal nations are primarily responsible for securing the welfare of animals under local jurisdiction authority and implementing measures to minimize the adverse consequences of a disaster. These and public safety agencies may take emergency actions, consistent with the law, and in accordance with their organization's policies to protect the public, mitigate immediate hazards, and collect information concerning the emergency. These actions may be taken prior to any formal State proclamation or Federal declaration. Private sector is also encouraged to take actions to reduce risk and/or mitigate consequences.

The traditional approach to disasters is to rely heavily on the government. Government is generally effective at managing small and medium size incidents but continues to experience gaps in service when incidents escalate. In large-scale or catastrophic disasters, government resources and capabilities can become quickly overwhelmed. Using a whole community approach as depicted in [Figure 1](#) and integrated preparedness planning leverages the knowledge and experiences of all individuals in a community - including animal owners in the community, when protecting against, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies - by organizing and strengthening their assets, capacities and capabilities. This makes a community more resilient. In every community, animal owners have ultimate responsibility for their household pets and livestock, so it's important to empower them by providing the tools and documents they need to prepare and ensure the welfare of their animals. It is critical to instill a culture of preparedness before emergencies or disasters. Preparedness makes a community more resilient.

**FIGURE 1. WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH**



Emergency events and response to them typically begin at the local level. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has often stated that, “All disasters are local”.<sup>2</sup> Animal owners need to take steps to prepare ahead of an emergency or disaster. Local government needs to take steps to address

<sup>2</sup>[FEMA Deputy Administrator Richard Serino's keynote speech](#)



underlying vulnerabilities in a community to be more resilient. State government will respond respective to each agency's own authorities, resources, and capabilities in accordance with the California State Emergency Plan (SEP) including mutual aid systems. Non-governmental organizations, also known as volunteer organizations, and private non-profits, play an integral role in emergency response involving animals, which not only includes dogs, cats, and other pets, but bovine, equine, avian, and other livestock species in this agriculturally rich state. Volunteer organizations not only have special skills and capabilities, but they are familiar with their community because they are a part of it, thereby having a vested interest. Regardless of the level of government or type of organization, because of the interdependency between household pets and humans, it is a shared responsibility to protect animals in emergencies and disasters. This responsibility entails knowing how many animals you may need to plan and care for during an emergency or disaster. The [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) (AVMA) collected data from a 2021 survey of 2020 data of pet-owning households showing that in California, 57.2% of households own at least one (1) pet. Moreover, the last enumeration conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau was on April 1, 2020 and provided additional data on pet ownership. Based on the 2020 census, CARES prepared an estimate of dog and cat population by county as depicted in [Appendix A](#).

FEMA acknowledges that using a prescribed planning process cannot guarantee success. FEMA also notes that inadequate plans and insufficient planning are proven contributors to failure. Therefore, failure to prepare for a natural disaster can affect the ability to respond effectively when the disaster occurs. Planning is key!



Planning is critical for creating a functional emergency management system and should take place before a disaster. Planning should include the commitment to make resources available for the care of animals by assigning roles and responsibilities of responders and by delegating authority as well as the value of pre-identifying temporary emergency animal shelters colocated with human shelters during disasters. This allows the animal owner to provide limited care to their pets and helps with mental wellness.

Planning efforts can also help to identify appropriate policies for management of animals, including but not limited to the following.



- Under what conditions shelters will become available;
- Where animals will be housed;
- Who carries which liabilities;
- Staffing levels and training of appropriate animal care personnel such as animal control officers, veterinarians, veterinary technicians/assistants, and volunteers;
- What responsibilities managers have; and
- Waivers that owners may be required to sign.

Moreover, owners caring for their pets should be limited to general care of their own pets. Shelters should establish procedures such as a requirement for a family member to remain in the shelter as long as the animal is housed there or for the owner to agree to a release of ownership of the animal in case they leave the shelter without the animal and do not return. Likewise, the [Livestock Agricultural Pass Program](#) is essential for counties to adopt so qualifying livestock producers can take care of their own animals when safe to do so. In emergencies and disasters, there are usually a number of displaced or unclaimed animals in temporary emergency animal shelters, municipal shelters, fairgrounds or in foster homes waiting to be claimed.

## 2.0 PURPOSE AND FRAMEWORK

The CARES CONOPS is developed to address the mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery actions before, during and after an incident required by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for natural and human-caused disasters involving animals and in accordance with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) [2024 California State Emergency Plan](#) (SEP) and [California Emergency Services Act](#). Protection of life and property is an inherent responsibility of local, state, and federal government and tribal nations with the valuable assistance of volunteer organizations and animal owners. CDFA has a responsibility under its authority to ensure the welfare of animals in disasters by supporting State and local government statewide with the assistance of volunteer organizations, and empowering animal owners with preparedness tools.

The CONOPS includes a description of the CARES goals and objectives, resource capabilities, and roles and responsibilities in all four phases of emergency management.



- **Mitigation and Preparedness Phases:** The CARES Unit will assist local government emergency management with planning and preparing for animals in disasters as well as collaborating with supporting state and county partner agencies that have a role in animals in disasters.
- **Response and Recovery Phases:** The CARES, as one of the core functions of the California Emergency Support Function (CA-ESF) 11, will primarily assist and support the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator in carrying out its duties and responsibilities in natural and human-caused disasters as well as support local government emergency management.

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## 2.1 CDFA CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (CA-ESF) 11

Per the Cal OES, the [California Emergency Support Functions](#) (CA-ESFs) are comprised of 18 primary disciplines or activities that function to support local government emergency management throughout the four (4) phases of emergency management – mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Each state CA-ESF is led by a state agency or department based on its authorities, resources, and capabilities. The SEP states a state agency/department may be assigned to CA-ESFs as either coordinating, primary, or supporting:

- **Coordinating:** The entity manages other organizations that carry out tasks for that CA-ESF. The coordinating entity is also responsible for ongoing planning and preparedness activities of the CA-ESF.
- **Primary:** The entity itself is the lead department that carries out tasks for the CA-ESF. The primary entity will also support planning and preparedness activities of the CA-ESF.
- **Supporting:** The entity assists coordinators and primaries by providing mutual aid and allocating essential supplies and resources.

Based upon authorities and responsibilities, the SEP designates the CDFA as the CA-ESF 11 Food and Agriculture a coordinating entity responsible for specific tasks or functions that may be carried out before, during and after an emergency such as sharing best practices and enhancing emergency management by strengthening collaboration and coordination among the stakeholders. The CA-ESF 11 Coordinator is responsible for the management of a disaster involving animals based on its authorities, resources, and capabilities as outlined in the SEP and [CA-ESF 11 Annex](#). The Annex outlines the roles and responsibilities of coordinating, primary and supporting state agency stakeholders and their relationships with other state, local, tribal nations, and federal government

agencies, the private sector, and national organizations with supporting or related missions aligned to meet the needs of animals in disasters.

When activated to address animal issues during a disaster, CA-ESF 11 is supported by other ESF's as depicted in [Figure 2](#). For example, CA-ESF 6 coordinates animal and owner sheltering during evacuations, CA-ESF 11 coordinates with CA-ESF 8 for disaster veterinary volunteers, and CA-ESF 17 for additional volunteers and donation of supplies/equipment. These activities may be done in coordination with CARES when tasked by the State.

**FIGURE 2. CA-ESF 11 COORDINATING AND SUPPORTING STATE AGENCIES**

|             |   |          |
|-------------|---|----------|
| <b>CDFA</b> | CA-ESF 1 Transportation                     |          |
|             | CA-ESF 2 Communications                     |          |
|             | CA-ESF 3 Construction & Engineering         |          |
|             | CA-ESF 4 Fire & Rescue                      |          |
|             | CA-ESF 5 Management                         | S        |
|             | CA-ESF 6 Mass Care & Shelter                | S        |
|             | CA-ESF 7 Resources                          | S        |
|             | CA-ESF 8 Public Health & Medical            | S        |
|             | CA-ESF 9 Search & Rescue                    |          |
|             | CA-ESF 10 Hazardous Materials               |          |
|             | <b>CA-ESF 11 Food &amp; Agriculture</b>     | <b>C</b> |
|             | CA-ESF 12 Utilities                         |          |
|             | CA-ESF 13 Law Enforcement                   |          |
|             | CA-ESF 14 Recovery                          | S        |
|             | CA-ESF 15 Public Information                | S        |
|             | CA-ESF 16 Evacuation                        |          |
|             | CA-ESF 17 Volunteers & Donations Management | S        |
|             | CA-ESF 18 Cybersecurity                     |          |

### 3.0 ASSUMPTIONS

- The CDFA actions identified in the CONOPS will assist State and local government.
- Natural and human-caused disasters will occur and will very likely involve animals.

- Disasters will result in injuries, fatalities, interruption of essential services, and displacement of people and animals. The safety and well-being of animals will directly impact public health and safety.
- Failure to support evacuation (transportation), sheltering, rescue, and care for animals may lead to owners refusing to evacuate, attempting to reenter hazardous areas, and may have significant negative effects on their mental and physical well-being as well as endangering first responders.
- Many pet owners rely on government resources to rescue them and their pets in a disaster.
- Local government emergency management and public transit operators have met the intent of [PUC 99166](#) and have developed or revised emergency response plans, procedures and/or protocols jointly for their respective areas based on the [Best Practices for Allowing Pets on Public Transit](#).
- The responsibility for temporary emergency animal sheltering falls to local governments who may opt to contract with a local nonprofit animal welfare organization like the Humane Society, or a local American Red Cross (ARC) chapter who with the assistance of county animal control will operate a colocated shelter, or task a volunteer organization like a [California Community Animal Response Team \(CART\)](#).
- Most pet owners do not make [pet disaster evacuation plans](#) and have not [stockpiled equipment and supplies](#) to care for their pets.
- Livestock owners require advance warning to provide ample time to evacuate early, when possible because it is an onerous process that requires time to gather assistance, load and transport livestock.
- For many livestock owners, animal confinement or sheltering in place may be the best option because not all disasters provide enough time to evacuate the livestock.
- Livestock owners need to pre-identify adequate relocation sites/alternative facilities and be aware of [resources available to livestock owners](#).
- Livestock producers may choose not to evacuate in order to protect their property and livelihoods, or if they evacuate, they may not wait until the evacuation order is lifted and risk reentry; both choices are a safety risk.
- Counties with an adopted Livestock Agricultural Pass Program, when safe to do so, will allow livestock producers registered in the county program to take care of their own animals.
- Many owners will be separated from their animals because of the disaster and animals will arrive at the shelter without any documentation or medical history.



- Local government will support the care of pets in a colocated shelter when the owner is unable to do so.
- The CARES Unit may initiate specific actions without being tasked by Cal OES for situational awareness and to prepare to respond to a disaster if the situation escalates, which may lead to a Cal OES mission resource tasking (MRT)<sup>3</sup>.
- When natural and human-caused disasters escalate to a State-level emergency response, the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator will provide support. The supporting CA-ESFs and CARES under their authority will assist the CA-ESF 11. This help will ensure animal welfare.
- Coordination among state, local, tribal nations, and federal agencies, together with volunteer organizations and the private sector, will be required to address the scope of animal-related issues in a disaster.
- Local government emergency management and animal control may have efficient animal programs and emergency operations plans (EOPs) and/or animal annexes to address animal issues in all four phases of emergency management. Those programs and plans may vary from county to county and operationally but should be consistent with the [Standardized Emergency Management System](#) (SEMS) and [National Incident Management System](#) (NIMS).
- The CARES CONOPS does not restrict or supersede local government operations that are consistent with SEMS and NIMS.

## 4.0 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

CARES is a Unit of the CDFA AHB as depicted in [Figure 3. AHB Organizational Chart](#), and primarily assists and supports the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator in carrying out the duties of the position. In a "significant" disaster or catastrophic event, Cal OES may MRT State agencies to activate and coordinate resources in response to operational area requests for resources that could not be located through other channels.

When activated, CARES will mission coordinate to meet the needs of county emergency management i.e., operational area<sup>4</sup> (OA) emergency operations

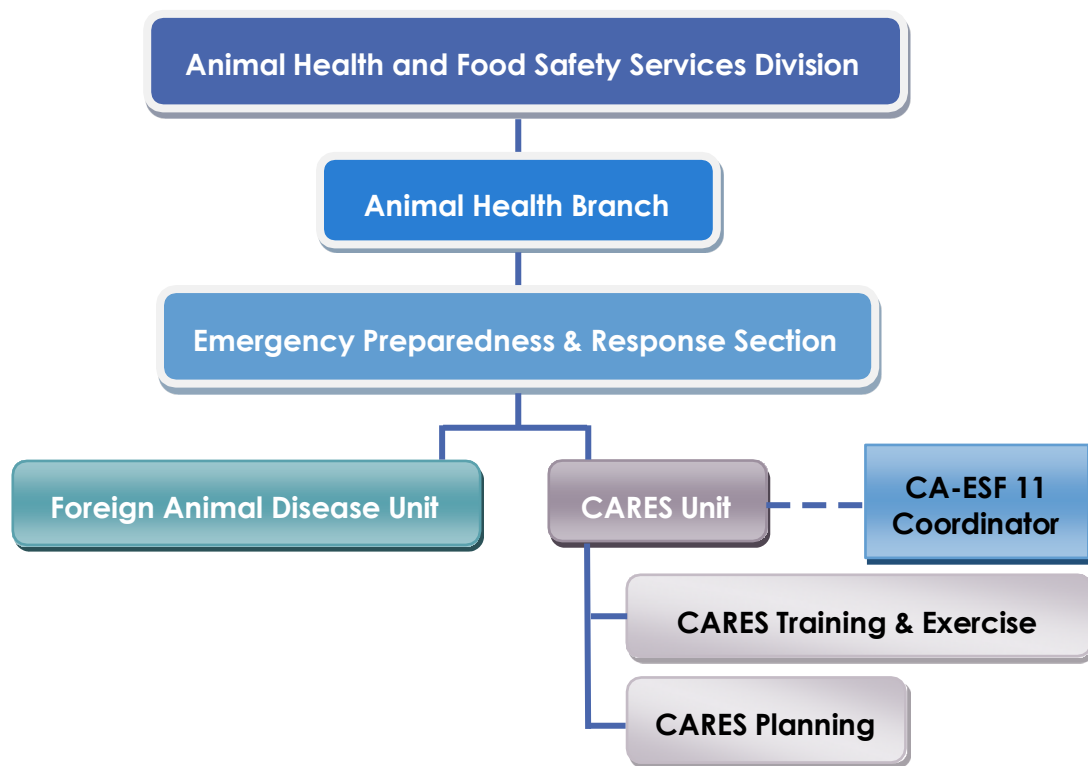
<sup>3</sup> The State (State Operations Center [SOC]) may generate a mission resource tasking (MRT) when requiring a State Agency to perform a service outside their normal statutory responsibility but under their regulatory authority.

<sup>4</sup> Emergency Services Act defines the OA as an intermediate level of the state emergency services organization consisting of a county and all political subdivisions within the county area.



center (EOC) in collaboration with volunteer organizations statewide, other State agencies, unaffected local government resources, and as a last resort, [Emergency Management Assistance Compact](#) (out-of-state resources). In temporary emergency animal sheltering operations<sup>5</sup> for example, the CARES Unit may coordinate the resources necessary to carry out sheltering activities by leveraging volunteers or allocating animal control officers (ACO) from an unaffected neighboring county, or region to perform sheltering activities. ACOs are primarily requested through the [Emergency Management Mutual Aid](#) (EMMA) system but CARES may be tasked to assist in allocating ACOs. If this happens, CARES may allocate the resource or coordinate with the [California Animal Welfare Association](#) (Cal Animals). CARES assists and supports an incident within the capacity and capability of CDFA as outlined in [Appendix B](#).

FIGURE 3. CDFA ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



<sup>5</sup> CDFA has regulatory oversight of the daily operations of animal shelters in fixed facilities; not in an emergency or disaster. [Food and Agricultural Code, Division 14.8 Animals \[3200-32102\]; Part 1. Animal Facilities and Shelters \[32000-32003\]](#)

## 5.0 ACTIVATION OF THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

The use of operations centers is a standard practice in emergency management. Activation of the California State Operations Center (SOC) may warrant activation of the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator based on the scale and type of incident. This may also trigger activation of the CARES department operations center (DOC). The level of the CARES DOC staffing will vary depending on the nature and complexity of the incident, which is also the decisive factor in determining the level of activation.

- **Steady State:** CA-ESF 11 as the designated duty officer will maintain situational awareness and monitor the emerging incident in coordination with the CARES Unit program manager.
- **Level 3: Lowest level activation** for a small to moderate scale disaster or a pre-planned event with minimal staffing.
- **Level 2: Mid-level activation** for a large scale disaster requiring greater staffing to fill most position functions.
- **Level 1: Highest level activation** for a catastrophic disaster requiring State level assistance; complete and full activation of all organizational elements with full staffing is required.

When activated, the CARES DOC's primary functions include:

- Collecting, analyzing, deconflicting, and sharing information.
- Supporting resource needs and requests through mission coordination when tasked by Cal OES and allocating potential resources to the OA EOC for adjudication.
- Coordinating plans and determining current and future needs
- Making decisions jointly with State, Federal, and county emergency management, tribal nations, and partner agencies for the protection of animal owners and their animals.

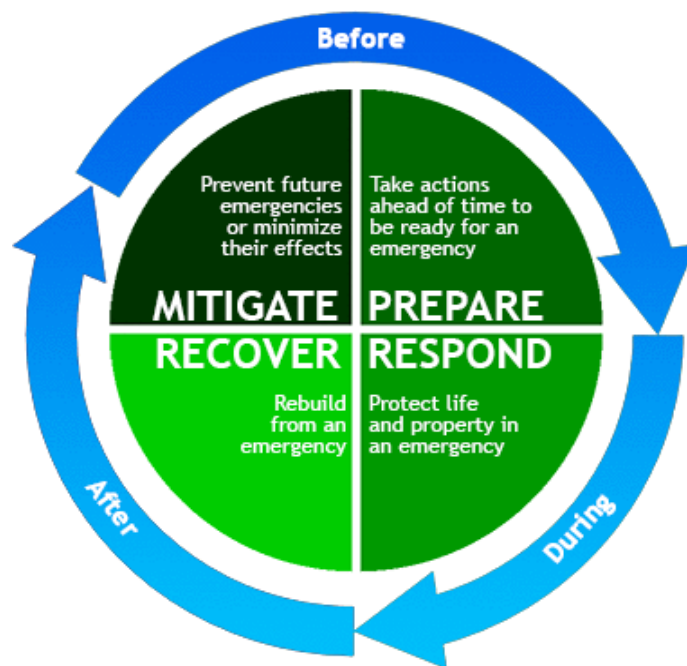
The AHB staff may also be required to deploy to support a disaster at the SOC, an OA EOC, or animal department operations center (ADOC) when Cal OES generates a MRT. In a significant event, developing a common operating picture (COP) is essential to achieve real-time situational awareness. To help develop a State COP, CARES may deploy CDFA AHB district staff for field assessments and/or gather intelligence.

## 6.0 CARES' ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The implementation and operation of the CARES CONOPS will require close collaboration and coordination with the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator, SOC, and local government emergency managers including animal control, tribal nations, and volunteer organizations. Specific essential functions will be outlined in the CARES standard operating procedures (SOP) and guidance documents.

The CARES CONOPS has three sections *Before*, *During* and *After*, which includes the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery as shown in [Figure 4](#).

FIGURE 4. FOUR PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



### 6.1 BEFORE (MITIGATION & PREPAREDNESS PHASES)

Mitigation begins with individual awareness and actions that prevent or reduce risk to animal owners and their animals to better adapt. Followed by preparedness, which involves making plans for securing the welfare of the animals.



Preparedness is planning ahead for disasters to improve response operations. A comprehensive preparedness program includes developing plans and procedures, maintaining mitigation programs, managing and maintaining resources, encouraging mutual aid agreements, training personnel, and educating animal owners.

During this phase, CARES will:

- Seek to participate in public awareness and education programs to promote whole community preparedness.
- Strategize with key state agencies to recruit and train volunteers to supplement and support emergency functions.
- Create an [Animals in Disaster Work Group](#) (AIDWG) co-led by CDFA and Cal OES to identify gaps, develop new or enhanced tools/resources (policies, guidance, and other resources such as personnel/equipment) and meet with animal-related work group stakeholders on a quarterly basis or as needed. The AIDWG was created in April 2022. The AIDWG also convenes during emergencies and disasters to collaborate and coordinate and deconflict operations.
- Support the creation of the UC Davis [CVET program](#) per the Cal OES/CDFA/UCD memorandum of understanding (MOU) to assist in the evacuation, sheltering and veterinary care of domestic pets and livestock during natural and human-caused disasters. The MOU was signed on December 2022. In compliance with the Cal OES/UCD/CDFA MOU the following will be done:
  - Identify basic training for volunteer organizations that correlates with animal-related positions for mutual aid, SEMS and EMAC resource requests; training will be vetted by the AIDWG.
  - CARES will develop animal-related resource position descriptions that align with FEMA resource typing for resources that are commonly exchanged in disasters via mutual aid, a SEMS, EMMA or EMAC resource request. This descriptive document is intended to make it easier to order and mobilize resources during a disaster especially when the need is critical for saving lives, including animals, and property.
  - Develop templates for a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Letter of Agreement (LOA) used to establish agreements between volunteer organizations and local government emergency

management for tasking of volunteers during disaster involving animals and the AIDWG will promote their use.

- Explore the creation of a California state employee volunteer statewide program that operates in coordination with the county operational areas (OAs) when a SEMS resource request is made to accomplish animal-related activities in response to an emergency or disaster.
- CDFA and UCD will seek financial reimbursement in a federal declaration through Cal OES as the eligible applicant.
- Promote the development of pre/post event agreements between local government emergency management and volunteer organizations to expedite the ability to use these organizations. This helps to eliminate self-deployment and allows for county emergency management and animal services/volunteer organizations to plan, train, exercise and respond together.
- Train and exercise CDFA staff to build a future CARES Incident Management Team (IMT) knowledgeable in SEMS, NIMS, and EOC specific positions to enhance state of readiness and capabilities.
- Conduct ongoing outreach with local government and tribal nations statewide to determine their level of planning and preparedness, gaps, response capacity, capabilities, and resource needs and availability. CARES will help based on prioritization of risk and resource availability, if required.
- Promote a whole community approach through integrated preparedness planning for animals in disasters by developing tools such as publications, forms, and guidance documents for emergency planners and animal owners.
- Create guidance documents, as needed, on new or amended animal-related legislation for external stakeholders including local government emergency management and animal owners.
- Design a functional website to engage stakeholders, including animal owners, in preparedness activities. The website will serve as a referral hub for useful planning/preparedness and response tools/resources as well as legislation, animal annexes, training, and volunteer opportunities.

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## 6.2 DURING (RESPONSE PHASE)



Response is putting your preparedness plans into action in response operations especially actions taken to save lives including animals and property.

During this phase, CARES' goal is to protect life and meet the basic needs of animals and their owners when local government resources are reasonably exhausted, and assistance and support is requested from the State.

CARES will:

- Assist and support the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the position as needed when the disaster impacts animals (household pets and livestock).
  - The CA-ESF 11 coordinates activities and supports the responsible jurisdiction when a disaster impacts the agriculture and food industry including food contamination, plant and animal agriculture, and animals.
  - The CA-ESF 11 coordinates with the United States of Agriculture (USDA) Federal ESF 11 Agriculture and Natural Resources.
  - The Federal ESF 11 provides technical expertise and coordinates resources to support animal management issues that arise during disasters and other emergencies under a Presidential Declaration. These issues can include household pets; service and assistance animals; livestock and other agricultural animals; wildlife; and others such as exotics, zoo animals, animals used in research, and animals housed in congregate settings (ex: shelters, rescue organizations, breeding facilities, sanctuaries).
- Activate the CARES DOC based on the scale of the incident for situational awareness, intelligence gathering, situation reporting, mission coordination and to facilitate response operations that protect and meet the basic needs of animals and their owners once an incident escalates to a State-level disaster.
- Deploy staff to support operations centers in select positions, and/or field operations to verify information, check for unmet needs, conduct windshield assessments.
  - Deployments other than to the CARES DOC are based on need and only when requested through a Cal OES MRT and within the limitations and capabilities of the CARES Unit.
- Support local government emergency management resource needs and requests through mission coordination when tasked by Cal OES. ,

- Convene the AIDWG during natural and human-caused disasters for situational awareness and deconflicting information/resources.
- Communicate by preparing and/or contributing to the CA-ESF 15 Public Information press releases and prepare social media crisis communication notifications related to animals in disasters.
- Participate in the State's strategic planning to maintain situational awareness and a common operating picture.
- Coordinate with Cal OES for volunteer and in-kind donations via the [California Donations Portal](#) to support animals in disasters.

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### 6.3 AFTER (RECOVERY PHASE)

Recovery takes place after an emergency or disaster and is usually a gradual process aimed at rebuilding and getting back to normal. The CARES Unit, as needed, will support State recovery operations to assess short and long-term solutions and resources through the whole community approach. The CARES Unit will provide recovery assistance and programs available to animal owners and the agricultural community.

Local governments, special districts, certain nonprofit organizations, individuals, businesses and agricultural communities impacted by disasters have ultimate responsibility for their own recovery program. They will work directly with Cal OES and FEMA throughout the recovery process <sup>6</sup> by developing, submitting, and receiving their own emergency aid, loans or grants from the funding opportunities available.

During this phase, CARES may:

- Assist the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator with short-term recovery activities including coordinating resources for the reunification of animals with their owners, maintaining care and shelter of animals during the transition period through the UC Davis C-VET program and other similar resources.
- Refer disaster recovery and financial reimbursement inquiries to either the affected OA, Cal OES Recovery Section, or FEMA.
- Support, as needed, the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator who may serve on a local government long-term recovery task force to provide guidance and assistance.

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<sup>6</sup> [Cal OES Recovery Directorate](#) and [Funding for Emergency Assistance](#)



- Provide United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) financial assistance and funding opportunities to Local Assistance Center(s) for distribution to animal owners as well as on social media platforms and through the development of a dedicated CDFA recovery resources webpage.
- Participate in the Hot Wash post-event, as well as the mandated After-Action and Corrective Action Reporting<sup>7</sup> (AAR) process with Cal OES within 180 days after each declared disaster.

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<sup>7</sup> [California Code of Regulations, Section 2900 \(a\)](#) and [Section 2450 \(a\) SEMS Regulations](#)



**APPENDIX A: ESTIMATED DOG AND CAT POPULATION BY COUNTY**

| State/County        | Population Estimated April 2020 | Population per Household 2.9355 |            | Households with Dogs | Households with Cats | Estimated No. Dogs | Estimated No. Cats |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                     |                                 | Population Estimated April 2020 | Households |                      |                      |                    |                    |
| California          | 39,418,894                      | 39,368,078                      | 13,411,000 | 5,096,180            | 4,559,740            | 8,046,600          | 9,387,700          |
| Alameda County      | 1,665,644                       | 1,662,323                       | 566,283    | 215,187              | 192,536              | 339,770            | 396,398            |
| Alpine County       | 1,110                           | 1,119                           | 381        | 145                  | 130                  | 229                | 267                |
| Amador County       | 40,045                          | 40,083                          | 13,655     | 5,189                | 4,643                | 8,193              | 9,558              |
| Butte County        | 214,384                         | 212,744                         | 72,473     | 27,540               | 24,641               | 43,484             | 50,731             |
| Calaveras County    | 46,296                          | 46,308                          | 15,775     | 5,995                | 5,364                | 9,465              | 11,043             |
| Colusa County       | 21,548                          | 21,558                          | 7,344      | 2,791                | 2,497                | 4,406              | 5,141              |
| Contra Costa County | 1,153,445                       | 1,152,333                       | 392,551    | 149,169              | 133,467              | 235,531            | 274,786            |
| Del Norte County    | 27,973                          | 27,968                          | 9,528      | 3,620                | 3,239                | 5,717              | 6,669              |
| El Dorado County    | 193,078                         | 192,925                         | 65,721     | 24,974               | 22,345               | 39,433             | 46,005             |
| Fresno County       | 1,000,999                       | 1,000,918                       | 340,970    | 129,569              | 115,930              | 204,582            | 238,679            |
| Glenn County        | 28,342                          | 28,283                          | 9,635      | 3,661                | 3,276                | 5,781              | 6,744              |
| Humboldt County     | 135,268                         | 134,977                         | 45,981     | 17,473               | 15,634               | 27,589             | 32,187             |
| Imperial County     | 180,476                         | 180,267                         | 61,409     | 23,336               | 20,879               | 36,846             | 42,987             |
| Inyo County         | 18,062                          | 18,046                          | 6,148      | 2,336                | 2,090                | 3,689              | 4,303              |
| Kern County         | 901,373                         | 901,362                         | 307,056    | 116,681              | 104,399              | 184,233            | 214,939            |
| Kings County        | 152,804                         | 152,692                         | 52,016     | 19,766               | 17,685               | 31,209             | 36,411             |
| Lake County         | 64,521                          | 64,479                          | 21,965     | 8,347                | 7,468                | 13,179             | 15,376             |
| Lassen County       | 30,193                          | 30,016                          | 10,225     | 3,886                | 3,477                | 6,135              | 7,158              |
| Los Angeles County  | 9,968,969                       | 9,943,046                       | 3,387,173  | 1,287,126            | 1,151,639            | 2,032,304          | 2,371,021          |
| Madera County       | 157,606                         | 157,761                         | 53,742     | 20,422               | 18,272               | 32,245             | 37,620             |
| Marin County        | 257,948                         | 257,332                         | 87,662     | 33,312               | 29,805               | 52,597             | 61,363             |
| Mariposa County     | 17,182                          | 17,160                          | 5,846      | 2,221                | 1,988                | 3,507              | 4,092              |
| Mendocino County    | 86,349                          | 86,061                          | 29,317     | 11,141               | 9,968                | 17,590             | 20,522             |
| Merced County       | 278,938                         | 279,252                         | 95,129     | 36,149               | 32,344               | 57,078             | 66,590             |
| Modoc County        | 8,798                           | 8,763                           | 2,985      | 1,134                | 1,015                | 1,791              | 2,090              |
| Mono County         | 14,512                          | 14,534                          | 4,951      | 1,881                | 1,683                | 2,971              | 3,466              |
| Monterey County     | 431,854                         | 430,906                         | 146,791    | 55,781               | 49,909               | 88,075             | 102,754            |
| Napa County         | 136,493                         | 135,965                         | 46,317     | 17,601               | 15,748               | 27,790             | 32,422             |

| Nevada County             | 99,675                                | 99,606                                | 33,932     | 12,894                  | 11,537                  | 20,359                | 23,752                |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| State/County              | Population<br>Estimated<br>April 2020 | Population per Household<br>2.9355    |            | Households<br>with Dogs | Households<br>with Cats | Estimated<br>No. Dogs | Estimated<br>No. Cats |
|                           |                                       | Population<br>Estimated April<br>2020 | Households |                         |                         |                       |                       |
| Orange County             | 3,170,769                             | 3,166,857                             | 1,078,813  | 409,949                 | 366,797                 | 647,288               | 755,169               |
| Placer County             | 402,221                               | 402,950                               | 137,268    | 52,162                  | 46,671                  | 82,361                | 96,088                |
| Plumas County             | 18,991                                | 18,967                                | 6,461      | 2,455                   | 2,197                   | 3,877                 | 4,523                 |
| Riverside County          | 2,485,219                             | 2,489,188                             | 847,960    | 322,225                 | 288,307                 | 508,776               | 593,572               |
| Sacramento County         | 1,558,550                             | 1,559,146                             | 531,135    | 201,831                 | 180,586                 | 318,681               | 371,794               |
| San Benito County         | 63,808                                | 64,055                                | 21,821     | 8,292                   | 7,419                   | 13,092                | 15,275                |
| San Bernardino<br>County  | 2,187,894                             | 2,189,183                             | 745,762    | 283,389                 | 253,559                 | 447,457               | 522,033               |
| San Diego County          | 3,334,413                             | 3,332,427                             | 1,135,216  | 431,382                 | 385,973                 | 681,130               | 794,651               |
| San Francisco County      | 870,561                               | 866,606                               | 295,216    | 112,182                 | 100,373                 | 177,129               | 206,651               |
| San Joaquin County        | 767,048                               | 767,967                               | 261,614    | 99,413                  | 88,949                  | 156,968               | 183,130               |
| San Luis Obispo<br>County | 282,577                               | 282,249                               | 96,150     | 36,537                  | 32,691                  | 57,690                | 67,305                |
| San Mateo County          | 760,706                               | 758,308                               | 258,323    | 98,163                  | 87,830                  | 154,994               | 180,826               |
| Santa Barbara<br>County   | 445,285                               | 444,766                               | 151,513    | 57,575                  | 51,514                  | 90,908                | 106,059               |
| Santa Clara County        | 1,913,192                             | 1,907,105                             | 649,670    | 246,874                 | 220,888                 | 389,802               | 454,769               |
| Santa Cruz County         | 270,819                               | 269,925                               | 91,952     | 34,942                  | 31,264                  | 55,171                | 64,366                |
| Shasta County             | 179,278                               | 179,027                               | 60,987     | 23,175                  | 20,736                  | 36,592                | 42,691                |
| Sierra County             | 2,933                                 | 2,920                                 | 995        | 378                     | 338                     | 597                   | 696                   |
| Siskiyou County           | 43,381                                | 43,245                                | 14,732     | 5,598                   | 5,009                   | 8,839                 | 10,312                |
| Solano County             | 447,406                               | 446,935                               | 152,252    | 57,856                  | 51,766                  | 91,351                | 106,576               |
| Sonoma County             | 490,747                               | 489,819                               | 166,861    | 63,407                  | 56,733                  | 100,116               | 116,802               |
| Stanislaus County         | 550,391                               | 550,081                               | 187,389    | 71,208                  | 63,712                  | 112,434               | 131,172               |
| Sutter County             | 96,593                                | 96,385                                | 32,834     | 12,477                  | 11,164                  | 19,701                | 22,984                |
| Tehama County             | 64,698                                | 64,494                                | 21,970     | 8,349                   | 7,470                   | 13,182                | 15,379                |
| Trinity County            | 12,252                                | 12,216                                | 4,161      | 1,581                   | 1,415                   | 2,497                 | 2,913                 |
| Tulare County             | 468,274                               | 468,680                               | 159,659    | 60,671                  | 54,284                  | 95,796                | 111,762               |
| Tuolumne County           | 54,501                                | 54,515                                | 18,571     | 7,057                   | 6,314                   | 11,143                | 13,000                |
| Ventura County            | 842,692                               | 841,387                               | 286,625    | 108,917                 | 97,452                  | 171,975               | 200,637               |
| Yolo County               | 220,010                               | 219,728                               | 74,852     | 28,444                  | 25,450                  | 44,911                | 52,396                |
| Yuba County               | 79,800                                | 80,160                                | 27,307     | 10,377                  | 9,284                   | 16,384                | 19,115                |



**APPENDIX B: WHAT CARES CAN AND CANNOT DO**

| What CARES <b>Can</b> Do...  | What CARES <b>Cannot</b> Do...   |
|--|--|
| Coordinate missions, when tasked, for animal-related resources including but not limited to volunteer organizations (NGOs, CARTs, large animal rescue teams, etc.) UCD CVET, ACOs.   | Task or manage volunteer organizations as a state agency.  |
| Assist and support the CA-ESF 11 Coordinator to ensure the health, safety, and animal welfare of household pets, service and companion animals, and livestock.   | Set-up or manage temporary emergency animal shelters.<br><i>This is the responsibility of the local jurisdiction.</i>  |
| Deploy staff, when tasked, to support operations centers in select positions, and/or field operations to verify information, check for unmet needs, conduct windshield assessments.  | Staff operations centers for all counties responding to an incident especially if it is multi-regional due to limited CARES staff.   |
| Provide AHB veterinarians for consultation services related to animal health, animal welfare, public health and preventative health practices.   | Provide veterinary medical care.<br><i>CDFA veterinarians are nonpracticing; perform regulatory functions.</i>   |
| Provide limited carcass disposal technical expertise due to natural and human-caused disasters.  | Staff as ACOs because CDFA has no ACO classification.<br><i>This classification is under the local government animal control's jurisdiction and adhere to county/city ordinances.</i>  |
| Provide preparedness tools for animal owners and local government emergency management.  | Provide Transportation Vehicles for supplies, feed, incident personnel or evacuation and transportation of animals.  |
| Post USDA disaster assistance opportunities, when available, to eligible producers for certain adverse weather events or loss conditions on the CDFA website and social media platforms.<br><i>CDFA is not a source of funding and grants.</i> | Provide cost reimbursement for response operations.  |
|  | Support response operations for exotics, wildlife, or zoos. <i>Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Animal Care have authority.</i> |
|  | Provide supplies, equipment, or consumables.<br><i>CDFA is not a recipient of emergency funds.</i>   |
|  | Provide per diem/lodging for non-CDFA responders.  |