

Veterinary Resources Request Guidance

CDFA, Cal OES, and CVET Partnership



Veterinary Resources Requests

Introduction

During disasters, veterinary care for household pets, horses, and livestock in emergency shelters helps ensure the well-being and biosecurity of animals impacted by the event. Local veterinarians are often overwhelmed, and additional support from the state may be needed to provide veterinary care to animals. This guidance educates and aids local and tribal governments in identifying veterinary resources available in California, specifically the California Veterinary Emergency Team (CVET) and California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CAVMRC). **CVET and CAVMRC work in partnership through a state-activated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide free veterinary services during disasters.** Finally, this guidance includes direction on how to request additional veterinary resources when local veterinary resources are exhausted.

California Veterinary Emergency Team

[CVET](#) was established by legislation and MOU between the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and the University of California, Davis (UCD).

The CVET partners collaborate to develop standardization in training, resource typing, best practices, and overall improved animal response efforts during disasters. The CVET is administered through the UCD One Health Institute and is a veterinary disaster response team available for deployment by the state to provide and coordinate emergency veterinary care to household pets, horses, and livestock during disasters when local veterinary resources are reasonably exhausted.



California Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps



[CAVMRC](#) is a registered Medical Reserve Corps that provides veterinary care to domesticated household pets, horses, and livestock at the request and direction of the Operational Area (OA) during disaster response operations.

CAVMRC volunteers may be deployed by the California Emergency Support Function (CA-ESF) 8 Public Health and Medical, through the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) Disaster Healthcare Volunteers program (Medical Reserve Corps), or by CA-ESF 11 Food and Agriculture through an MOU with CVET. The CAVMRC is housed and supported by the California Veterinary Medical Association and funded by the California Veterinary Medical Foundation.

Veterinary Requests

CVET & CAVMRC Veterinary Resources Are For

- ✓ Triage of animals evacuated from affected disaster areas.
- ✓ Emergency stabilization and treatment of critically injured animals.
- ✓ Veterinary care of sheltered animals, including injuries, illnesses, population wellness, or other needs.
- ✓ Veterinary support of working animals (search and rescue dogs or posse horses).
- ✓ Assistance with animal response coordination and veterinary resource needs.
- ✓ Veterinary support of field operations, including shelter-in-place, evacuations, technical animal rescue, or other field response needs.
- ✓ Humane euthanasia in field or shelter operations as determined appropriate.

CVET & CAVMRC Veterinary Resources Are NOT For

- ✗ Delivery of non-medical animal care resources such as kennels, crates, carriers, livestock fencing, animal sheltering supplies, etc.
- ✗ Technical animal rescue, including facilitation services such as high-angle rope rescue and animal transportation.
- ✗ Set up or management of animal shelter operations.
- ✗ Pre-planning/pre-incident wellness care of animals, such as microchip placement or vaccine administration.
- ✗ Recovery support, including ongoing wellness care after a disaster, as well as providing spay and neuter services.
- ✗ Veterinary care of injured wildlife.*
*Request for California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) resources.

The following information should be included in the resource request to the local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to ensure needs are adequately met for the incident. **Include as much detail as possible.**

1. **Species to be Treated:** Include details of what species need care, including the estimated number needing care.
2. **Veterinary Service Needs:** Include details of what veterinary services are needed (i.e., care for illnesses and injuries, hospitalization needs for continued care of animals, facilitation of surgical procedures, prevention of disease spread, etc.).
3. **Personnel Needs:** Include an estimated number of veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians, and veterinary assistants needed.
4. **Certification Requirements:** Indicate if any specific certifications are required.
5. **Veterinary Facility, Equipment, and Supply Needs:** Include detailed needs, such as if a mobile facility is needed, equipment and veterinary supplies needed, personal protective equipment (PPE), etc.
6. **Training Requirements:** Include details regarding disaster-specific training that the responding veterinary resources may need, such as AWR-328, MGT-488, IS-010.a.
7. **Deployment Length:** Identify the estimated duration of deployment and shift requirements.
8. **Logistics:** Include any lodging, meals, or other logistical information in your request.
9. **Justification:** Include information regarding any veterinary resources that you have contacted, the current state of availability of local resources, and those currently working with locally.
10. **Receiving Points of Contact:** Primary and alternate contact information, reachable 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Contacts should be knowledgeable about the work requested and able to guide the requested resources to where they are needed.

How to Request Assistance

It may be challenging to find qualified veterinary resources during a large-scale event. Jurisdictions, OAs, and tribal governments should consider developing neighbor-to-neighbor mutual aid agreements to share animal care resources during disasters or consider developing a mutual aid agreement with local veterinary professionals. If no mutual aid agreement(s) exist, and local resources are reasonably exhausted, consider a resource request through the OA Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Tribal governments should submit their resource requests in accordance with their emergency plans.

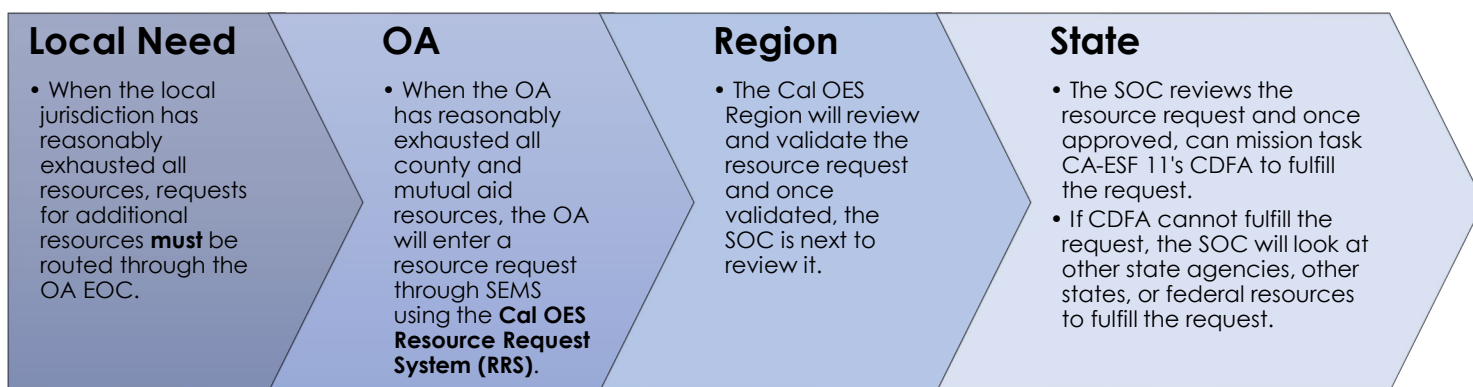
Resource requests initiated at the local level are sent to the OA EOC **utilizing the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS)** and established jurisdictional processes. When requesting veterinary resources, document the exhaustion of local resources (e.g., noted attempts to contact local veterinarians for assistance). Formal requests are required because SEMS does not allow for self or spontaneous deployment of

resources to disasters. Spontaneous deployment may result in confusion, duplication of efforts or needed resources, and a lack of accountability, that may cause safety concerns and financial reimbursement issues.

Local jurisdictions should coordinate and collaborate with their OA to identify gaps and enhance efficiency in the resource request process. If the OA cannot fulfill the resource request, the OA submit its resource requests using the Cal OES Resource Request System (RRS) (see diagram below).

CVET and CAVMRC can be mission tasked by the state through CA-ESF 11 Food and Agriculture and/or the CA-ESF 8 EMSA Disaster Health Volunteer database.

See the diagram below for **SEMS Resource Request** process.



Note: Requests for Animal Control Officers (ACOs) should use the Emergency Management Mutual Aid (EMMA) system, and not the SEMS or Law Enforcement Mutual Aid (LEMA) system.

Recommended Practices

Plan When developing Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs), coordinate with your local office(s) of emergency management, local veterinarians, first-response agencies, and other partners using the Whole Community Planning approach. Plans should identify an animal services coordinator within the local or OA EOC to coordinate animal-related missions.

Create and Maintain a List of local veterinary resources.

Work Directly with Neighboring Governments/Agencies/Tribes to establish Memorandum of Understanding/Agreements (MOUs/MOAs) for services.

Work with Community Animal Response Teams (CARTs) who can deploy. Encourage local agencies to work closely with local CARTs to develop MOUs/MOAs. MOUs/MOAs with these volunteer agencies may facilitate reimbursement for disaster response. For additional information on CARTs in your OA, visit the [Cal CARTs](#) webpage.

Refer to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) [California Animal Response Emergency System \(CARES\)](#) webpage for resources, tools, and disaster

preparedness information. The CARES Unit offers numerous local government resources and tools to support operational areas in addressing animal-related disaster issues.

Identify current veterinary capabilities and general animal response capacities.

Submit a resource request for veterinary support when local veterinary resources are anticipated to be exhausted. Estimated veterinary personnel needs calculator – minimally, one (1) veterinarian and two (2) technicians/assistants per 50 animals.

Establish a dedicated Animal Coordinator in the local and OA EOC to oversee and coordinate animal operations.

Ensure all animal-related organizations (shelters, veterinary offices, humane societies, boarding facilities, rescue groups, etc.) know who and/or what agency (Animal Control, Ag Commissioner, etc.) to contact in local government if veterinary needs arise during disasters.

Contact Information

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