

# Companion Animal Disaster Response Capability Operations Plan



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## Overview

1. In emergencies when people are being displaced from their homes, all too often, it has been necessary for the family pet(s), more commonly referred to as companion animals to be left behind. This may be caused by many factors; including but not limited to:
  - a. Owners inability to return home prior to evacuation and retrieve their pets;
  - b. Available space in vehicles for humans and pets;
  - c. Inability to locate pet quickly during evacuation;
  - d. Orders from local authorities to leave pets behind when evacuating on public transportation; and
  - e. Limited or no housing in group lodging centres, evacuation centres...etc.
2. The abandonment of companion animals has resulted in families traumatized by the negative emotions of abandoning a family member and that of companion animals being left behind to fend for themselves and in extremis, perish without food or water. Often, in an act of desperation, owners will attempt to return for their companion animals, putting themselves and those First Responders protecting the local jurisdiction, at risk.
3. Observations from numerous disasters in Canada and elsewhere continuously refer to the concept of having companion animals evacuated with their owners whenever possible. This action minimizes the trauma to both pet and owner, while protecting animal health and welfare and mitigating the requirement for First Responders or Animal Care practitioners to go back into a hazardous area to recover or rescue companion animals left behind.
4. There will also be situations where it is impossible to evacuate people with their companion animals and therefore a plan should be emplaced within a Local Authority's Emergency Management or Emergency Response Plan to ensure, wherever possible, a companion animal rescue/evacuation plan is in place.
5. Ideally, during emergencies, companion animals should, whenever possible, be housed with their owners. In cases where this is not possible, a temporary animal care facility should be established to care for these animals during an emergency or an evacuation.

## Aim

6. This operational plan (OPLAN) will detail the Companion Animal Disaster Response Capability (CADRC), its activations, operational concept, logistic support and coordination and control in support of Local Authorities within the Province of Alberta.

## Scope

7. The following are included in scope within the CADRC operational plan:
  - a. Support to local authorities in the evacuation, temporary care and reunification of companion animals;
  - b. Support to first responders, bylaw and peace officers in the rescue and recovery of companion animals from evacuated residences;
  - c. Establishment of regional-level CADRC animal care facilities; and
  - d. Establishment of provincial-level CADRC animal care facilities.

8. The following are not included within the current CADRC OPLAN
  - a. CADRC assistance to out-of-province disasters; and
  - b. CADRC assistance to United States disasters
  - e. Support to Agri-Food or Livestock-related evacuation, sheltering or support plans.

## Definition

9. For the purposes of this plan a Companion Animal is defined as:  
***Domesticated or domestic-bred animals, avian or exotic animals who live in mutually beneficial relationships whose needs can be readily met as companions in a home or are in close daily relationship with humans and whom are not used for commercial/agricultural purposes.***<sup>1</sup>
10. In this plan, the term “companion animal support” will refer to
  - a. Provision of suitable emergency shelter;
  - b. Provision of food and water;
  - c. The animal being physically and psychologically safe from threats and hazards;
  - d. The animal provided with required medical treatment and support; and
  - e. Provision of an opportunity to exercise and express normal behaviour.
11. As animal protection and care are fundamental tenets to this plan, the following definition of animal care duties is provided:
  - a. A person who owns or is in charge of an animal:
    - (1) Must ensure that the animal has adequate food and water,
    - (2) Must provide the animal with adequate care when the animal is wounded or ill,
    - (3) Must provide the animal with reasonable protection from injurious heat or cold, and
    - (4) Must provide the animal with adequate shelter, ventilation and space. <sup>2</sup>
12. During emergencies, it is possible that companion animals may become separated from their owners. Local Authority officials, who are appointed and employed as Peace Officers may:
  - a. A peace officer who on reasonable and probable grounds believes
    - (1) That there is an animal that is in distress on any land or in any vehicle or place other than a private dwelling house,

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<sup>1</sup> Derived from ABSPCA companion animal definition – <https://www.aspc.org/about-us/aspc-policy-and-position-statements/definition-companion-animal>

<sup>2</sup> Province of Alberta, *Animal Protection Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter A-41, <https://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/A41.pdf>

- (2) That obtaining a warrant is not practical in the circumstances may enter the land, vehicle or place for the purpose of determining whether the animal is in distress and, if necessary, carrying out the peace officer's duties.
- b. A peace officer who on reasonable and probable grounds believes that there is an animal that is in distress in a private dwelling house shall obtain a warrant to enter the private dwelling house for the purpose of carrying out the peace officer's duties<sup>3</sup>
13. The definition of peace officer is taken directly from the Alberta *Peace Officer Act*<sup>4</sup>
- a. Subject to the regulations, the Minister may, on the application of an authorized employer, appoint a person as a peace officer if the person
- (1) Is employed or engaged or will be employed or engaged by the authorized employer in the capacity of a peace officer, and
- (2) Complies with any other conditions provided for in the regulations.
- b. Any other person appointed as a peace officer under another enactment who is designated by the regulations as a peace officer to whom all or part of this Act and the regulations apply;
14. Companion animals left in a private residence for more than 24 hours during an emergency may, for the purposes of this plan be considered "abandoned"; as such, the following portions of the *Animal Protection Act* will be applied
- a. In this section, "abandoned animal" includes an animal that is left for more than 24 hours without adequate food or water or shelter,
- b. A peace officer may take an abandoned animal into custody whether or not it is in distress.
- c. A peace officer who takes an animal into custody pursuant to subsection (2) shall deliver the animal to a humane society or caretaker.
15. For the purposes of this plan, the definition of a humane society and caretaker is
- a. Humane society
- (1) Has as one of its principal objects the prevention of cruelty to animals, and
- (2) Meets the requirements of the Minister<sup>5</sup>
- b. Caretaker - means an individual who has an appropriate facility in which to keep an animal and agrees to care for the animal in accordance with this [*Animal Protection*] Act<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> The Province of Alberta, *Peace Officer Act*, Status of Alberta 2006, Province of Alberta, *Animal Protection Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter A-41, <https://www.gp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/A41.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Province of Alberta, *Animal Protection Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter A-41, <https://www.gp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/A41.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

## Planning Considerations

### Factors

16. The CADRC is designed to support Local Authorities in their response to emergencies and to assist them in providing emergency animal care, shelter extraction and reunification. The CADRC recognizes the primacy of Local Authority's regulations, bylaws, plans and procedures in preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies.
17. The CADRC, as a new initiative, will require a comprehensive and multi-faceted communications and public information campaign to inform municipalities, Métis Settlements, First Nations and veterinary practitioners of this concept.
18. The geographical expanse of Alberta requires multiple deployment animal response capabilities to be established and supported. This capability must be able to function in rural and urban environments and be provided with an effective alerting system to facilitate deployment to remote communities.
19. The lack of access to advanced capability veterinary care infrastructure in some areas throughout Alberta requires an additional level of animal care capability to be available to augment, reinforce or sustain a deployable capability sent to an affected community.
20. Major veterinary practices, hospitals and laboratories are in the major urban communities; therefore, any large-scale animal care response requirement (e.g. similar to the Fort McMurray wildfire) is needed in either or both of the two major urban centres in Alberta; Calgary and Edmonton.
21. Animals must, at all times, be in the possession of their owner or authorized agent or another person or agency with legislated authority for animal care.
22. The CADRC will need acceptance and support from Local Authorities to be successful and effective in providing animal care support in Alberta.
23. The CADRC will require support from local, regional and provincial level veterinarians, veterinary technologists and veterinary practices in order to be successful.
24. The CADRC will require support from local, regional and provincial animal care and animal welfare agencies in order to be successful.
25. Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)/Emergency Social Services (ESS) support in the education and training of Local Authority emergency management teams will be critical in the overall success of the CADRC concept.
26. Costs associated with the CADRC will be initially resourced by the Local Authorities; however, companion animal care costs can be identified, tracked, monitored and then submitted to Provincial authorities as part of a Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) submission for possible reimbursement.

### Assumptions

27. Local Authorities will, within their mandated requirement to develop an emergency social services plan for any emergency or disaster, include a companion animal emergency support plan.
28. Local Authorities will, in the development of their respective emergency management plans (including the emergency social services plans/annexes which includes specific direction

regarding companion animals during emergencies) reach out to existing veterinary practices and animal welfare organizations within their jurisdiction to assist in the design or formulation of a local jurisdictional-specific animal support capability.

29. Rural communities may not have the resources or facilities necessary to establish a companion animal care facility; as such, CADRC will require a capability to establish such a facility as part of an immediate response action.

30. Companion animals that during any phase of a disaster response that are not in possession of their owners or authorized agent will be under the case, custody and control of:

- a. A person or agency to whom the owners has given clear informed consent for care and treatment;
- b. A peace officer authorized by the Local Authority; or
- c. A peace officer with authority under the *Animal Protection Act*.

31. Companion animal care will only be provided upon the clear informed consent by an authorized person or agency.

32. The CADRC will require a minimum of 24 hours of warning prior to becoming operational in an affected community.

33. Any enhanced or additional level of animal care or treatment used as augmentation to an existing capability or a regional animal care centre will require 48 hours warning prior to becoming operational.

34. The large-scale animal care and treatments centres in Calgary or Edmonton or other designated centre are expected to require a minimum of 72 hours warning prior to becoming operational. This includes coordinating and integrating available veterinary practices to support this concept.

35. AEMA's ESS component is available to act as the point of coordination and support for the CADRC for the animal care and welfare community of Alberta.

## Limitations

36. Most of the Local Authority front-line veterinary professionals and animal care workers in Alberta are trained and capable; however, they may not be readily available for deployment outside of their jurisdictions or home areas.

37. Alberta presently has two deployable disaster animal response capabilities which are non-profit organizations and have a finite level of response capacity.

38. These organizations, the primary CADRC deployable capability operate with a combination of vehicle and trailer-borne capabilities; therefore, communities without any direct road access will be considered unsupportable from a CADRC perspective unless without air or water-borne support is provided.

39. Local Authority or other animal care volunteers are not expected to be trained to the same level or capability as that of existing front-line animal care workers.

40. Temporary animal care facilities are designed to be used for short-term (approximately one-week duration) and are not designed to be used for long-term accommodation of companion animals whose owners are displaced for extended periods of time.

41. The CADRC relies on a 3P (public-private partnership) methodology for sustainability.

42. The CADRC is a new concept that will require support from the Government of Alberta ministries, Municipal Government and Animal Care practitioners in order to become operational and effective throughout the province.

## **Operational Concept**

### **General**

43. The CADRC has two lines of effort; the first is an education and advocacy component, while the second is the operational companion animal support capability.

### **Education and Advocacy**

44. The CADRC Steering Committee/Working Group members will, through interactions at the municipal, regional, First Nation and provincial levels foster an understanding of overall companion animal requirements for incorporation within emergency management plans. This group will, when requested and available, educate and inform municipalities, regional or First Nation officials in the development of companion animal emergency care plans and capabilities within their specific jurisdictions

45. The CADRC will initially be a reinforcement or augmentation capability to Local, Regional or First Nation Authorities, which are dealing with the impacts of emergencies in their jurisdiction. If a Local, Regional or First Nation Authority requires additional support in dealing with emergency companion animal care and treatment, then an additional capability will be made available through a deployable companion animal support capability.

### **Operational Companion Animal Support**

46. The CADRC deployable capabilities will be available to support Municipal, Regional or First Nation authorities with existing animal care plans and established animal care facilities. This capability can facilitate CADRC member organizations to provide emergency animal care, and if required, assist assigned Peace Officers and first responders in recovering companion animals left behind or in residences during an evacuation.

47. A Local Authority which has an existing contractual arrangement with a companion animal care organization may exercise this arrangement during an emergency; however, this is not considered an activation of the CADRC concept.

48. In the event, the Local Authority does not have the resources through bylaw or resources to take care, custody and control of animals, the Alberta SPCA may deploy Peace Officers to support a Local Authority emergency response.

49. If a Local Authority, Métis Settlement or First Nation Band Council requests support from AEMA's ESS component in dealing with companion animals during an emergency, this would be construed as an activation of the CADRC Operational Plan.

50. Similarly, if AEMA's Provincial Operations Centre (POC) or ESS Component assess that a hazard or incident has increased or has the potential to increase to a point where a mandatory Provincial-level response is required, the POC may request components of the CADRC concept to increase their levels of readiness. This action would also be an activation of the CADRC Operational Plan.

51. The details of each level are:
- a. Direct Support – provide to the affected Local Authority that is evacuating or displacing residents from their homes; has established reception centres, group-lodging locations or similar services to displaced individuals or families, and requires assistance to establish, augment or reinforce a Companion Animal Reception Care capability. Support will be in the form of:
    - (1) Additional individual or group animal housing units (crates, kennels, tanks, aquariums...etc.;
    - (2) Augmentation to animal care infrastructure (e.g. bowls, leashes, food, cleaning supplies);
    - (3) Support to or additional animal transport units (vans, trucks, trailers);
    - (4) Emergency animal care triage and treatment (e.g. bandages, animal-life safety);
    - (5) Support to existing, veterinarians, veterinary technologists; and animal care workers;
    - (6) Assist or support First Responders or Peace Officers in the rescue or seizure of animals left behind following an evacuation;
    - (7) Support to companion animal registration and monitoring; and
    - (8) Support animal reunification to their rightful owner(s).
  - b. Close Support – Identical in capability to the direct support, this component may deploy to
    - (1) Close support facilities are expected to be regional in context (e.g. Grande Prairie, Lethbridge) and normally act as a central part of any specific region's emergency response.
    - (2) A hosting or receiving community or region, to augment existing animal care facilities.
  - c. The Close Support capability includes:
    - (1) A Companion Animal Care Capability sufficient to deal with multiple communities evacuating companion animals outside of their jurisdiction;
    - (2) A Companion Animal Care Capability which augments deployed direct support CADRC capabilities in impacted communities;
    - (3) Coordination with existing in-situ veterinary practices to establish an animal medical care capability to accept patients for treatment including emergency surgery, hospitalization and medical care and dispensing of pharmaceuticals (e.g. pain, sickness medication...etc.);

- (4) Close Support will also include:
  - (a) Additional individual or group animal housing units (crates, kennels, tanks aquariums...etc.;
  - (b) Augmentation to animal care infrastructure (e.g. bowls, leashes, food);
  - (c) Emergency animal medical care triage and treatment (e.g. bandages, animal-life safety);
  - (d) Support to existing veterinarians and veterinary technologists and animal care workers;
  - (e) Support to companion animal registration and monitoring; and
  - (f) Support for animal reunification with their rightful owner(s).
- d. General Support – A facility that has the capacity for large numbers of canines, felines, avian and exotic companion animals and has ready access to an existing network of veterinary practices including specialty and referral hospitals, laboratories and associated animal care support readily available. The scope and magnitude of such a facility suggests that only major urban centres will be used for such a requirement:
  - (1) General Support facilities are established on the premise that Close Support facilities exist and will act as a triage and holding component for companion animals which have been removed from impacted areas of the province.
  - (2) A large-scale animal shelter will be established in major urban centres (e.g. Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, and Medicine Hat). These shelters will have:
    - (a) Separate facilities for canines, felines, avian, and exotic animals;
    - (b) Suitable exercise areas for each sheltered species;
    - (c) A quarantine or isolation area;
    - (d) An animal emergency medical triage area;
    - (e) An animal emergency medical treatment area; and
    - (f) An integrated animal medical treatment program coordinated with established with nearby veterinary practices, animal cremation services.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

- 52. The agency or organization-specific roles and responsibilities within the CADRC are:
  - a. Alberta Veterinarian Medical Association (ABVMA)
    - (1) Roles
      - (a) Provide guidance to participating veterinarians, veterinary technologists and veterinary practices in the support to the CADRC;

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- (b) Provide guidance to veterinarians, veterinary technologists and veterinary practices engaged with the Local Authorities to develop animal emergency management plans;
  - (c) Collaborate with the Alberta Urban Municipality Association (AUMA) and Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) on Local Authority support to the CADRC; specifically
    - (i) Communication to municipalities about CADRC;
    - (ii) Inclusion of companion animal plans within existing Local Authority emergency management or emergency social services plans;
    - (iii) Development of supporting modalities to existing emergency social service actions in response to the evacuation, shelter and emergency medical treatment of companion animals;
  - (d) Develop and coordinate emergency animal care standards and the process for approval in Alberta; and
  - (e) Collaborate with inter-provincial companion animal care standards during emergencies.
- (2) Responsibilities
- (a) Assist in the development of the CADRC communications plan;
  - (b) Provide direction to the Alberta veterinary community regarding participation in and support to the CADRC;
  - (c) Provide direction on the education and training of veterinary professionals providing emergency animal care in Alberta;
  - (d) Assist in the coordination of a 3P approach in providing infrastructure, consumable and medical equipment support to the CADRC;
  - (e) Licensing and approval of temporary veterinary facilities in support of the CADRC;
  - (f) In collaboration with the CADRC responding organizations, and, as required, the Cities of Calgary and Edmonton, identify infrastructure and processes required to establish a General Support Animal Care facility in Calgary and Edmonton; and
  - (g) Provide support and advice to the POC ESS component regarding animal care and treatment issues and concerns.

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- b. Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association (ABVTA)
  - (1) Roles
    - (a) Assist in the development of the CADRC communications plan; and
    - (b) Provide guidance to the veterinary technologists regarding participation in and support to the CADRC.
  - (2) Responsibilities
    - (a) Assist in the coordination of veterinary technologist support augmentees to all support capability levels.
- c. Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Alberta SPCA)
  - (1) Roles
    - (a) The Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Alberta SPCA) is considered, under the *Peace Officers Act* to be an authorized employer for the purpose of enforce Alberta's *Animal Protection Act* (APA). In this role, Alberta SPCA appointed Peace Officers may take legal custody of animals, whether they are in distress or not, in accordance with the regulations and make arrangements to transport, arrange for food, water, care, shelter and veterinary treatment.
    - (b) Authority to take care, custody and control of animals during to an emergency or disaster;
    - (c) When requested, provide guidance and advice on animal care requirements during emergencies; and
    - (d) Assist in the development of the CADRC communications plan.
  - (2) Responsibilities
    - (a) In collaboration with ABVMA and the CADRC responding organizations, identify infrastructure and processes required to establish a General Support Animal Care Facility in Calgary and/or Edmonton;
    - (b) In consultation and coordination with Local Authorities, provide, when requested, Alberta SPCA accredited Peace Officers to undertake companion animal rescue actions or seize abandoned animals from in or around unoccupied residences;
    - (c) Provide support and advice to Local Authorities and the POC ESS component regarding animal care and legal requirements in relation to ownership abandonment and emergency seizure of animals during emergencies; and
    - (a) Assist in developing a 3P approach to the outfitting and sustainment actions required for the direct and close support CADRC capabilities.

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- d. Alberta Animal Disaster Response Team (Canadian Animal Task Force (CATF) & Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society (AARCS))
  - (1) Roles
    - (a) A province-wide deployable direct or close support capability
    - (b) Provide educational support related to companion animal plans and support operations to Local, Regional and First Nation Authorities;
    - (c) Be prepared to augment or reinforce South Alberta close support capability
  - (2) Responsibilities
    - (a) Provide companion animal support to affected Local Authorities throughout Alberta;
    - (b) In collaboration with ABVMA and AB SPCA, identify infrastructure and processes required to establish a General Support Animal Care Facility
    - (c) Be prepared to establish and assist in operating a close support facility in hosting or receiving community or region;
    - (d) Be prepared to support evacuation of companion animals to a close support facility;
    - (e) Be prepared to support evacuation of companion animals to the general support facility in Calgary or Edmonton;
- e. Animal Emergency Task Force
  - (1) Roles
    - (a) Provide companion animal planning and operations educational support to Local, Regional and First Nation Authorities
    - (b) A deployable direct or close support capability;
    - (c) Be prepared to augment CADRC general support capability in Calgary; and
    - (d) Be prepared to augment or reinforce CADRC support capabilities.
  - (2) Responsibilities
    - (a) Provide companion animal support to affected Local Authorities;
    - (b) Be prepared to establish and assist in operating a close support facility in hosting or receiving community or region;
    - (c) Be prepared to support evacuation of companion animals to close support facility;
    - (d) Be prepared to support evacuation of companion animals to the General Support facility in Calgary; and

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- (e) Be prepared to support the operation of the general support facility in Calgary.
- f. Emergency Social Services Network of Alberta (ESSNA)
  - (1) Role - Provide assistance to Local Authority ESS representatives on the inclusion of CADRC in emergency management and ESS plans;
  - (2) Responsibilities
    - (a) Support CADRC organizations in the education of Local, Regional and First Nation Authorities in companion animal planning and emergency operations;
    - (b) Assist in the development of a CADRC communications plan; and
    - (c) Support ABVMA and the Government of Alberta in providing communications regarding companion animal care during large-scale emergencies.
- g. AEMA ESS Component
  - (1) Role
    - (a) Coordinate Government of Alberta support to CADRC operations;
    - (b) Coordinate logistics support to CADRC operations;
    - (c) Support CADRC organizations, ABVMA and ESSNA in providing communications to Local Authorities on CADRC operations; and
    - (d) Coordinate inter-provincial ESS operations that involve companion animals, and which affect Local Authorities in Alberta.
  - (2) Responsibilities
    - (a) Provide warning of required deployment to CADRC components;
    - (b) Provide guidance and support to CADRC organizations when requests for companion animal assistance are made;
    - (c) Coordinate with Local Authority ESS representatives on direct support requirements;
    - (d) Coordinate with Local Authority ESS representatives on close support requirements;
    - (e) Initiate logistic support arrangements for deployed CADRC components;
    - (f) Provide incident-specific situational awareness to all CADRC components;
    - (g) Coordinate, as required, evacuation transport for companion animals from direct or close support facilities;
    - (h) Coordinate with ABVMA, AB SPCA, ESSNA, CADRC organizations and other stakeholders the activation of the general support capability in Calgary, Edmonton or both locations; and

- (i) Will engage a CADRC agency to assist in assessing what the needs are for animals being evacuated from a municipality, including have a member from CADRC attend the POC ESS component.

## Points of Coordination

### Timing

53. The deployment of a CADRC direct support animal care capability will require a number of factors to work collaboratively. Recognizing the time required deploying from either Calgary or Edmonton to the furthest reaches in the province (e.g. Edmonton - Fort Vermillion – 8 hours, Calgary – Wild Horse – 5 hours) plus the time to acquire the necessary equipment and supplies, a high degree of situational awareness is necessary in order to notify the CADRC deployable capabilities and coordinate their actions with that of the affected Local Authority.

54. The POC/ESS component will maintain the situational awareness necessary for the deployment or activation of any CADRC capability. The POC/ESS Component will use the decision support matrix (Annex A) to notify the CADRC deployable capabilities and to activate any required close or general support capabilities.

55. The basic timings related to the CADRC and its capabilities are:

- a. Direct Support to affected Local Authority 24 hours after activation;
- b. Close support facility operational 48 hours after activation;  
and
- c. General support facility operational 72 hours after activation.

### Support

56. POC/ESS Component and ESSNA will continue to inform and assist Local Authority ESS representatives in the development of Municipal or First Nation ESS plans including companion animal support annexes or appendices. The basic tenets of these plans are:

- a. When evacuation is necessary, people should evacuate WITH their companion animals and NOT leave them behind;
- b. Reception and Group Lodging Centres should be established with or have companion animal-friendly areas;
- c. Local Authorities are responsible for the establishment of jurisdictional-level companion animal support centres; and
- d. Companion animal support costs are a valid ESS-related cost and, should a Disaster Response Program (DRP) be announced for the specific emergency, then such costs can be submitted to the Province for remuneration.

57. When a Direct Support capability is required, the Local Authority ESS representatives assisted by the local animal care/welfare organization will assist CADRC agencies in identifying and providing any necessary support modalities to augment or reinforce an existing companion animal facility or in the establishment of such a facility.

58. When a Close Support facility is required, the Local ESS representatives assisted by the local animal care/welfare organization, in-situ veterinarians, veterinarian technologists and animal care specialists will assist and support CADRC agencies in identifying the location(s) required for the facility to become operational and the various business where consumables can be obtained

59. When a General Support facility is required, the ABVMA, ABVTA, AB SPCA, AADR and Local Authority ESS representatives will activate the facility and in collaboration with the assigned Direct Support personnel ensure the operational readiness of the facility.

60. Details on the required support to each level of facility is provided in Annex B ;however the major categories of support are:

- a. Location
  - (1) Ingress/Egress routes for large-vehicles;
  - (2) Area for shelter and animal exercise; and
  - (3) Secure parking for CADRC-assigned vehicles and trailers.
- b. Shelter
  - (1) Suitable accommodation for CADRC deployed personnel;
  - (2) Suitable accommodation for animals, including separate areas for canines, felines, avian, exotic animals;
  - (3) Fenced exercise area(s);
  - (4) Suitable heating, water, ventilation and air condition (HVAC) for animals and personnel; and
  - (5) Back-up electrical generating capability.
- c. Security
  - (1) Facility and personnel are in a secure and safe environment;
  - (2) CADRC personnel are provided with direct contact information for Local Authority Incident Command Post, Emergency Coordination Centre, Emergency Operations Centre or whatever facility is being used to coordinate the Local Authority response to the emergency; and
  - (3) Animals and animal-related areas are safe and secure from human-induced or environmental hazards.
- d. Food and Water
  - (1) CADRC personnel will be fed by the requesting Local Authority;
  - (2) The facility maintains a minimum of 24 hours worth of food for all registered companion animals
  - (3) The facility has an adequate supply of potable water for assigned personnel and number of companion animals contained within the facility; and

- (4) A logistics support plan is in place to provide for the ongoing sustainment of foodstuffs and other consumable items supporting the animal-care facility
- e. Biosecurity
  - (1) Cleaning and sanitation supplies as required;
  - (2) Appropriate facilities for the storage and disposal of animal waste (including carcasses) and;
  - (3) Appropriate facilities for hand washing of animal care workers.

### **Medical, Dental and Insurance**

61. CADRC agencies and personnel will maintain their own Alberta Health coverage. If CADRC personnel require emergency medical or dental care while deployed to an affected Local Authority, the Local ESS representatives will facilitate the required treatment with the existing medical or dental facilities.
62. The requisite Workman's Compensation Board – Alberta (WCB-Alberta) forms will be initiated and submitted in support of any injury sustained by CADRC personnel during CADRC activations (<https://www.wcb.ab.ca/resources/for-workers/forms-and-guides.html>).
63. The requesting Local Authority will include any supporting CADRC agency within their incident-specific critical incident stress/psychological first-aid program.

### **Administration, Logistics and Finance**

64. When a CADRC Direct Support capability deploys to a Local Authority in support of an emergency, the Local Authority will provide the necessary fee for services, resource and where possible acquire the consumables necessary to support the Companion Animal Care facility.
65. Emergency animal medical care supplies, should, when possible be provided through the Local Authority's arrangements with local veterinarian and/or veterinary practice(s). Pharmaceutical support will be provided through the in-place veterinarian and veterinarian practices. This level of support and assistance will be supported by ABVMA efforts in conjunction with the actions of the Local ESS representatives.
66. When a Close or General Support Animal Care Facility is required, the POC ESS component will implement an animal-care logistics support network within 12 hours of activating these facilities. Local Authorities will identify, track and report animal-care related costs and, at the completion of the emergency, submit these costs to the POC ESS component for reimbursement.
67. Local Authorities will track the costs associated with supporting their respective animal care facilities for consideration of cost-recovery actions. If a State of Emergency is declared, or the magnitude of the emergency is so large or complex that a Disaster Recovery Plan is announce, the POC Logistics section will be prepared to be responsible for all purchase orders related to supporting CADRC-supported animal care facilities.
68. If the CADRC Operational Plan is activated directly by the POC ESS component then CADRC organizations will submit their invoices directly to the POC Logistics and Finance Sections for resolution.

69. Veterinary professionals providing professional support to such facilities will be appropriately compensated. This cost factor has been incorporated within the Disaster Assistance Guidelines (DAG) provided to each Local Authority through the Alberta Emergency Management Agency

70. Further detail related to CADRC logistic operations is contained in Annex C

## **Training and Exercise**

71. The CADRC capability will be included in the annual POC ESS component training plan. CADRC activations may be integrated within the annual Government of Alberta Emergency Management Exercise and exercised, as a minimum, at a functional-level within the POC, and participating Incident Command Posts, EOC or ECCs.

72. The POC ESS and AEMA Field Officers will recommend to all Local and Regional Authorities that local and CADRC- related companion animal care operations be exercised as part of their annual training events. The costs of CADRC participation in the Local or Regional exercise will be borne by Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) and its ongoing All-Hazard Incident Management Team training program.

## **Control, Coordination and Communications**

### **Control**

73. Each organization remains a completely independent entity. Upon activation, and agreement to respond, the CADRC deployable components will, whenever possible, respond to the requesting Local Authority in the timelines contained within this plan.

74. When a close support facility is required, any additional staffing required for the facility is provided or approved by the requesting Local Authority. Recognizing the numbers of veterinarians, veterinary technologists and animal-care specialists may be insufficient for extended periods of time, the AB VMA, ABVTA, AB SPCA and the CADRC organizations will be prepared to canvass their membership to identify personnel who could act as a surge capacity for such facilities.

### **Coordination**

75. During the hazard season (March 1 – Oct 31) each CADRC deployable capability will provide a weekly status report to the POC ESS component regarding;

- a. Contact information of team lead
- b. Present location;
- c. Status update of operations
- d. Number of animals being cared for;
- e. Number of personnel onsite and/or available;
- f. Forecast of events for the next seven days;

76. During normal operations (non-activations) the POC ESS component will provide a weekly situation report (SITREP) to the CADRC organizations, ABVMA, ABVTA and AB SPCA regarding potential hazards, emerging incidents and issues affecting the CADRC OPLAN.

77. During activations, the POC ESS component, in accordance with the decision support matrix contained in Annex A, will provide all necessary alerts, warnings and requests for support or overall activation of CADRC capabilities. The POC ESS component will continue to disseminate SITREPs to CADRC components (including ABVMA, ABVTA, ESSNA and AB SPCA) and that of the affected Local Authorities in accordance with the accepted POC ESS component information management cycle.
78. POC ESS component will engage a CADRC agency regarding advice and guidance on companion animal requirements during any evacuation.
79. Deployed CADRC organizations will provide daily SITREPS based on the reports and returns templates contained in Annex D. Logistic support requirements templates are contained as Appendix 2 to Annex C.
80. POC ESS component will coordinate all ESS or companion animal care information management requirements within the POC, the affected Local Authorities and the deployed CADRC capability(s). ABVMA, ABSPCA and ESSNA will ensure the SITREPS are shared with animal care stakeholders, partners and potentially affected Local or Regional Authorities.
81. During large-scale emergencies or upon the activation of a General Support Animal Care Facility, space will be available at the POC ESS component area for representatives from CADRC organizations to further assist and support animal-care operations in Alberta.

## **Communications**

82. The development of the CADRC Communications Plan will be led by ABVMA with support from CADRC organizations and animal-care stakeholders and partners. The Communications Plan is designed to educate the Local Authorities, local animal welfare organizations and other interested parties in the CADRC capability and its operating concept, requirements and activation timelines.
83. During activation, Local Authorities will be responsible for all communications with public media – across all mediums. When close or general support facilities are activated, the POC ESS component will inform the Government of Alberta's Communications and Public Engagement (CPE) representatives in the POC of this action. POC CPE is responsible to provide regular updates to all Alberta media outlets during POC activations.

## **Authorities**

84. ABVMA as the regulatory authority registers veterinarians and veterinary technologists and certifies veterinary practices. Only veterinarians and veterinary technologists registered with the ABVMA will be permitted to provide veterinary medical care to animals during emergencies. ABVMA does not assess or approve non-registered animal care workers.
85. Local Authorities are responsible for all aspects of animal care and animal rescue organizations within their jurisdictions.
86. Current CADRC deployable assets that operate ABVMA certified and inspected veterinary practices are recognized by the ABVMA as being trained and capable emergency animal care professionals. CADRC deployable assets maintain records of their organization and personnel's qualifications along with all required insurance coverage for their personnel.
87. All CADRC assets should be considered as professional animal-care providers by the Local Authorities they are tasked to support.

88. Veterinary professionals including veterinarians and veterinary technologists who provide animal medical services will be registered and accountable through the ABVMA.
89. Veterinary professionals may only provide medical care with informed consent of the owner or authorized agent or under the direction of a Peace Officer with Authority and jurisdiction
90. CADRC deployable components will be activated by the Incident Commander or Deputy Incident Commander in the POC, when:
- a. Requested by a Local Authority directly affected by an emergency;
  - b. Requested by a Local Authority expected to be a hosting or receiving community in response to an emergency in a neighbouring jurisdiction;
  - c. A response to an inter-provincial or bi-national (Canada-United States) emergency results in the movement of evacuees or displaced persons and their companion animals into Alberta; and
  - d. A response is required to a large-scale emergency where a State of Emergency is declared.
91. An activation matrix and organizational chart is attached as Annex E

## **Attachments**

Annex A – CADRC Decision Support Matrix

Annex B – Animal Care Facility Requirements

Annex C – Logistic Operations

Appendix 1 – Animal Care Facility Logistic Support Requirements

Annex D – Reports and Returns (TBD)

Annex E – Training and Exercise (TBD)

Annex F – Activation Matrix (TBD)

Annex G – Local Authority Companion Animal Response Plan Guidelines (TBD)

Appendix 1 – Companion Animal Plan Template (TBD)

Appendix 2 – Examples of Local Authority Companion Animal Plans for Rural/Small Urban Centres (TBI)

Annex H – Support to Local Authority Animal Recovery and Rescue (TBD)

Annex I – Companion Animal Reunification Operations (TBD)

## Approving Signatures

Signature	Date	Signature	Date
Dr. P Boute, ABVMA		Vanessa George, ABVTA	
Signature	Date	Signature	Date
Deanna Thompson, AARCS (AADR)		Alanna Collicutt, CATF (AADR)	
Signature	Date	Signature	Date
Clint Neufeld, AUMA		Terra Johnston, Alberta SPCA	
Signature	Date	Signature	Date
Bonnie Lewin, ESSNA		Reg Fountain (AEMA ESS)	
Signature	Date		
Sarah Miller, AETF			