

NCDA&CS & Piedmont Emergency Animal Response Team

Partner to Prepare for Animals in Disasters

By Mark Howell, EP Specialist NCDA&CS



NCDA&CS Emergency Programs Division partners with many groups to accomplish the mission of reducing the vulnerability to, or the impact from, any disaster, disease or terrorist attack on North Carolina's agricultural community. Most recently, the division partnered with the Piedmont Emergency Animal Response Team (PEART; a coalition of counties, animal response organizations and local responders) to increase capability and capacity for animal response in the west-central region of North Carolina. An example of this partnership is the recent Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailer (CAMET) training and exercise conducted May 10 in Reidsville, hosted by Rockingham County Emergency Management.

The event focused on training volunteers and emergency response personnel on the essential skills needed to set up an emergency animal shelter and how to utilize the CAMETs in this process to better assist residents and their animal companions.

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**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE &
CONSUMER SERVICES**

Emergency Programs Division

Steve Troxler, Commissioner

Sharron Stewart, Director



PEART training, continued from page 1

In the classroom portion of the training, volunteers learned the many facets of using a CAMET, including companion animal sheltering, requesting a CAMET, shelter set-up and operation and demobilization. Following the classroom portion of the training a hands-on exercise was conducted using a scenario requiring emergency evacuation of animals to a temporary shelter location. Participants got to put into practice much of what they had just learned in a practical test of concepts and skills. Rockingham County Emergency Management provided a CAMET Trailer for the exercise and Rockingham County Animal Shelter provided the participants with live animals during the exercise from their adoptable population at the shelter.

The exercise focused on the establishment of the most critical areas of sheltering scenario including: reception and registration, medical triage and treatment, decontamination, sheltering, and isolation and quarantine. Following the exercise participants also contributed in the improvement process by sharing their experiences in an exercise “hotwash” where lessons learned and any gaps identified in the exercise were captured to be addressed by future planning, training or equipment acquisition.

Additionally, the 47 participants were able to view and walk through an American Kennel Club CAMET trailer that is part of AKC Reunite Foundation’s efforts to provide local jurisdictions with the equipment necessary to shelter companion animals following a disaster.



VRC COORDINATOR	UPCOMING EVENTS:	REQUIREMENTS FOR VRC DEPLOYMENT
<p>Mandy Tolson, DVM Southeastern Region Emergency Programs Veterinarian (252) 813-0989 Mandy.Tolson@ncagr.gov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see our website for future training and activities. • Check out our sheltering webinars posted on the website! • www.ncagr.gov/oep/sheltering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICS 100, 200, and 700 • Biosecurity/PPE Training • Knowledge of NC Emergency Management • Knowledge of Emergency Support Functions • Attendance at VRC Meetings • Sign a Code of Conduct
<p>COMPLETE YOUR VRC REGISTRATION AT WWW.SERVNC.ORG</p>		

Some of the lessons learned from this event included:

- Animal response must be a consideration at the local level when planning human evacuation/sheltering operations for timeliness, logistical, health and cost considerations.
- Each day the picture changes. Each jurisdiction is unique and so is each emergency or disaster. Planning considerations should include local communities' status such as: urban vs rural, transportation infrastructure, species present, response assets, and training and experience of available responders.
- Local, non-declared (state or federal) disaster events involving animals present challenges and opportunities. Large animals or species may be dangerous without proper training. Long-term response can be costly and resource intensive, animal response is often high profile or highly emotional, citizen awareness including community/owner education is essential, recruiting volunteers, funding, and liability issues must be addressed.
- Efficient utilization of all resources to meet specific needs. Complex or challenging events benefit from diverse backgrounds of the "team" or partnership.
- Community resilience enhancement. Animal response capability and capacity can be enhanced through the shared environment of partnerships making local jurisdictions less vulnerable to the next emergency or disaster.

In conclusion, the overwhelming consensus following this CAMET training event was that pre-planning and partnering with others are essential to saving the lives of both our neighbors and their animals.



VRC MISSION: Train and prepare professionals in the animal care community to respond to disaster events (all hazards) that affect both production and companion animals. Our members will serve as a resource for our state and the nation.

NOTES: To see recent news and updates, please visit the VRC website at www.ncvrc.org. If you have questions about the VRC or would like to offer suggestions or articles for future newsletters, contact Mandy at mandy.tolson@ncagr.gov.

Special Avian Collections Workshop

By Dr. Anna Allen, NCDA&CS

On June 16, Dr. Anna Allen and Dr. Jimmy Tickel from the NCDA&CS Emergency Programs Division facilitated a one-day “Special Avian Collections” Annex Workshop at the Solution Center in Durham. The workshop was a key component of a collaborative project between NCDA&CS, USDA APHIS Animal Care, USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine, and many other partners to create an Annex to the NC Containment and Response Plan for Highly Pathogenic and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza that specifically addresses the response for, and formally incorporates, unique, valuable captive bird populations. The planning committee for this project and workshop included Dr. Allen and Dr. Tickel as well as Dr. Jeleen Briscoe (USDA APHIS Animal Care), Dr. JoAnna Quinn (USDA APHIS Veterinary Services), Dr. Sarah Mason (NCDA&CS Veterinary Division), Dr. Laurie Degernes (NCSU CVM), and Mike Mayes (NCDA&CS Emergency Programs).



This workshop was designed to enhance and strengthen relationships between stakeholders that may be involved or impacted by a foreign animal disease outbreak with a special emphasis on establishing roles, responsibilities and communication protocols for an outbreak involving unique captive bird populations, especially collections that are open to the public.

Stakeholders in attendance included representatives from: NCDA&CS, USDA APHIS Animal Care, USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine, NC Division of Public Health, NC Emergency Management, Randolph County Public Health, Randolph County Emergency Management, Halifax County Public Health, the NC Zoo, and Sylvan Heights Bird Park.

The morning session involved an overview of the project, and the poultry industry in North Carolina, and a brief overview of avian influenza. In the afternoon, Dr. Allen and Dr. Tickel facilitated a scenario-based discussion, similar to a tabletop exercise, in which avian influenza was diagnosed over time on a commercial poultry farm, two “Special Avian Collections,” and in a human child. The scenario was designed to prompt participants to consider who they would communicate with and when, what type of information or data they might share, when they would take action, and ultimately what they might do in a real-life event.

The scenario prompted great discussion amongst the stakeholders and enhanced the participants’ understanding of how the event might be approached differently by the various sectors involved. Participants also gained a better understanding of how and when they can share information and work together during a zoonotic disease outbreak.

Going forward, many valuable lessons learned from this workshop will be incorporated into the Annex with the goal of facilitating a well-organized and robust response to an avian influenza outbreak in North Carolina, and for the Annex to serve as a model template for other states to consult when considering how to engage Special Avian Collections and other stakeholders in zoonotic disease planning and response.

(photos from <http://shwpark.com>)

2014 Public Health Preparedness and Response Conference

By Dr. Anna Allen, NCDA&CS

The NC Public Health Preparedness & Response Conference was held May 28 – 30 in Atlantic Beach. The conference began with a Pre-Conference Workshop designed for new and progressing public health preparedness professionals. The presentations correlated with the steps of the disaster management cycle: Prepare, Respond, Recover and Mitigate. Topics included: All-Hazards Planning: Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment and Public Health, Points of Dispensing Screening, Flooding Recovery in Harnett County, a Case Study competition, and a Subject Matter Experts Table Session.



The program on May 29 featured a fascinating keynote address by Mrs. S. Atyia Martin, Director of the Boston Public Health Commission's Office of Public Health Preparedness, who shared her experiences during the Boston Marathon bombing incident in April 2013. Dr. Julie Casani, PHP&R Branch Head, updated attendees on the Public Health Preparedness Capabilities and Wendy Boggs, Nurse Consultant for the CRI Region, provided a step-by-step approach to writing After Action Reports. Valerie Lott, Industrial Hygienist for the CRI Region, facilitated the "Lightning Session," a series of ten minute presentations on unique projects or incidents from county health departments. To finish the first day, those who attended the national Public Health Preparedness Summit in Atlanta in March 2014 shared their thoughts and experiences from that conference with the larger group. Attendees were encouraged to try to attend the Preparedness Summit in the future as it was an exciting and professionally fulfilling opportunity.

On May 30, Mary Beth Skarote began the day with a presentation on the Hospital Preparedness Program, focusing on the deployment of a mobile hospital to Mississippi. Jacqueline Simmons from the NC Office on Disability & Health and Karen Hamilton from the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities shared their expertise on preparedness considerations for individuals with disabilities or access and functional needs. Todd Brown from NC Emergency Management presented on the close working relationship between Emergency Management and Public Health and Amanda Fuller-Moore, NC PHP&R Pharmacist, gave an overview and update on the Strategic National Stockpile.

Over the course of three days, approximately 150 people attended the program and learned a great deal about the scope and variety of projects going on in the field of public health preparedness and response in North Carolina.

Announcing the Eleventh One Medicine Symposium

December 10-11, 2014

Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center | Durham, North Carolina

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The One Medicine Symposium provides professionals from a variety of backgrounds with current information and take-home tools to improve awareness and understanding of the topics from a One Medicine perspective, promote collaboration across professional disciplines, and enhance preparedness for natural or man-made disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, and other challenges affecting human and animal health.

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The **Eleventh One Medicine Symposium** will be held **December 10-11, 2014** at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Durham, NC. Please visit the website www.onemedicinenc.org for the most up-to-date information about registration, cost, agenda and speakers.

The One Medicine Symposium is hosted by the NC Department of Agriculture and NC Department of Health and Human Services in cooperation with NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, and NCSU Office of Professional Development. This national conference routinely attracts a wide variety of professionals by featuring current issues related to the interconnectedness of human health, animal health, and the environment to improve understanding of the topics from a One Medicine perspective. The diversity of the audience fosters discussion and encourages collaboration and networking across disciplines.

This annual event is a unique learning and networking opportunity for a variety of professional disciplines.

Registration is open!

Visit the links below for more detailed information and registration.

www.onemedicinenc.org

Registration (direct link): <https://mckimmoncenter.ungerboeck.com/prod/emc00/register.aspx?OrgCode=10&EvtID=5028&AppCode=REG>