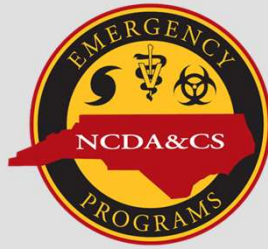


Animal Sheltering

Module 2



- Welcome to the North Carolina Veterinary Response Corps training module 2, Animal Sheltering.

Topics

- Pet Sheltering Legality
 - Sheltering concepts
 - CAMETs & CASTs
 - VRC role in sheltering
-
- This module will cover the history and precedent for disaster pet sheltering in the United States and where the VRC fits in
 - We will also discuss the types of shelters that may be established and some of the equipment that may be utilized in North Carolina

Pet Sheltering

History and Legal Precedent

The PETS Act



Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act



Amendment to 2006 Stafford Act



Requirements for state and local disaster and preparedness plans



Financial reimbursements for animal emergency preparedness and sheltering purposes



Contains a provision for emergency veterinary services reimbursement

- The PETS act requires FEMA to make sure state and local municipalities account for the needs of people with household pet and service animals
- Gives FEMA the ability to reimburse state and local entities for animal disaster and emergency related expenses
- Reimbursement requires the appropriate relationships and paperwork to be eligible
- For more details, visit the following website - <https://www.avma.org/pets-act-faq>
- FEMA developed a disaster assistance policy titled "Eligible Costs Related to Pet Evacuations and Sheltering," (DAP 9523.19) which provides specific guidelines on expenses that are or are not reimbursable to states that expend resources on various aspects of responding to a disaster. The policy can be reviewed at the following link - <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/policy.pdf>

Household pets

- Includes
 - Dogs
 - Cats
 - Birds
 - Rabbits
 - Rodents
 - Turtles
- *Don't forget service animals
 - Covered under ADA
 - Dogs and Miniature Horses only
- Not Included
 - Reptiles (except turtles)
 - Amphibians
 - Fish
 - Insects/arachnids
 - Farm animals (including horses)
 - Animals kept for racing purposes

- FEMA definition of “household pet” from Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.19
- <https://www.ada.gov/topics/service-animals/>
- <https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements/>

Sheltering in NC

- Counties are responsible for setting up local emergency shelters
 - NCEM Human Services Branch coordinates state support for local shelters
 - NCEM may set up State Operated Shelters for very large incidents
 - NCDA&CS coordinates state support for animal sheltering at the local level
 - Several Non-Governmental Organizations support human and animal sheltering needs with staff and supplies
-
- As learned from the introduction, NCDA&CS facilitates animal sheltering needs in partnership with NCEM and other stakeholders to fulfill requests
 - When local jurisdictions need additional support for anything animal-related, such as personnel, equipment, supplies, or facilities for sheltering animals, they put in a request for what they need to NC Emergency Management and NCDA&CS helps fulfill that request in cooperation with other partner agencies and organizations.
 - The National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) is a membership group of non-governmental organizations that local and state jurisdictions can call upon to assist with animal issues during emergencies and disasters. NCDA&CS Emergency Programs Division has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NARSC as well as individual member organizations.
 - <https://www.thenarsc.org/>

Types of Sheltering

Shelter-in-Place

- Animals remain at or in their original living/housing conditions
 - Door to door support may be provided
 - e.g. welfare checks, food/water
 - Points of distribution (PODs) may be established to facilitate distribution of donated supplies to affected areas
 - Emergency care and feeding of livestock at a safe location
-
- The type of sheltering implemented will depend on several factors - the type and scale of incident, impacts, geographic location, types of animal and human populations, etc.
 - Multiple types of sheltering may be utilized during a single incident

Non-Congregate Sheltering

- Owners and animals are placed in individual housing together
 - Examples include pet friendly hotels, motels, or other pet-friendly accommodations
- Can be a very costly option
- Difficulty in finding pet friendly accommodations
 - Must adhere to the restrictions of the private entity providing the housing

Cohabitated Sheltering

- People and animals are housed in the same space in a facility
 - e.g., school gymnasium, convention center, sports arena, etc.
- Owners are responsible for all care of their animals
- The coordinating authority may need to identify alternate housing for individuals without pets
- Need to develop secondary plan for non-compliant animals
- Requires some oversight by coordinating authority, but minimal staff compared to other types of animal sheltering

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Cohabitated Human/Household Pet Sheltering Toolkit

[https://nationalmasscarestrategy.org/wp-](https://nationalmasscarestrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2023_Cohabitated_Human_Pet_Sheltering_Toolkit__v_19_07.11.23.pdf)

[content/uploads/2024/09/2023_Cohabitated_Human_Pet_Sheltering_Toolkit__v_19_07.11.23.pdf](https://nationalmasscarestrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2023_Cohabitated_Human_Pet_Sheltering_Toolkit__v_19_07.11.23.pdf)

Collocated Sheltering

- People and animals are housed at the same facility but in separate spaces
 - Owners responsible for most of the animal care
 - Versatile option for partners who provide human only sheltering to work with animal sheltering stakeholders
 - The county may have personnel limitations with this model
-
- This is the situation in which most of the CAMETs and CASTs will be utilized
 - Some owners may need assistance caring for their animals – they may have disabilities, they may need to leave the shelter during the day to go to work, deal with damage at their home, or visit a disaster recovery center – so this model generally requires more staff than the cohabitated sheltering model, but fewer staff than an “animal-only” shelter.

Animal Only Sheltering

- Facility housing only animals
- May be permanent or temporary structure
- For some counties, they may use the county shelter for both privately owned animals and animals with unknown ownership
- May be limited based on shelter capacity

CAMET & CASTs

CAMET

- Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailer
- Original idea from 2005
- Collaborative effort
 - NCEM
 - NCDA&CS Emergency Programs
 - State Animal Response Team
 - NC Division of Public Health
 - American Red Cross
- Most CAMETs are owned by counties



The first 9 CAMETs were built by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Emergency Programs Division and North Carolina Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management. These trailers were state-owned assets. These trailers were eventually transferred to county-ownership.

Funding from North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association, American Kennel Club, North Carolina Farm Bureau, Schering Plough and Humane Society of the United States was donated to North Carolina State Animal Response Team (SART). NC SART was a 501c, non-profit organization.

The second group of 15 trailers were funded to specific North Carolina counties by the Department of Homeland Security through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NC Division of Emergency Management. These trailers are county-owned assets.

CAMET contents

- Equipment needed to operate a shelter for companion animals
- Standardized inventory list in each CAMET with minor variations
- Contains: administrative supplies, crates, bowls, buckets, brushes, disinfectant, power washer, vacuum, generator, etc.
- Does NOT include personnel
- Does NOT include perishables, food, drugs, or medical equipment

The CAMET inventory list and training modules can be found on the NCDA&CS Emergency Programs website. <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/emergency-programs/prepare/companion-animal-resources>

Training Module 2-Animal Sheltering



Training Module 2-Animal Sheltering



CAST

- Companion Animal Sheltering Trailer
- Animal shelter on wheels – generator powered, climate controlled, running water
- No standardized inventory, no perishables, no fuel
- No personnel
- 2 sizes of trailer
 - 45 (pictured) and 20 interior cage capacity

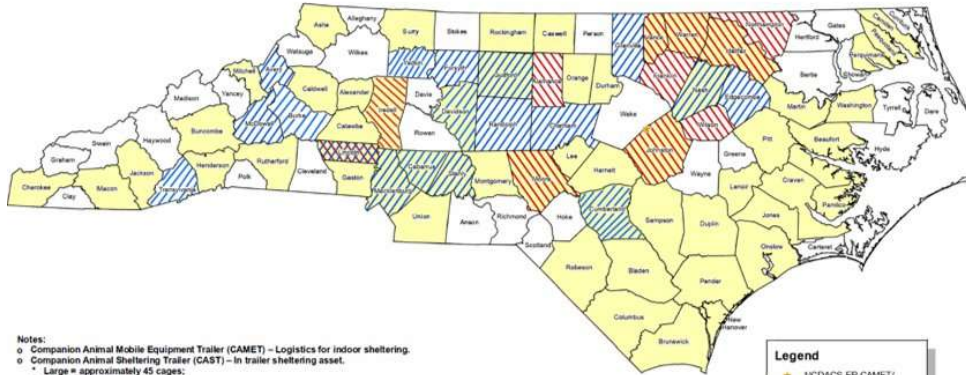


A sample CAST Operations Manual and inventory list can be found on the NCDA&CS Emergency Programs website. <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/emergency-programs/prepare/companion-animal-resources>

Training Module 2-Animal Sheltering



CAMET/CAST Locations 2025



- Notes:**
- o Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailer (CAMET) – Logistics for indoor sheltering.
 - o Companion Animal Sheltering Trailer (CAST) – In trailer sheltering asset.
 - Large = approximately 45 cages;
 - Small = approximately 20 cages;

- o Color or Pattern in a County indicates at least one of that asset is available.
- o A Number in parentheses indicates more than one of that asset is available.

0 12.5 25 50 75 100
Miles

Legend

- ICDACS EP CAMET/
- CAST CAMET (57)
- Large CAST (19)
- Small CAST (11)

Non-Household animals

- Up to the individual county and authority responsible for animals in that county
 - May use fairgrounds, show facilities, sale barns, or other identified facilities to house large animals
 - Facilities identified throughout the state in non-impacted areas for sheltering
 - No requirements to provide housing
-
- Education and early messaging important for animal sheltering to inform the public of what to prepare for and what is available in their county
 - Could your facility be a boarding option for some of these animals? Do you know of clients who may be willing to assist with short-term fostering?

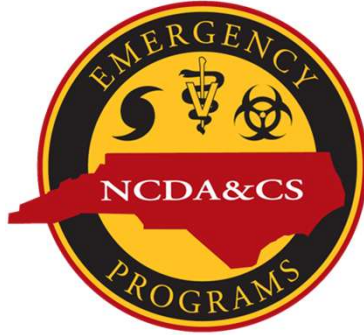
VRC roles in sheltering

- Examination on intake at shelter
 - Preventive care administered upon intake
 - Daily monitoring of housed animals
 - Disease prevention
 - Decontamination
 - On-call
-
- Animal intake at the shelter in a disaster is focused on triage & stabilization as opposed to individual in-depth care. This is not the time to be addressing chronic conditions or issues that have been present for a long period of time and are only now seeing a veterinarian.
 - The triage protocol is important to facilitating an influx of animals depending on the scenario
 - Animals are also evaluated for attitude and behavior to determine the most suitable housing and location within the shelter and whether they may need special handling.
 - Some disaster shelters may require certain vaccinations during intake if the owners are unable to provide proof of vaccination or if the animal was brought in as a rescue or stray. Animals may have external parasites that need to be treated to be safely housed in the shelter population, minor injuries requiring basic treatment, or external contamination and need to be bathed/decontaminated (flood water, mud, hazardous materials incident, ash/soot, etc.).
 - The shelter may request to have a veterinarian come in to assess the shelter animal population on a regular basis or be on-call to come in only if staff or owners identify an issue. It is important to have clear communication and understanding of roles, responsibilities, and expectations with the shelter manager and staff.
 - Veterinary support supplements community services, not replaces it

Shelter design

- Several options
- Facility & agency dependent
- Consult with local agency responsible
- Apply veterinary biosecurity principles
- Goal = safe and low stress
- Considerations
 - Sick versus healthy animals
 - Exam area
 - Feed storage
 - Species specific housing areas
 - Airflow
 - Sanitation & cleaning ability
 - Equipment storage
 - Disease management
 - Animal and worker safety

- There are many options to choose from, but the decision is based on the facility available and local jurisdiction
- Get involved and work with the local agency responsible for animal sheltering to design a functional sheltering component to the EOP
- Apply the veterinary biosecurity principles you have learned and utilize regularly, such those listed on the right
- Reach out to Dr. Anna Allen with NCDA&CS EP for additional consultation with shelter planning and design



Prepare. Respond. Recover.

- Thank you for completing the NC Veterinary Response Corps Module 2.
- Please advance to the following slide for the link to a short quiz to verify completion.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to VRC coordinator Dr. Dan Kish, Daniel.kish@ncagr.gov or Dr. Anna Allen, anna.allen@ncagr.gov
- For more information about companion animal sheltering, please visit [Companion Animal Resources | NC Agriculture](#)

Quiz for Module 2

- Link to Quiz
- QR code to access quiz

- <https://forms.office.com/g/e4HksGPNhW>



- Completion of the quiz is required to receive credit for training module 2