

## **ANIMAL WELFARE DISASTER PLAN**

1. When on the scene of a fire (or other circumstances of probable danger), ensure that all personnel in the vicinity of the fire (or other threat) have been evacuated and that reentry is prohibited until the telephone operator announces an "ALL CLEAR." In all cases the safety of personnel shall take precedence over the safety of animals in situations of *immediate* danger.
2. If a fire or other dangerous situation is deemed by authorities to not yet be threatening, select or call trained persons (e.g., service chiefs, LARAC employees) to anticipate or actually conduct either moving or release of animals to a safe area or securing them in their rooms. This process will continue until the danger threatens the facility, in which case all persons shall leave the threatened area immediately, as noted in paragraph 1 above.

In the case of ongoing surgical or other procedures in which the movement of animals is not possible, one individual in each area will be authorized to "determine the level of threat to the immediate area." If there is no immediate threat to that area, efforts will be made quickly to finish or abort the procedure and return the involved animals to a condition whereby they can be moved (e.g., abort an ovariohysterectomy procedure, close the abdomen and skin wounds, remove animal from anesthetic machines) and move the animal(s) to safety. If at any time the threat to the area becomes immediate, the personnel will evacuate the facility leaving the animals unattended.

3. Considerations dictating animal movement or release:
  - a. Nature and immediacy of the danger should be considered. Animals should not be released if not threatened.
  - b. In so far as possible, animals will be moved and kept in such a place as where they are not likely to injure personnel or other animals. Animals may panic in a fire or storm and cause serious injury to personnel.
  - c. Animals moved from a dangerous to a safe area should be restrained or confined during the time of alarm and until returned to a safe environment.
  - d. Client-owned animals will be given preference over university-owned animals when moving animals from potential danger. Rodents, poultry, and fish used in teaching and research should be removed to safety only if time and access are adequate to avoid human injury. To save animal lives in an impending emergency, chickens, dogs, cats, small ruminants, swine, rabbits, and raptors should be released into separated areas, as predatory animals may injure prey animals.
  - e. Injured animals may have to be euthanatized.

4. These persons should be called for plans if a power failure threatens animal well-being:

Lora Petrie-Hanson (662-323-6555) Aquatic

Linda Pote (662-324-0401) Aquatic

Mike Bassett (662-617-2419) All areas

Lucy Senter (662-312-0153) Vet care

Brenda Walker (662-494-2605) All areas

Roy Watkins (662-312-9467) Facilities