



# Emergency Planning for Household Pets and Service Animals

**Providing Rescue, Care, Shelter, and Essential  
Needs**



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# Overview

- Introduction
- Real World Examples
- Laws, Regulations, and Policies
- Definitions
- Service Animals
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery



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# Introduction

- Animals in Society
  - Decreasing portion of population employed in agriculture
  - Increasing appreciation of pets as members of the household
- Human-Animal Bond
  - Formation of close relationships (especially when serving as a primary companion)
  - Benefits:
    - Human-animal interaction fosters compassion and empathy for animals
    - Enhances the quality of life for animals and humans



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# Introduction

- Animals and the Family
  - **63%** of U.S. households own a pet
  - Consumers spent **\$43.2 billion** on pet products in 2008
  - Many reasons for pet ownership...

Category	Expenditure (billions of dollars)
Food	16.8
Vet Care	11.1
Supplies/OTC Medicine	10
Live Animal Purchases	2.1
Pet Services	3.2



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# Introduction

## Concerns Related to Animals in Disasters

- Evacuation
  - Evacuation failures
  - Re-entry attempts
    - Unsafe rescue attempts
- Emergency Household Pet Sheltering  
(Congregate household Pet Shelter, DAP 9523.19)
  - Collocated, Cohabitational, Stand Alone
    - Allergies, Anxiety, Phobias, Disease
- Mental health issues
  - Loss of household pets
  - Family Reunification
- Developing and maintaining Situational Awareness



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# Real World Examples

- Recent Disasters
  - Hurricane Andrew, 1992
  - Hurricane Floyd, 1999
  - Hurricane Katrina, 2005
  - Hurricane Gustav 2008
  - Iowa Flooding, 2008



Hurricane Katrina, 2005. Provided by FEMA.



Hurricane Gustav, 2008. Provided by Darrell Rebouche, Louisiana State Animal Response Team.



Iowa Floods, 2008. Provided by Iowa Animal Care and Adoption Center.



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# Laws, Regulations, and Policies

- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act and the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act
- Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007
- Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990
- Several states have passed laws pertaining to the emergency management of pets
- FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.19



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# Definitions

- **Household Pet** – A domesticated animal, such as a dog, bird, rabbit, rodent, or turtle that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers and be housed in temporary facilities. Household pets **do not** include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses), and animals kept for racing purposes.
- **Congregate Household Pet Shelters** – Any private or public facility that provides refuge to rescued household pets and the household pets of shelterees in response to a declared major disaster or emergency.



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# Definitions

- **Service Animal** – Any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.



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# Service Animals

- Service animals are approved under the ADA regardless of whether they have been licensed or certified by a State/Local government.
- Persons with service animals cannot be isolated from other citizens or treated less favorably.
- Persons with service animals cannot be asked to remove his/her service animal from the premises unless:
  - Animal is out of control...
  - Animal poses a direct threat...

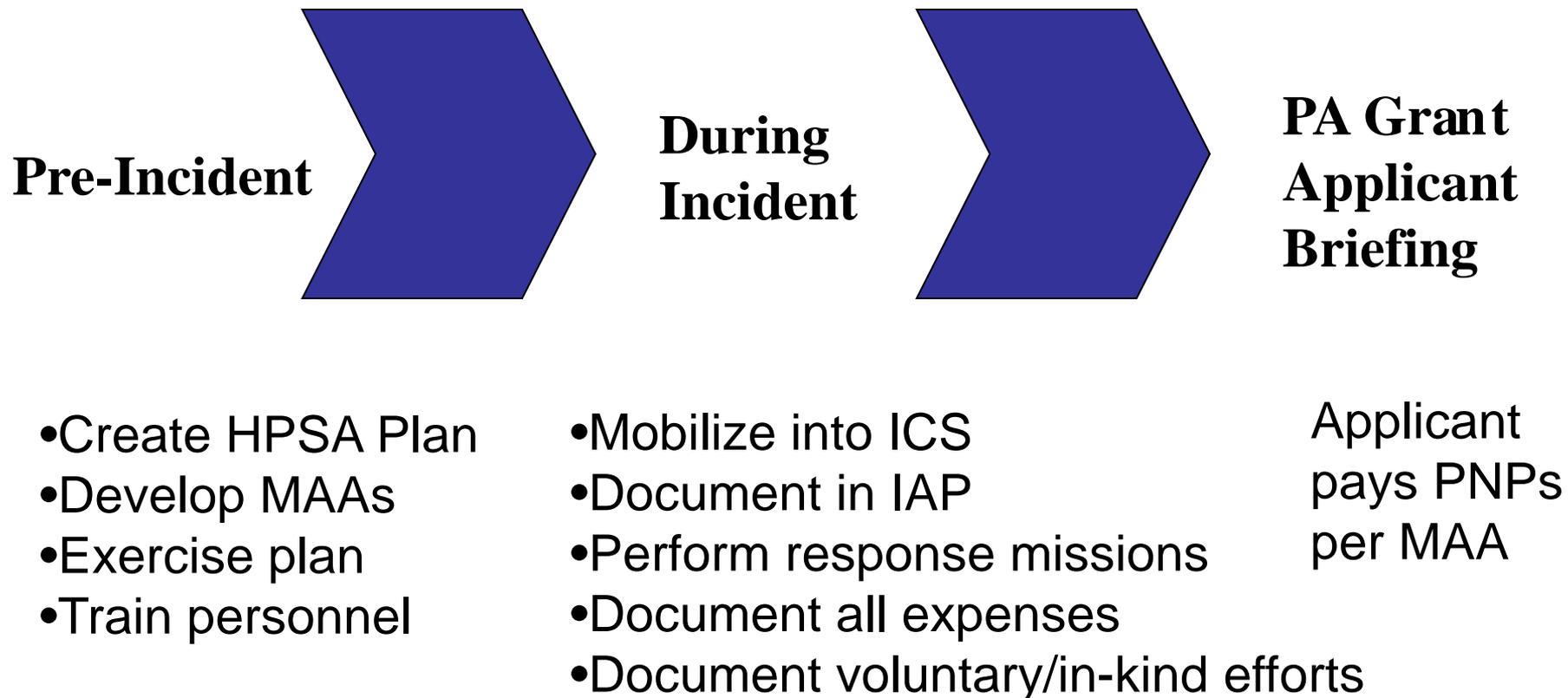


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# Emergency Protective Actions

## For household pets and service animal response



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# Preparedness

## Community Planning Support

- Review Guidance
- Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101
  - CPG provides information on incorporating Household Pets and Service Animal Considerations into State and Local Emergency Operations Plans.
- Form a Collaborative Planning Team
- Understand Your Situation
- Determine Goals and Objectives
- Plan Development Process
- Facilitate Access to Relevant Training
  - FEMA Independent Study Courses 10 and 11
  - Other organization courses: AHA, BART, Code 3, HSUS, Noah's Wish, Red Cross (see FEMA/NPD/TEI State Sponsored Training Catalog)



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# Preparedness

## Obtaining Support from Outside the Community

- Develop mutual aid agreements to support plan
- Local communities seek technical assistance from State
- States can seek technical assistance from FEMA and USDA APHIS Animal Care.



## USDA APHIS Animal Care (Technical Assistance)

- Has a lead role in assisting states to prepare and implement plans under NRF and supported by the provision of the Stafford Act
- Provides technical assistance for state planning efforts
- Supporting state networking and collaboration efforts
- Contact:  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/downloads/acorg.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/acorg.html)



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# Preparedness: National Associations & Organizations

- National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP)
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
  - Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT)
- American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF)
- National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC)
- National Animal Control Directors Association \*\*
- Society of Animal Welfare Administrators \*\*
- National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD)
- PETCO Foundation
- Petfinder.com Foundation
- PetSmart Charities
- American Kennel Club



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# Response: Emergency Protective Measures



Actions taken by a community before, during, and following a disaster to save lives, protect public health and safety, or eliminate immediate threat of significant damage to improved public and private property through cost effective measures.



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# Response

## Guidance

- NIMS, NRF, CPG

## Local and State Response

- State & County Animal Response Teams
- Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (VMRC)
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)

## Federal Agency Veterinary Support

- DHHS – National Veterinary Response Teams
- USDA, APHIS – Animal Care, Emergency Programs
- USDA, APHIS – Veterinary Services
  - National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC)



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# Response

## Household Pets and Service Animals in the NRF

- ESF #6, FEMA,
- ESF #8, HHS, NDMS: Veterinary Public Health and Federal Medical Stations for medical needs populations
- ESF #9 FEMA, Search and Rescue
- ESF #11 USDA,
- ESF #14 FEMA,

## Other ESFs that may provide support

- ESF #13 Law Enforcement, Shelter Security, perimeter control, restrict access to credentialed responders



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# Response: Household Pet Missions

- Needs Assessment
- Evacuation and transportation (when possible in the same public vehicle)
- Shelter operations
  - Support for Service Animals in shelters serving humans
  - Emergency household pet sheltering
  - Shelter-in place support/emergency feeding
- Veterinary Medical Care
  - Triage and clinical care
  - Biological risk management
  - Animal decontamination (HAZMAT issues)
  - Epidemiology (pets)
- Search and Rescue (ideally coordinated for people and their pets)
- Pet/Owner Reunification
- Pet mortality management



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# Recovery

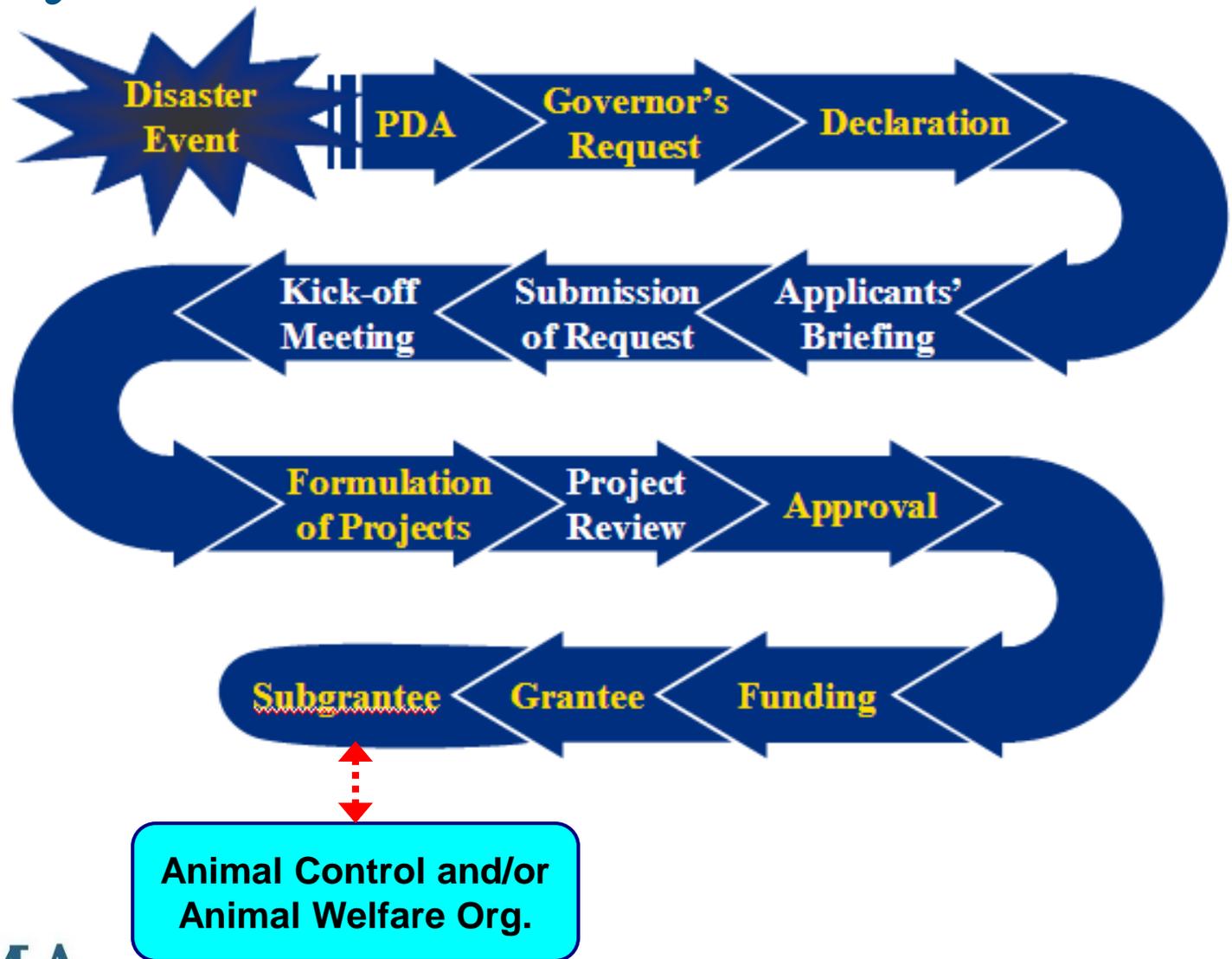
## **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act)**

- On October 6, 2006, the PETS Act was signed into law, amending Section 403. Essential Assistance of the Stafford Act. Section 403, as amended by the PETS Act, authorizes FEMA to *provide rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs for individuals with household pets and service animals, and to the household pets and animals themselves following a major disaster or emergency.*
- Policy DAP9523.19 identifies the expenses related to State and local governments' emergency pet evacuation and sheltering activities that may be eligible for reimbursement.



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# Recovery: The Public Assistance Process



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# Public Assistance Guidance

- FEMA 322: Public Assistance Guide, June 2007  
<http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/paguide07.pdf>
- FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.19  
[http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/9523\\_19.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/9523_19.pdf)
  - Definitions
  - Eligibility
  - Household Pet Rescue
  - Congregate Household Pet Sheltering
  - Service Animals
  - Length of Operation
- Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.6 Mutual Aid Agreements  
[http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/9523\\_6.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/9523_6.pdf)



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# Recovery

## **DAP9523.19 *Eligible Costs Related to Pet Evacuations and Sheltering***

1. State, Tribal, and Local governments are the only eligible applicants for sheltering and rescuing household pets and service animals.
2. Contractors or private nonprofit (PNP) organizations that shelter or rescue household pets can only be reimbursed through a state or local government.
3. The State, Tribal, and Local government must verify that the contractor or PNP/NGO is performing or has performed sheltering or rescuing operations on the applicant's behalf and the expenses must be documented.





# Recovery

## **DAP9523.19 Eligible Costs Related to Pet Evacuations and Sheltering (con't)**

**Household Pet Rescue.** State and local governments may conduct rescue operations for household pets directly or they may contract with other providers (e.g., PNPs, NGOs) for such services.

**Congregate Household Pet Sheltering.** State and local governments may conduct sheltering operations for pets directly, or may contract with other sheltering providers for such services. Eligible Category B congregate pet sheltering costs may include, but are not limited to, the *reasonable* costs for:

1. Supplies and Commodities
2. Eligible Labor
3. Equipment
4. Emergency Veterinary Services
5. Transportation
6. Shelter safety and security
7. Cleaning and restoration
8. Cataloging/Tracking system





# Recovery: The Public Assistance Program

## Work Eligibility

To be eligible, the work must:

- **Be performed by or at the direction of a Grantee or applicant**
- Be disaster-related
- Be located in the designated disaster area
- Be the applicant's legal responsibility
- Not be fundable by another federal agency (under their legal authority)



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# Recovery: The Public Assistance Program

## Cost Eligibility

To be eligible for reimbursement, costs must:

- Be reasonable and necessary to accomplish eligible work
- Comply with federal, state, and local laws and regulations
- Include deductions of insurance proceeds, salvage value, and purchase discounts.



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# Recovery: The Public Assistance Program

## Documentation, Documentation, Documentation.

It is critical that accurate records of events and expenditures related to disaster recovery work be maintained. This information should include:

1. Itemized estimated and actual costs;
2. Applicant's labor (only overtime is eligible) provide overtime hours corresponding wages per employee;
3. PNP/Contractor labor (regular and overtime is eligible) – separate straight and overtime hours and provide corresponding hourly wages per employee.
4. Equipment, materials, and purchases;
5. Receipt and disbursement documents; and
6. Records of volunteer labor hours and donated goods and services, if any.



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# Public Assistance Guidance

- FEMA 322: Public Assistance Guide, June 2007  
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- FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.19  
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  - Length of Operation
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# Mitigation

## Regulation

- Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, Interim Final Rule

## Guidance

- Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance
- Mitigation Planning How-To Guide #9

## Local Mitigation

- Stockpile pet shelter supplies;
- Train first responders and volunteers;
- Inform and educate citizens

## State Mitigation

- **Develop reporting criteria for response activities**
- **Determine EEI needed for Situational Awareness**
- **Address Veterinary Essential Epidemiology issues**
- Engage in Public education and awareness



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# Questions?

## Review:

- Laws, Regulations, and Policies
- Service Animals
- Preparedness
- Response
  - Action Request Form
- Recovery
  - Documentation requirements for reimbursement
- Mitigation



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# Contact Information

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