

# ANIMAL

## CARE & CONTROL TODAY



Fall 2021

A Publication of the National Animal Care and Control Association

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# From Your NACA President

*Dear Fellow Animal Care & Control Family,*

As we near the end of another year for NACA, I look back at all we have been through and the accomplishments of the organization. It truly has been a wonderful year for the organization.

With the addition of Jerrica Owen, NACA's director of Partnerships & Programs, we have seen a variety of partnerships expand to benefit our members and the profession. We have also seen programs developed based on what you as members have asked for! Some of these programs and partnerships include: a partnership with the San Diego Zoo to offer Chemical Immobilization training, an enhanced partnership with Maddie's Fund to help bring additional educational resources to the field, an ever-growing partnership with Justice Clearing House that has increased course offerings in animal welfare, and so much more.

In the coming days and weeks, NACA will have new members serving on the board of directors, and I am so excited to see the number of candidates who have expressed interest!

NACA is here to serve our members, and to see so many members interested in increasing their level of service is truly inspiring.

As we move into the coming year, I want to say thank you to each one of you for the work you do every day, but especially for the support that you provide to each other.

The field of animal welfare, and especially the animal control side of our field, is not an easy one. We are often scrutinized by the communities we serve and can be villainized for doing our jobs. It is imperative that we stick together and continue to lift each other up as new and different challenges arise. This field is everchanging, and we must change with it, but change can be hard. We have ALL heard statements from coworkers, leadership, and community members referencing "the way things used to be done," and often they are tied to a desire to keep things the same or a certain level of discomfort with change. It is our job to show that while change may be scary, it is also what will help us move forward, enhance our work, help keep our communities safer, and save more lives.

Thank you again for everything you do, day in and day out, and on behalf of the entire board of directors, we look forward to continuing to serve!

*Dr. Josh Fisher*



## Animal Care & Control Today

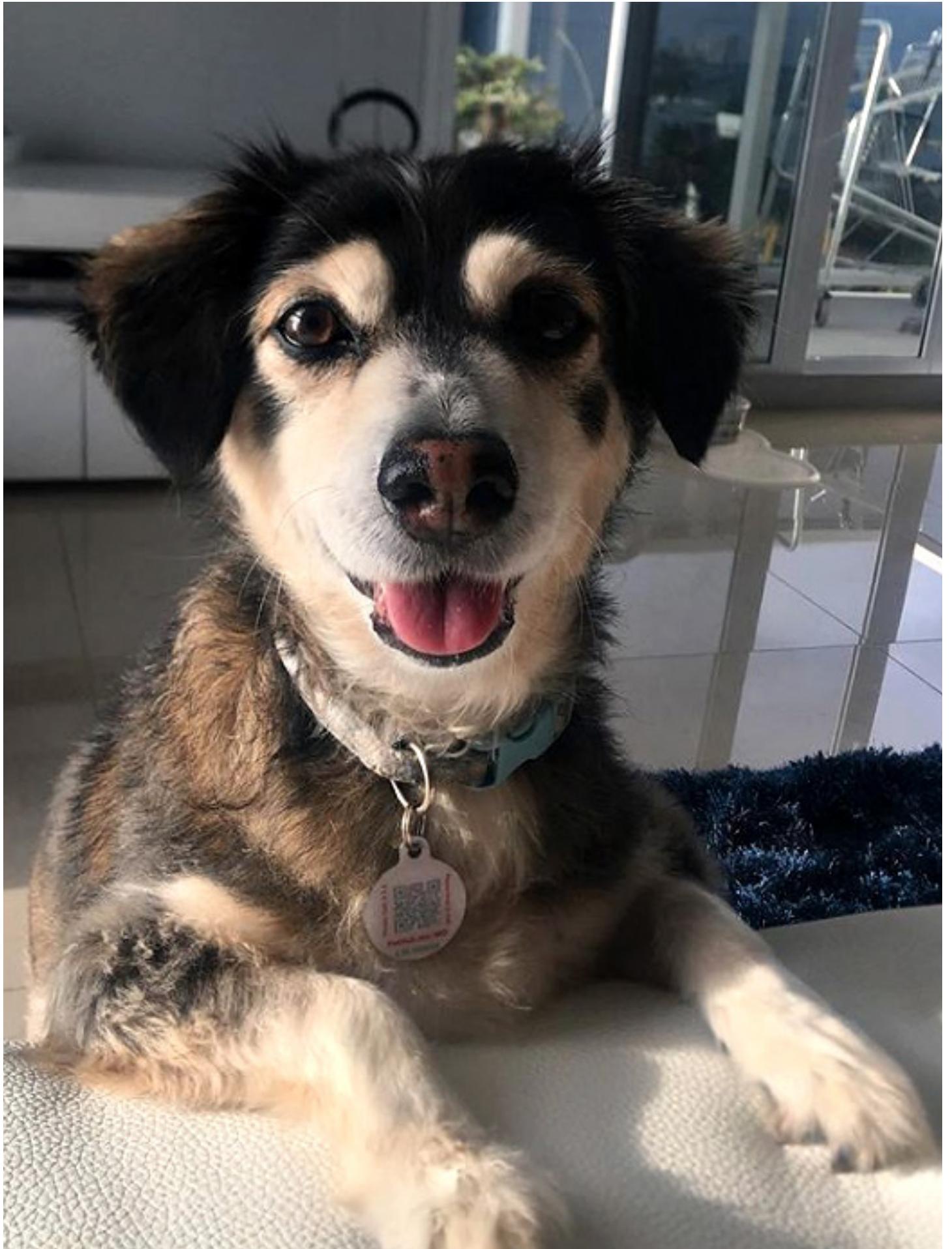
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# Working to Safely and Quickly Reunite Pets and Owners

**A**s all animal control officers know, a lost pet is scary for a pet owner and often terrifying for the animal. And sadly, many of them are never reunited. PetHub was founded to change that. Founder and Chief Technology Officer Tom Arnold realized that technology was the answer to helping lost pets get home faster. In 2010, Tom, a Microsoft employee, believed so strongly that he could make a difference in pet reunification, that he decided to leave his job at Microsoft and start PetHub to achieve his goal of getting pets home safely and quickly, without them ever having to visit a shelter or ACO office.

An example of how Tom's technology helps make a difference is the story of Aalla (pictured at right), a Northern Husky who escaped from her home.

Aalla's family had just moved back to Saskatchewan from the Yukon, and Aalla had little experience with summer thunderstorms. Each time a storm would come, she would get really nervous and try to get out of the yard, which is far from her normal behavior. On this particular night, Aalla managed to scale a concrete wall that led from the deck on her home, climb over a shed onto a neighbor's shed and down the neighbor's adjoining stairs — right to an unfenced yard.

Aalla's family had no idea any of this had occurred and that she was missing until the next morning when her owner was reading emails over coffee and discovered emails, sent via PetHub, from people in our city who had met Aalla during her "trip." Her family was quite shocked to find she was gone but equally relieved to find that the PetHub tag worked!

Aalla's family had a personal message from each person and a GPS location on a map that showed where she had travelled. One person indicated that at 3 a.m. she had shown up at a house party — where they gave her water and she was on her way again. The second person indicated that she had found Aalla sitting on the doorstep of her office when she  
*(continued on page 6)*



(continued from page 5)

arrived that morning for work. It turns out, Aalla had made her way to the business next door to the family's daycare, where she had been many times to pick up the family's son.

Aalla made it home safe and sound thanks to PetHub and her community. Thanks to the kind people and the tag, her family was able to seamlessly track their dog around the city and have a way to communicate with the people who found her without the need of taxing the already busy Animal Control in their area. The work of finding her was done before her family even knew she was gone.

In its 11 years of growth, PetHub continues to have a positive impact on the dismal RTO (Return to Owner) rate in the United States. Even with its program growing to more than 650 communities across the country, PetHub is still responsible for helping more than 96 percent of pets wearing digital ID tags return home within 24 hours.

With passive GPS, PetHub ID tags have a scannable QR code that allows community members to scan it and retrieve the owner's contact and the pet's information. It also has a phone number for PetHub's 24/7 call center.

National Disaster Preparedness Month is very important to PetHub, but more importantly, it encourages pet parents to make sure they are prepared for any scenario, including educating pet parents on lost pet prevention and disaster preparedness – because disasters can happen at any time. And when they do, PetHub is here to help reunite pets with owners. ❖



The **AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL** is home to the following programs which work to help horses and owners transition into better lives.



**United Horse Coalition** is working to help horses who are at-risk or in-transition by compiling a list of safety-net programs Nationwide for owners that are in need of assistance.

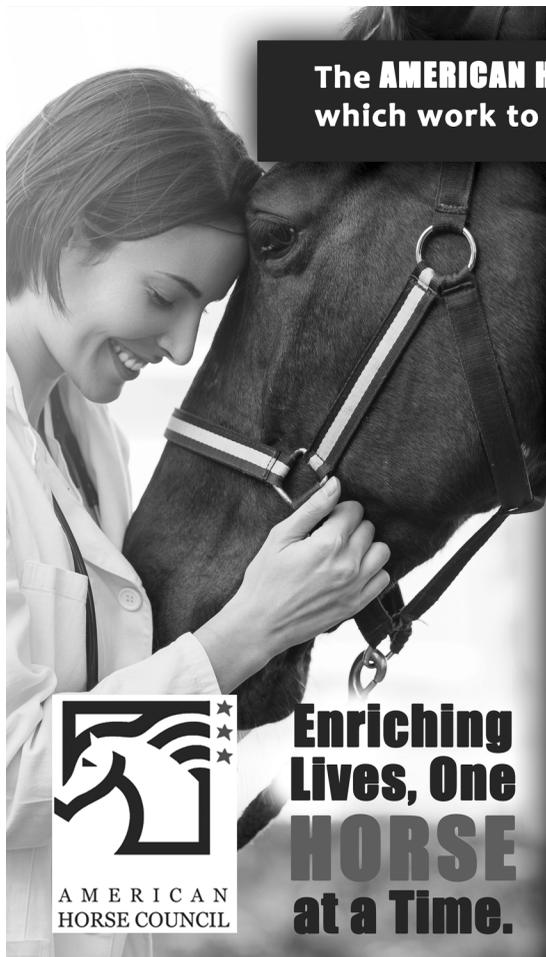
**Equine Welfare Data Collective** is helping horses at-risk or in-transition by reporting, accumulating, and analyzing data from horse rescues & sanctuaries.



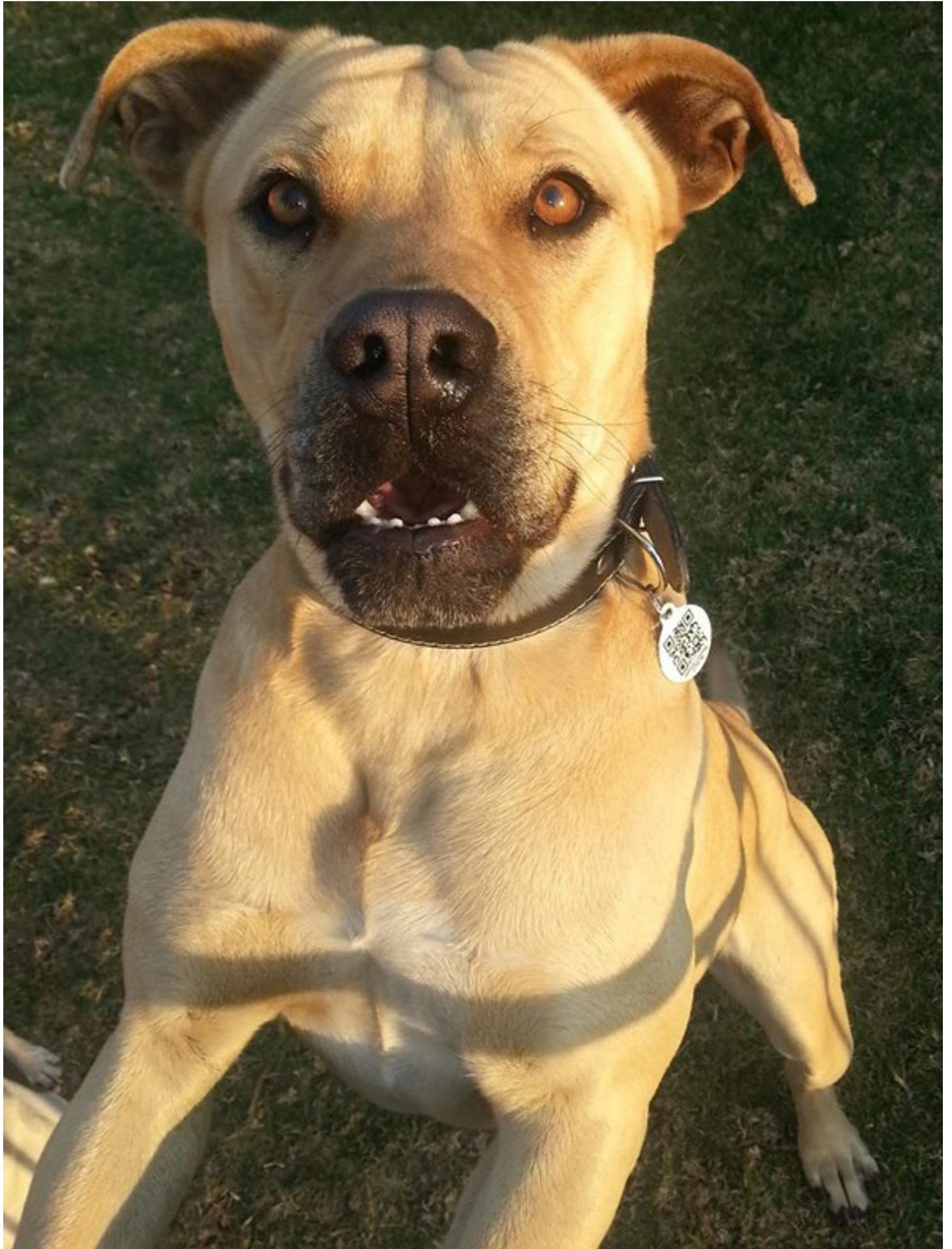
**Equine Disease Communication Center** protects horses & the equine industry from infectious diseases in the US via an alert system.

**Horselookup.org** provides owners, agencies, & organizations access to a universal equine microchip lookup tool.

For more information on the American Horse Council and its programs visit: [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org)



**Enriching Lives, One HORSE at a Time.**



# Removing “Disaster” from Disaster Response

By Sharon Hawa

**A**s an animal control officer, you’ve probably felt like your daily field work has you managing multiple emergencies all the time. But in a true emergency or disaster, fieldwork is further complicated by the chaos and displacement of hundreds of people and their pets. If it isn’t managed quickly or effectively, it can easily become the proverbial “disaster within the disaster.” Your role in that moment may vary depending on the needs — perhaps it’s performing a search and rescue mission for animals left behind in evacuated homes, seizing stray dogs seen wandering down a debris-filled street, or helping to identify the owners of scared, displaced pets at a temporary emergency pet shelter. Regardless of your role, your work is critical to the health and wellbeing of not only the animals, but also of their families.

One of the most understated, yet important steps a municipal shelter can take ahead of any type of predicted

event, such as a hurricane, is to identify animals that can be transported out to receiving partners. This will prepare the shelter for the large volume of displaced pets that may need somewhere to go post-disaster. Transports are a proven lifesaving strategy that also help spare shelter staff from having to make life or death decisions about their shelter populations because of a disaster. However, coordinating transports is not always easy. If the disaster is a large, statewide event, then the need to identify out-of-state partners to receive animals will be critical. But now there is an app for that....

Trello (<http://www.trello.com/>) is a free to use, web-based list-making application that allows you to create cards or profiles for any adoptable animals in your care. (You must pay to use additional features.) The cards can include your shelter’s name, contact information for a specific individual on staff, the animal's name, shelter ID



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number, and medical or behavioral information as well as photos. You then place all of the animal cards onto your shelter's Trello board and receiving groups can be invited to peruse the list. They can tag any animals they are able to place and pull the cards onto their own Trello board. The groups can then coordinate transport details with each other or via a third-party transporter. Although the board is very effective for transport management, it can also be utilized for other purposes, such as, logistics, inventory distribution, emergency dispatch, and management of daily tasks.

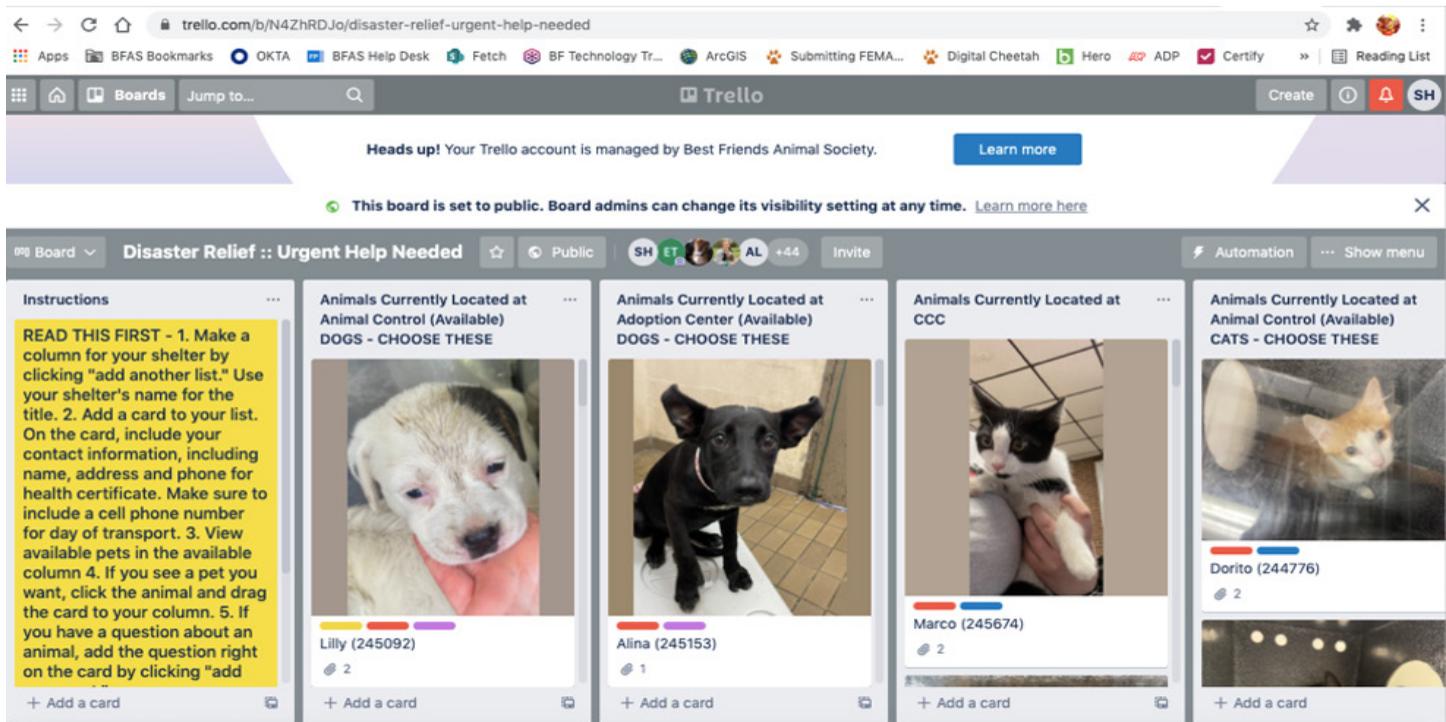
Though the system can be super simple to create and use, it's not without flaws. Many people do not know how to use Trello, so it can be confusing and lead to such situations as having multiple groups pull an already-tagged animal from one list onto theirs, requiring many follow-up questions from both sides. However, to minimize user error, you can simply post a card with detailed

instructions or with contact information for any questions. So, hands down, Trello is the most effective option for coordinating a tremendous volume of animals to be moved out as quickly as possible.

Stray rescue is another important facet of ACO fieldwork. No matter how many times people are asked to set up plans for themselves and their pets, there are always animals who get left behind during an evacuation. When that happens, unless the animal can escape the home, they will remain there until rescue crews arrive. A vital component of reunification that is often overlooked involves collecting pertinent information during an actual rescue. Information gathered can be crucial for getting animals back to their families. Below are a few tips to support rescue and reunification efforts:

- Do not just include the address of where the animal was retrieved or located – add cross streets as well

*(continued on page 10)*



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- Tag the animal with a certain colored collar to indicate if the animal is a stray (to be kept on stray hold vs. accidentally being transported out)
- Assign someone to post photos of found strays onto social media pages and information about where to go to pick them up (and what owners need to bring to prove ownership)
- Join “Lost Pets” pages on social media and assign volunteers to identify possibly matches between pets and owners
- Utilize community volunteers to visit human emergency shelters to identify owners of some of the lost pets
- Provide resources to your community after a disaster – share information on where to get pet food, temporary boarding/kennel facilities, or other safety net resources
- Encourage your community to prepare for disasters – go to <https://resources.bestfriends.org/article/pets-and-emergencies-be-prepared> to learn more

Disasters are never going to be easy or without their own challenges. However, as skilled fieldworkers, we have the ability to provide the care and resources that can help keep people and their pets together before, during, and after a disaster.

*Sharon Hawa is senior strategist, Emergency Services for Best Friends Animal Society ❖*



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**When we see a need, our first reaction is usually to respond and render care.**

Adam Leath



## Animals in Disasters Q&A with Beth Gammie

Source: Justice Clearinghouse - After the Webinar

**Audience Comment:** Heather from Shelter Love is actually on today's webinar. And she just shared that her organization offers free software to track disaster responses animal intakes for disaster responses. So, I've provided that link on today's webinar recording page, folks. So, I don't miss that opportunity if you

do happen to need that kind of software, so it is free of course.

**Beth Gammie:** That is fantastic. And really needed and if you don't mind, just shoot me an e-mail if possible, because I'd like to talk with you. A lot of times

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when we go to the shelter, our partners are the ones that have been managing the shelter and have the record-keeping system set up and going electronic is just so, so much easier.

**Audience Question:** What is the status at pet friendly sheltering these days? Are most shelters pet-friendly, in these disaster situations?

**Beth Gammie:** It's a great question. It really varies. You know, pet jurisdictions have to take into account and plan for pet-friendly shelters and transportation of people with pets in order to get the reimbursement for their disaster dollars through FEMA. So, it is a requirement and it really just varies, although overall the movement is happening more and more. And one of the things that RedRover does during disasters, during the bigger ones I should say, is we do a resource list that we post on our website and social media resources for evacuees. And it's mainly pet-friendly sheltering and also a list of and the hotels and those kinds of things. And in part, one of the things I do is I actually call around and reach out to emergency managers and find out what's available. And it's hit or miss. It's getting better, but you know, for you animal lovers, go to your emergency manager and ask them what their plan is and where the pet-friendly shelters are because a lot of times that's what it takes if you don't have that available in your community. They'll get on it when they know constituents are pushing for it.

**Audience Question:** How can folks interested in volunteering get on-site for RedRover? How can they participate and volunteer with you guys?

**Beth Gammie:** Perfect question. We actually just started an online training program, an online training course for RedRover to volunteer with us. So, you just go to redrover.org. Go to the responders' page, and if you have any issues finding them or anything, just contact me. You just need to be 18 years old and take our course and also take the FEMA, the ICS 100 course. But it's all on there, and we encourage you to do that. And also, other agencies like HSUS, they have a good volunteer program. We encourage our volunteers to volunteer with other agencies. So that's a good way to get started with us.

**Audience Question:** So, you talked about a lot of different things that we should keep in the back of our brains when setting up these disaster centers or sheltering centers. What about security concerns? Is there anything we should really be thinking about, especially around security?

**Beth Gammie:** That's a good question. And we, the shelters really don't operate 24/7, and so there are times when they're closed. And quite often, the county or city will provide security, have police officers or animal control agents. We've had National Guard folks monitoring. They're not necessarily a high-risk place, but in disasters people can get so traumatized, it's so unpredictable that it is a good idea if you have a security officer just sitting in their car watching. I haven't really been at a shelter where anything has happened, even in the ones that haven't been guarded, but it's a good idea to get them to bring it up.

**Audience Question:** He talked about many people and volunteers, their experience with dogs and cats. What do we do about providing proper care for some of our more exotic friends? Our pocket pets and birds and things like that — how do you support them and their needs?

**Beth Gammie:** So, that's a really good question and when, you know, when we do sheltering and we're working with other agencies and it really, a lot of times it ends up someone there really knows a lot about birds or knows a lot about reptiles. But what we do also ahead of time is, we contact veterinary officers. A lot of times you can just Google iguanas in the area, and you'll find that there's a club or something and so we actually have reached out to specialty associations and groups and have sheltered birds at veterinarian offices, and things like that. But it is surprising how others a lot of times have expertise there. But in disasters, you do

get all different types of animals. In superstorm Sandy, we sheltered a goldfish.

**Audience Question:** In these sheltering situations, I'm sure that something you may have to consider is vaccinations or emergency care. Do you have owners provide paperwork, sign waivers about exposures and possible diseases like kennel cough? How do you deal with that vaccination situation? So many different animals coming in with varying different levels of previous care. What do you do?

**Beth Gammie:** Well, the intake paperwork does contain something about that despite our best care, something could happen to your animal. And there's also a part on there about providing medical care and it usually is a checkbox. You know, find me first, just provided that kind of thing. We have a separate form for vaccinations if those aren't going to be provided. A lot of times, the jurisdiction hasn't been able to line up getting veterinarians there and vaccinations and so on. But so, if we do provide those services, you just, you get the owners, you know, to just sign off on the form. And yeah, it's really much better if they have it and really about the only thing that you can

do you know. I've sometimes seen jurisdictions, just like give rabies shots, but it's been really great if you can do that, and then you will get the kennel cough, vaccination to dogs and so on. But if you do get a good vet area set up, it really often can turn into a vet clinic for the owners and their pets. And you can end up getting a pretty good vaccination rate in your community.

**Audience Question:** I am currently working on the Mountain View Fire Recovery effort right now in Mando County, California. She'll tell owners who are missing their cats to keep putting food out. Any suggestions so far? An outdoor cat shelter since a lot of these folks, I mean, they've lost their homes. So, any ideas?

**Beth Gammie:** Well, there are, I know what I would say, I know we're just about out on time, I would just, you know, Google, cat house, cat shelter. There's really a lot of great ones that you can make out of plastic bins. Just cut up, you know, like those kinds of hard plastic bins. You know the size; you cut a hole in it. I'm going to go on there and a lot of types are used in cold weather areas as well, but kind of any kind of plastic like that. And keep the lid on it, and an entrance works pretty good. ❖



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# Prep to Prepare

By Devon Krusko

**W**ith National Preparedness Month at the forefront of my mind, along with recent back-to-back wildfire emergency responses in Northern California, I've been thinking often about what helps a team to be most successful on the ground. For me, it's a combination of collaboration and planning — something you can start to do right now within your own community. Where you live and what your community needs will vary, of course, but as a former ACO, a call or an event typically runs more smoothly if the prep work has been put in.

I work for RedRover, a national animal welfare organization that provides daily care for animals and shelter management during natural disasters and cruelty cases.

We also provide emergency sheltering and animal behavior training to shelters and animal organizations across the country. Most recently, I deployed to the Monument Fire to manage the emergency animal shelter in Redding, California.

Upon arrival I learned that many of the dogs staying at the shelter were extra large (my favorite!), like Anatolian Shepherds, Great Pyrenees, Great Danes and Mastiff mixes. These big babes needed extra large spaces, and we didn't have them. I learned that for the region, this size dog was fairly typical, and we should expect more dogs of this size coming in with evacuations underway. We needed big-dog space, and we needed it fast!

A detail like this can be hugely important during a

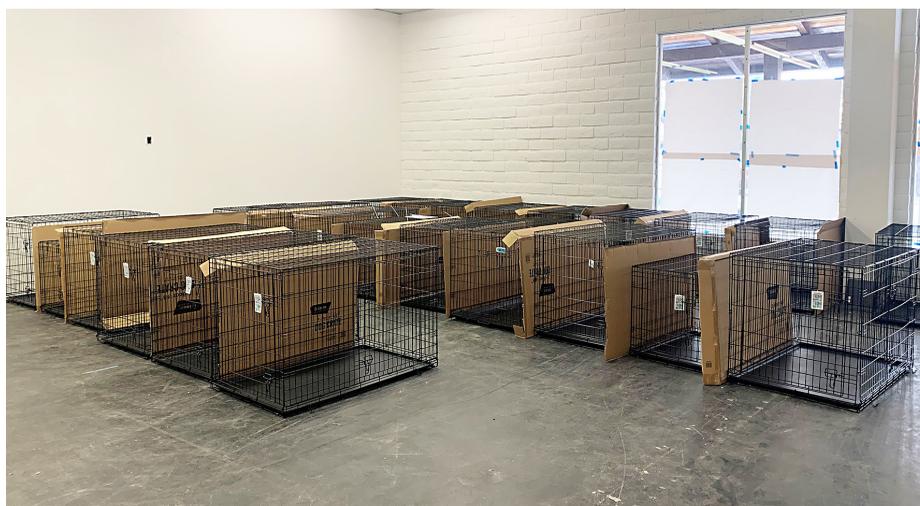
natural disaster. My team scoured the local area for the largest crates we could find, only to learn they were out of stock. So we had to get creative. Here are a few tips when planning for your emergency animal shelter during a natural disaster:

- As an ACO in your community, you know best what your animal population is. Are you a community with a large number of chihuahuas? How about a cohort of stranger-danger guardian breeds? This will directly affect your space, set-up, and supplies.
- Plan and buy supplies beforehand. Large dogs need large spaces! If you don't have enough crates, purchase a stock of exercise pens to create larger spaces.
- Connect with a realtor now – have an idea of what facilities and space may be available during a time-sensitive crisis and how it will best work for your animal population. For example, a warehouse with half the space on an upper level isn't ideal when walking dogs, and a building with no air conditioning will be a real challenge in summer heat.
- If you work in a small community, start planning now who will manage an emergency animal shelter if needed, as you'll likely still need to manage your ACO duties.
- Enrichment and capacity for care is just as important in an emergency shelter setting. Have a plan

and supplies for this beforehand. How many people will you need to walk dogs four times a day? Who will prep Kongs? Can the community donate chewies, treats, and toys to keep in your supply cache?

- Plan for smallies and exotic animals – they need sheltering, appropriate space, and supplies too. Know beforehand where you can purchase smallie food or have the basics on hand for animals like guinea pigs, rabbits, and gerbils.

With pre-planning you're sure to be ready for the unexpected! Need help or guidance? RedRover provides free training, virtual or in person, on emergency sheltering. Reach out to Devon Krusko, RedRover, Field Services and Community Programs manager at [dkrusko@redrover.org](mailto:dkrusko@redrover.org) for additional information. ❖



# Animals in Natural Disaster Q&A with Diane Robinson

Source: Justice Clearinghouse - After the Webinar

**Audience Question:** If an agency has done nothing, if it were ground zero, where do they even begin to start? Can you give them those first couple two or three steps?

**Diane Robinson:** For an agency – preparing yourself – so going through and doing some mitigation of your facility that if you're in an impacted area that you start to look at your facility and what you need to do to be able to manage that situation and recover afterward. The FEMA training, absolutely everybody needs to be trained in that. There are also additional webinars and resources out there if you're doing your disaster planning to prepare your folks in understanding what their role is going to be and really how do you manage your day-to-day responsibility if the disaster hit as well, and then get with

your emergency management. You need to know what your role is going to be and if you are going to be part of that disaster plan. Then start building how you are going to respond to that.

**Audience Question:** Piggybacking on that, Diane, you said earlier in the presentation there are a few courses that are basics for people who need to learn how to address the animal needs in a disaster. Can you repeat those numbers?

**Diane Robinson:** These are listed on the resource typing for the position but general recommendations are 100, 200, 700, 800. There's a 10 and 111 I believe are the animal ones. So if you go to the resource typing it will tell you what all those numbers are and if you go to the

FEMA website that I listed, that has those FEMA courses that you need to take

**Audience Question:** I'm part of a community animal response team or CART with a primary mission of a disaster sheltering, not rescue. We desperately need a complete training package to train new members. How do we get a copy of one of the trainings mentioned at the start of the program or do you know of any source for one?

**Diane Robinson:** I know that American Humane has a disaster sheltering course and I believe they still take those out to communities. I don't know how that works but check the American Humane – Josh Carey (?), they have a training that they deliver. Additionally, if you go to some of the websites, I think RedRover is another group that has some disaster preparedness. I don't know if they have a sheltering. And I could check ASPCA, and certainly, they could contact me. We bring trainings out as well and can assist with training.



**Audience Question:** While we're talking about sheltering, are we also talking about vaccinating the animals as they come into the shelter with any basics, like similar to what we would traditionally do on an intake situation? Are you also vaccinating on disaster situations?

**Diane Robinson:** So that's part of the conversations that you need to have with your communities. And I know that those – that the philosophy varies depending on who you talk to and best practices will certainly cover more. But ideally, we don't know what the history of these animals are, so if you develop this as part of your plan, that you are going to be vaccinating these animals, then having the permissions of the owners to do that, you're going to need to look into legality of that as far as bringing them into the shelter and then have that part of your paperwork and intake process. Establish what works for you but you also then you need the resources to be able to do that. Both in giving the vaccine and then having those vaccines available are a consideration.

**Audience Question:** Could you touch on the PETS Act again?

**Diane Robinson:** So the PETS Act came about following the summer of 2005. It was inactive in the fall of 2006 and that – what it requires is that you have a disaster plan. It also tied funding to that, that having a disaster

plan and working with that enable, if it is a federally declared, that there are resources available and some reimbursement available as part of that. And again, follow up with your emergency managers.

**Audience Question:** Doesn't the PETS Act only apply in jurisdictions applied for an accept federal funding? If the jurisdiction doesn't accept federal dollars, then they don't have to have a disaster plan, is that right?

**Diane Robinson:** No, you have to have a disaster plan and it varies – Georgia recently, through their Department of Agriculture, requires all of the facilities that they oversee are licensed and that they have a disaster plan. So you have to have a disaster plan for the animals, but you're able to get funding for it. I can't speak about what ramifications there are if you don't have a disaster plan but it's certainly in your best interest to have a plan for the animals going into it. Social media and media will destroy you if you don't have something planned for it and obviously not to mention impact on the people and the animals, but it's worth your while to have a plan.

**Audience Question:** How can the organizations with resources register what they have and what they do? So, for example, they have an air-conditioned trailer outfitted for transport, how do they register those resources?

*(continued on page 18)*

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**Diane Robinson:** First up locally it's again, emergency managers who are going to send me hate mail, but get with your emergency management, get with your ESF that is responsible for the animal issues and the jurisdictional authorities and let them know what your capabilities are. Develop those disaster plans, as far as from the FEMA side of it, they have to double-check through NASAAEP or certainly (indiscernible 1:08:28). If there's some other avenue, check with NARSC so as far as registering what resources you have available but the biggest impact is going to be locally and so starting there with your local jurisdiction.

**Audience Question:** You use a couple of acronyms if we can go back and clarify those. What is an MAA and what's the difference between an MOU and an MAA.

**Diane Robinson:** So an MAA is Mutual Aid Agreement and an MOU is Memorandum of Understanding. The Mutual Aid Agreement certainly is just I can do this for you, and you can do this for me. So we settle that out with each other on what we're able to provide one another. With an MOU, the other agreement is simply that I may be calling

you in to support me and where again, it's that foundation building of relationship that we have all worked out some of the legality of being able to assist one another or it can spell out what you're able to provide, but it certainly doesn't get with your legal department. You don't want it to be so strict that says we're going to do this and we're going to do that. There needs to be "This is what we can provide to you if the need is there."

**Audience Question:** Has there been any court decisions or lawsuits to your knowledge establishing a limit on only service animals being in the human shelter and not of the others, meaning like the therapy or emotional support animals? Are you aware any of the work being done in this area by DOJ, ADA staff, or anything on this line?

**Diane Robinson:** I am not. I know it has certainly been a topic of conversation not even just related to disaster, but my understanding is that legitimate service animals that are certified and credentialed, those are the ones that have always been required to be sheltered. It's the PETS Act that expanded it to the pet, the public pets that aren't service animals, but that's a really challenging area right now because you can just file that in a certificate and label your animal regardless of what it is, as a service animal, so unfortunately, I don't have any more information for you on that. ❖



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# Meet the Arizona Humane Society Emergency Response Team

By Tracey Miiller

The Arizona Humane Society (AHS) is the state's designated responder for animals in distress during natural disasters and has an Emergency Response Team that can deploy at a moment's notice to man-made and natural disasters. This team partners with the American Red Cross to establish a temporary animal shelter within close proximity to the human evacuation center. Additionally, AHS' team is

trained to assist with animal evacuation, sheltering in place and search and rescue efforts.

AHS has been responding to large-scale emergencies since 2002, and has been involved in search and rescue missions for many disasters including the Rodeo-Chediski Fire (2002), Hurricane Katrina (2005), and the Yarnell Fire (2013), where nineteen Hot Shots lost their lives.

Soon after, it became clear that AHS' disaster response efforts needed revitalizing after a period of inactivity. Fast forward to 2015 when changes were being made within our organization. Missions were being revised, new goals were being set, and staff were reformed to better move the organization in the same

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direction. Slowly, we were starting to see the beginning of a new and improved Emergency Response Team.

Under the leadership of the vice president of field operations, who is also a member of the Arizona Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), a new AHS Emergency Response Team was born.

The participation wasn't much at first. We would be a spare set of hands at a local drill, or we would be provided a few seats for a FEMA training course, but we were out there getting our faces and our name known once again among the organizations who would ultimately require our assistance.

In 2017, a select group of individuals from various disciplines throughout AHS were asked if they would like to be a part of the Emergency Response Team. We were looking for people with medical or field operations backgrounds in addition to people who were superb with their animal handling skills. A team of 15 was quickly established as the Emergency Response Team.

Everyone was required to attend the same training: ICS100/ICS200/ICS700/ICS800/ICS10/ICS11, as well as human and animal CPR, Hazardous Material awareness, animal decontamination protocols and Wildland Fire 130 & 190. These training courses helped put us back

on the map when it came to being asked to deploy to disasters. Agencies saw how serious we were about our mission and they could trust our expertise and professionalism during a disaster.

Today, we are the go-to agency for all things disaster related. We now host trainings with outside agencies, assist local animal control with supplies and manpower, and as the Bissell Pet Foundation's National Shelter Alliance partner, we provide support during emergencies to smaller shelters while encouraging collaboration and relationship building between various human and animal agencies.

Whether it's being deployed to a wildfire, assisting in a training drill, or taking in animals from shelters in the Southwest who have been affected by the hurricanes, the more we help, the more relied upon we become and we feel very fortunate to be in this role.

During AHS' first year with a fully trained Emergency Response Team, we only deployed to one wildfire to set up an animal evacuation shelter. The next year we were requested to assist with two wildfires. So far this year we have deployed to two wildfires and one flooding incident. We set up animal evacuation centers for all incidents, with one wildfire requiring two separate sheltering locations to be operational at the same time.





## The first in our 64-year history

Ensuring that the Emergency Response Team is ready and operational is a yearlong task. We are continually staying up to date on our training as well as finding and attending new training courses that are relevant to our scope of work. We train together and conduct planned and unplanned drills to keep our skills sharp while also participating in local and statewide exercises multiple times a year. The quote by Marcus Luttrell holds true, “You play like you practice and practice how you play.”

Today, we are currently a very active Emergency Response Team who works under the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #6 which means we assist with: Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services. We can be deployed by a request from the American Red Cross or from the agency having jurisdiction.

AHS’ Emergency Response Team has also recently taken over as lead for Maricopa County as it relates to responding, setting up and operating an animal decontamination center in the event that domestic animals have been exposed to hazardous materials. Due to the

fact that we are in a jurisdiction with a nuclear generating station, we are on the forefront of animal decontamination in the event of a radiological release.

We are also working with our county Department of Emergency Management, local jurisdictional partners, the Department of Agriculture and a local large animal rescue organization to create and establish protocols for large animal evacuations in the event of a disaster. These efforts remain in conjunction with the primary role of caring for the Valley’s most vulnerable pets – the sick, injured and abused homeless pets in Maricopa County.

Our revitalized focus, increase in disaster response requests, newly assigned decontamination responsibilities, and our work on leading large animal evacuation protocols would not be possible without the support of our organization. As an entire organization, we value the relationships we have made during the last few years and are grateful for the community and our partners with entrusting AHS’ Emergency Response Team as

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the go-to agency when it comes to emergency animal sheltering, search and rescue and collaboration.

To learn more about AHS' Emergency Response efforts, please visit [www.azhumane.org/disaster](http://www.azhumane.org/disaster).

### About Arizona Humane Society

Every pet deserves a good life. This passionate belief has driven the Arizona Humane Society to serve a critical role in our community for more than 60 years. We rescue, heal, adopt and advocate for homeless, sick, injured, and abused animals. Through collaborative partnerships, affordable community services, emergency rescue and our medical trauma center, we are committed to providing second chances and saving the lives of animals.

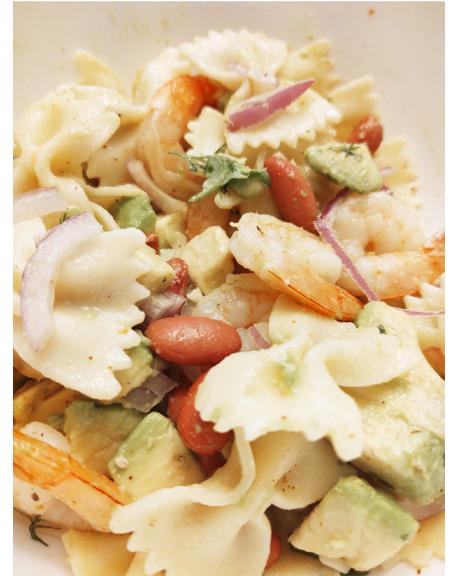
*Tracey Miller serves as the field operations manager at the Arizona Humane Society where she oversees the organization's Emergency Animal Medical Technicians™ and Animal Cruelty Investigators. Each year, AHS' Field Operations Team responds to more than 9,000 animal rescues and cruelty investigations. Tracey came to AHS with more than 20 years of experience in law enforcement and coordinates AHS' efforts with nine contracted cities throughout Maricopa County. Tracey also oversees the Arizona Humane Society's Emergency Response Team, the state's designated responder for animals in distress during natural disasters. For more information about AHS' Field Operations efforts, Emergency Response Team, or AHS, please contact Tracey at [TMiiller@azhumane.org](mailto:TMiiller@azhumane.org). ❖*



# What's Cooking, ACOs?

**A**nimal control is a tough job. Sometimes finding the time to cook is even tougher. "ACO Michele" created a Facebook group in 2017 called "ACO Bites" that quickly grew to over 200 members with an average of 51 posts a month! The group is designed for ACOs and animal care professionals to share their favorite foods with other like-minded professionals! The emphasis is mostly on quick meals that can go from idea to table in under an hour, because we all know coming home after a long, hard day and being able to prepare a good meal is important to staying healthy – and keeping one's sanity! The group shares all kinds of recipes, including homemade foods, recommendations on where to find yummy bites and even funny food mishaps! NACA got a whiff of the amazing recipes coming from this group and wanted to serve them to you!

This issue we are focusing on Disaster Response and Preparedness, and we are proud to feature Preparedness Pasta submitted by ACO Michele herself! We hope you will enjoy this! Keep watching this column for more recipes to come!



## Ingredients:

Bowtie pasta  
1 TBS Olive oil  
Shrimp  
1 /2 red onion, diced  
1 can red kidney beans  
1 avocado, diced  
Juice of 1 lemon  
Dill  
Parsley  
Salt and pepper to taste  
\* Optional chili powder\*

## Directions:

1. Cook pasta according to package and set aside.
2. Sautee shrimp in olive oil or use frozen shrimp thawed, according to directions.
3. Add onions.
4. Add can of kidney beans and add pasta back into dish.
5. Heat through.
6. Remove from stove and add avocado, lemon juice, dill, parsley, salt and pepper to taste. Mix gently.
7. Kick up your feet and ENJOY!

# Ten Ways Pet Parents Can Be Ready When Disaster Strikes

By Dr. Gary Weitzman

In honor of National Preparedness Month, San Diego Humane Society is urging all people who have animals to ensure they have an emergency plan in place for their pets and livestock.

Whether an emergency occurs because of an illness, wildfire, earthquake, or other disaster in San Diego County, planning is the key to keeping you, your loved ones, and your animals safe.

Here are my top 10 tips to help plan for an emergency:

1. Prepare an Emergency Kit. Put all your daily pet supplies in a sturdy container. Gather a two-week supply of food, water and your pet's medications. Don't forget shot records, bowls, crates, bedding, and toys. Keeping your pet comfortable will reduce stress during an evacuation.

2. Practice Transporting Your Pet. Make sure your pet

is comfortable getting into a carrier and know where your pet hides when he is stressed and scared.

3. Plan for Large Animals. If you have large animals or livestock, have trailers or travel containers available for all of them. Practice with your animals in advance, so they are used to being loaded and unloaded from their trailers. Work with neighbors to identify locations where large animals can be brought to on foot (especially large open areas that can provide safe spaces during fires). You may not have time or space to evacuate all your large animals, and you will not be allowed to reenter mandatory evacuation areas even for your own animals.

4. Identification. Make sure your pets are always wearing identification. This includes animals who don't

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normally go outside. Collars with tags that have your phone number are important. Having your pet micro-chipped can also help identify them if they become lost. Make sure you keep your address and phone number up to date in addition to listing an emergency contact outside of your immediate area.

5. **Plan Ahead.** Not all evacuation shelters accept pets, so it's important to prepare. County information sources such as [ReadySanDiego.org](http://ReadySanDiego.org) and [Listo-SanDiego.org](http://Listo-SanDiego.org) (Spanish) can help. Research hotels outside your area for pet policies and ask friends or family if you and your pets can stay with them in case of disaster.

6. **In Case of Illness.** Create a care tree detailing how your pets will be cared for if you become sick or hospitalized. During a pandemic like COVID-19, have two to four options lined up in case additional people become sick.

7. **Leave Early and Take Your Pets.** If you are evacuating your home, take your pets with you. Pets cannot fend for themselves during disasters and leaving them behind can risk both their lives and those of

rescuers. Leave early and don't wait for mandatory evacuation orders.

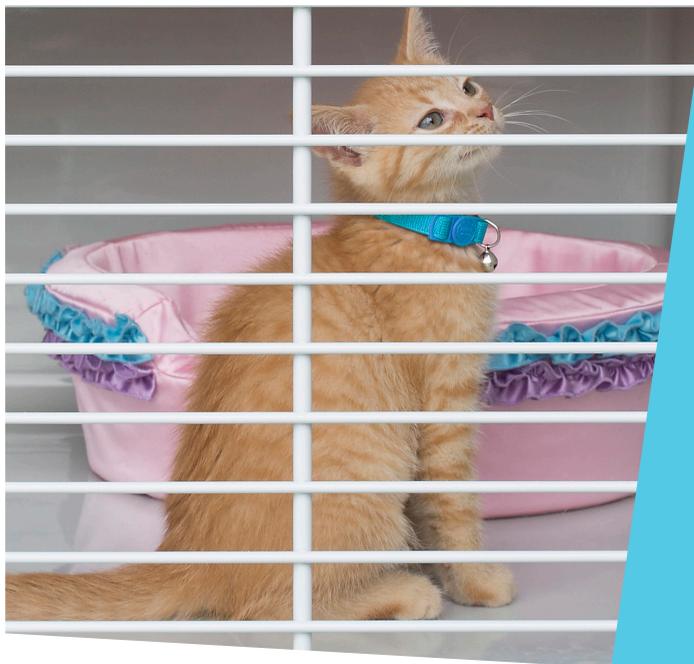
8. **In Case You're Away.** A disaster may strike or an order to evacuate may come when you're away from home. Make arrangements in advance with a trusted neighbor to take your pets and meet you at a specified location.

9. **Learn Pet First Aid.** The last thing you want is to be frazzled if your pet is injured. Spare yourself (and your pet) the panic by familiarizing yourself with what to do if your pet becomes injured.

10. **Know Your Vet.** Locate a veterinarian or animal hospital in the area where you may be seeking temporary shelter in case your pet needs medical care. Be sure to add the contact information to your emergency kit.

More disaster preparedness information can be found on San Diego Humane Society's website: [sdhumane.org/disasterprep](http://sdhumane.org/disasterprep).

*Gary Weitzman, DVM, MPH, CAWA, is an author, veterinarian, and passionate animal welfare advocate. He has served as the president and CEO of San Diego Humane Society since 2012. ❖*



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# Volusia County's Pet Disaster Kits Help Citizens Get Prepared

Adapted from Volusia County Community Information, Volusia County, Florida

**B**eing prepared and having a plan for you and your pets could be a lifesaver during a tropical weather system or other type of emergency. And that includes having pets permanently identified in case they get separated from their owner during a disaster.

Volusia County in Florida went above and beyond for their community during a recent community event that featured free pet disaster kits. We all know we should have a disaster kit, but most likely do not take the time to put one together. Volusia County Animal Services hosted a free, drive-thru pet microchip event that including the first 300 vehicles receiving an added gift: a free pet disaster kit.

Animal Services teamed up with Volusia County Emergency Management to provide the free pet disaster kits. They came in a five-gallon bucket and included everything from pet food, water, a leash and a first aid kit to a pet collar light, glow sticks, a waste disposal bag dispenser, and wipes – a \$70 value.

“These are some of the essentials for your pets that you might not have time to think about in a disaster,” said Leath. “So, we’re going to think about it for you. It’s our way of helping to make sure that you and your pets are disaster ready.”

By providing both services at the same time, Volusia County saw great success and now the pets are not only permanently microchipped, but their owners are also now prepared should disaster strike with the essentials. Animal Services Director Adam Leath says it’s the best way to ensure a happy reunion with a lost pet. And that’s the reason for the free community events.

“We believe in microchipping that strongly, and we have the lost pet stories with happy endings to prove its worth,” said Leath. “We want to make sure that every pet finds its way home. A microchip is the best way to do that.”

The pet disaster kit supplies were purchased by the shelter with financial support from the Volusia County Emergency Management department and the staff assembled the kits prior to distributing. Premade pet disaster kits will save many lives and the community and pets of Volusia County are prepared should the unthinkable happen. ❖

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Residents must remain in the vehicle and are encouraged to wear a face covering. If you bring a pet to the event for a microchip, please be sure to have dogs on a leash and all other pets including cats in a carrier for everyone's safety. Staff will remove your pet from the vehicle for the quick and painless procedure.

Just a few minutes later, the pet will be returned to you.

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# Responding to the CZU Lightning Complex Fire

By Jeff Christner

**O**n August 16, 2020, lightning strikes started as many as 22 individual fires in mountainous and heavily forested terrain on the northern end of the Santa Cruz Mountains in San Mateo County and Santa Cruz County, California. These fires were collectively named the “CZU lightning Complex Fire.” CZU is the callsign for Cal Fire’s Santa Cruz/San Mateo Unit. Fire suppression operations began immediately on some of the fires, but access to other fires was extremely limited.

Moreover, smoke conditions and the fact that fires were burning in heavily forested terrain made use of fixed-wing aircraft impossible. Within two days the fires began to merge and spread. This part of California does not often see this type of fire activity, as both counties border the Pacific Ocean and are typically subjected to a marine layer effect which keeps the forests damp, sometimes year-round. In the days leading up to August 16th, there was virtually no marine layer, the humidity was low and

the temperatures high, leading to an elevated level of fire danger.

The Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA (PHS/SPCA) has been contracted by the County of San Mateo to provide animal control and sheltering services since the early 1950's. Additionally PHS/SPCA operates many donor funded programs such as Spay/Neuter, Wildlife Rehabilitation, and Adoptions. On the night of August 18, after an evacuation order was given for two rural communities and adjacent areas in southern San Mateo County, PHS/SPCA was requested to respond to the Red Cross Evacuation Center in Pescadero to assist evacuees with their needs. Pescadero is a small farming and ranching community near the Pacific Ocean. Most people took the evacuation order seriously and evacuated, bringing their dogs and (house) cats with them, some 15 miles north along Highway 1 toward the city of Half Moon Bay. As a result, only one dog and one cat were taken into protective custody that first night. On August 19 the evacuation order was expanded to include most of the southwestern end of San Mateo County, which

encompasses over 100 square miles and several additional rural communities. The Red Cross then set up a new Evacuation Center in Half Moon Bay. Thankfully, the Red Cross was able to obtain numerous pet-friendly hotel vouchers for evacuees. To help support evacuees, PHS/SPCA began handing out dog and cat food, bowls, and other supplies such as cat litter. By the end of the second day, only 14 animals needed to be sheltered at our facility.

It wasn't until August 21 that our PHS/SPCA Dispatchers started receiving rescue requests. These were requests from animal owners to enter the evacuated areas and either take their animals into protective custody, or in some cases, shelter them in place when the animals couldn't be located or captured, such as barn (outdoor) cats. Most of these rescue requests involved chickens left behind in their coops, making the capture and evacuation of them somewhat routine, especially since the fire was still several miles away from most of these locations. Access to many of the properties was

*(continued on page 30)*







By September 3, as the fire was around 50 percent contained, nearly 1,400 structures had been destroyed; however, only about 50 of these were in San Mateo County and less than half of those were residences. The total area burned was 86,500 acres, or about 130 square miles, making it the largest fire in CZU Unit history and the largest disaster, by area affected, that PHS/SPCA has ever responded to.

Regardless of the size or nature of the disaster you end up responding to, you should have some type of debriefing session to identify what worked, what didn't, and what can be improved upon. This way the lessons learned from one disaster can be applied to the next one.

*Jeff Christner is the director of Animal Rescue & Control and Humane Investigations at the Peninsula Humane Society and SPCA in San Mateo County, California. He has shared detailed animal control vehicle specifications with numerous agencies, including a new option, having dog stairs built into the sides of animal control trucks. (see NACA NEWS Spring 2014) His hobbies include aviation, archaeology, and building fire trucks out of LEGO. He can be reached at [jeffc@phs-sPCA.org](mailto:jeffc@phs-sPCA.org). ❖*





Readers' Note: Below is NACA's position statement regarding free roaming cats. The document, including Dr. Hurley's references, can be downloaded for your files at [www.nacanet.org](http://www.nacanet.org).



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### Animal Control Intake of Free-Roaming Cats

It is the position [policy] of the National Animal Care & Control Association that, at every opportunity, officers should [will] work to educate the public regarding humane and responsible co-existence and care of pet and community cats, to include education on the benefits and resources for spay/neuter and vaccination; responsible feeding and management practices for those choosing to care for community cats; and effective methods to humanely deter and exclude animals from homes, structures and targeted areas. It is the position of NACA that indiscriminate pick up or admission of healthy, free-roaming cats, regardless of temperament, for any purpose other than TNR/SNR, **fails to serve commonly held goals of community animal management and protection programs and, as such, is a misuse of time and public funds and should be avoided.**

- **Impoundment of healthy adult cats reduces the likelihood of reuniting families with pets:**  
Lost cats are 10-50 times more likely to be reunited with their owners if they stay in the neighborhood of origin than through an animal shelter. In fact, the most successful reunification method for cats is the cat returning home on its own. A family may not consider their free-roaming cat lost until the point when the cat is removed from the neighborhood and transported to a shelter.
  - **Impoundment of healthy adult cats may disproportionately impact under-served and marginalized communities**
    - Only 16% of participants in a program supporting low income pet owners have ever called or visited an animal shelter, and only 3% of pets in the same demographic were adopted from a shelter (compared to 30-40% for the general U.S. population), suggesting that impoundment is likely to be a one way journey for pets belonging to low income community members.
    - Only ~40 % of people in the lowest income bracket (<\$30,000 annual income) that lost cats were reunited with them, compared to > 90% reunited for those making \$50,000 or more per year.
- **Impoundment has the potential to increase cat populations and impact:** The haphazard removal of individual cats is not population management. Removal of cats without concurrent control of the food source has been linked to paradoxical increases in cat populations by as much as 200%.
  - Kittens pose a greater risk than adult cats for shedding and spreading parasites with wildlife and/or public health implications (e.g. toxoplasmosis, *Toxocara cati*, *Ancylostoma* spp.),
  - therefore removing adult cats and destabilizing population age structures further increases risks to the environment.

- **Impoundment fails to resolve the inciting factors for nuisance situations:** if cats are simply impounded, community members may not be motivated to identify and remedy factors such as open garbage containers that may be attracting cats as well as nuisance wildlife. TNR programs that leave cats where they are have been associated with significant reductions in nuisance complaints.
- **Impoundment of healthy free roaming cats reduces capacity to respond to critical community needs:** historically “stray cats” have made up the majority of intake at North American shelters. This can leave shelters overwhelmed, overcrowded and less able to provide appropriate care and outcomes for those animals that do require sheltering (such as sick and injured animals, those whose owners can no longer keep them, and animals that have been neglected or abused).

Impounding healthy cats is not the best way to provide services to these cats and the residents in the area in which the cats are found. NACA advises officers to take proactive steps to divert intake of “stray cats” while offering services that support the goals of community animal management and protection programs:

- Refer the public to local organizations or other staff/programs within the shelter that focus on trap-neuter-return, low-cost spay/neuter clinics, or utilize a return-to-home program within the agency if outside resources are not available or accessible.
- Support ongoing care of community cats with information on best feeding practices, referrals to pet pantries and sources for outdoor cat shelters, etc. to reduce likelihood of future complaints and contribute to the wellbeing of the individual community cats. Feeding bans are not effective strategies for dispersing congregations of cats or mitigating complaints.
- Work with residents to mitigate nuisance complaints, deploying a range of available tools (e.g., humane deterrents) and collaborating with caregivers and local TNR and rescue groups.

Exceptions to this policy should be made to mitigate exigent risk or to alleviate significant nuisance situations that can't be otherwise remedied (e.g. with counseling/education of caretakers, sterilization and vaccination of cats, use of humane deterrents). These circumstances are best identified through a managed admission program that includes contact and counseling prior to intake. Staff should be informed and encouraged to use their judgement on a case by case basis. Exceptions may include the following:

- **Evidence of abandonment:** Most cats in good body condition are receiving care, however in some circumstances it may be known that a cat has been recently abandoned, e.g. because it is known that the former owners moved and are not returning to care for the cats, or because the structure where the cat was known to be living was recently destroyed.
- **Evidence of being lost and unable to reunite:** While cats are more likely to return home on their own or through posting in their neighborhood of origin, it may be appropriate to admit a healthy free roaming cat if efforts have already been made to reunite it with the owner (e.g. posting in neighborhood of origin and social media without results; cat has been seen for an extended time without encouragement by feeding).
- **Issues with larger groups:** Large aggregations of cats may be associated with greater nuisance and risks than individual free roaming cats. A multi-faceted approach should be taken in these cases that leads to gradual reduction or elimination of the group, such as: a combination of caretaker education, sterilization and gradual removal to adoption, and relocation to working cat homes.
- **Specific risks identified for wildlife:** Removal may be part of a multi-faceted approach to cat management in protected habitats for sensitive wildlife species. However, even in these cases, ad hoc removal (lethal or non-lethal) has not been demonstrated to be effective and in some cases has led to paradoxical population increases in target areas. Unless new arrivals can be excluded by fencing, removal must be sufficiently intensive and sustained to outpace new immigration and breeding, the natural consequence of a decrease in population density. Community buy-in is critical for success and a multi-faceted approach is required that includes input from natural resource personnel, animal services staff and cat advocates.

**CONTRIBUTOR CREDIT:** Dr. Kate Hurley



PetLink Pro

# PetLink In Your Pocket

✓ Type in the microchip number

✓ Hold down the microphone button to speak in the microchip number

✓ The administrator of your PetLink Animal Professional account can create a username and password for you

✓ Use the camera to capture the microchip number from the LCD display of a reader

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- ✓ Backtrack
- ✓ AAHA Pet microchip look up

To see full owner details, alternative contacts and pet medical needs, submit a Found Pet Report through PetLink Pro.

PetLink will contact the owner immediately and let them know their pet has been found.





# Upcoming Training Opportunities

## **Webinars: Welcome National Animal Care and Control Association! – Justice Clearinghouse**

- 10/28/2021 Solving Problems with Bears and Cougars Webinar
- 11/9/2021 Critical Stress Management for the ACO Webinar
- 11/11/2021 Preparing for Court: Tips for the Effective Testimony about Animal Crimes Webinar
- 11/18/2021 Lifesaving Dispatch Webinar
- 12/07/2021 Community Cats: How to Garner Support For and Run a Successful TNR program
- 1/18/2022 Intro to Social Media Marketing for Animal Shelters Webinar
- 1/20/2022 Partners in Investigating Animal Crimes
- 1/25/2022 Connecting the Dots in Criminal Justices: Preventing Crimes Against People by Focusing on Animal Abuse

## **Additional Training**

- Safe Capture Chemical Immobilization Livestreamed November 6 & 7, 2021
- Safe Capture Chemical Immobilization Livestreamed January 25 – 27, 2022
- Safe Capture Chemical Immobilization In Person (Pennsylvania) October 23 & 24, 2021
- Safe Capture Chemical Immobilization In Person (California) January 12 & 13, 2022
- Animal Welfare Leadership Master Class October 25 – November 22 (Mondays) 2021

## **Conferences:**

- Texas Animal Control Association Conference In Person November 8 – November 10, 2021
- Association for Animal Welfare Advancement Conference Virtual December 7 – 9, 2021



# Maddie's Fund

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## #ThanksToMaddie

*NACA is a proud recipient of funding from Maddie's Fund®, #ThanksToMaddie.*