

Emergency Support Function – 18 Animal Services



2025

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK

RECORD OF CHANGES

Each update or change to the plan should be tracked. The record of changes, usually in table format, contains, at a minimum, a change number, the date of the change, the name of the person who made the change, and a summary of the change. Other relevant information could be considered.

Change #	Date	Part Affected	Date Posted	Who Posted
1	12/3/24	Removed Greater Savannah Veterinary Association	12/3/24	Halcomb

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK

RECORD OF DISTRIBUTION

The record of distribution, usually in table format, indicates the title and the name of the person receiving the plan, the agency to which the recipient belongs, the date of delivery, and the number of copies delivered. Other relevant information could be considered. The record of distribution can be used to prove that tasked individuals and organizations have acknowledged their receipt, review, and/or acceptance of the plan. Copies of the plan can be made available to the public and media without SOGs/SOPs, call-down lists, or other sensitive information.

Agency	Name, Title	Date of Delivery	Copies

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Table of Contents

RECORD OF CHANGES 1

RECORD OF DISTRIBUTION 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS..... 5

INTRODUCTION..... 6

 Purpose6

 Scope6

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS 6

 General6

 Preparedness.....7

 Response7

 Recovery.....7

 Mitigation8

 Organization8

 ESF Role Aligned to Core Capabilities.....8

 Responsibilities.....8

ESF – 18 Animal Services

ESF COORDINATOR:

Chatham County Animal Services

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

Georgia Department of Agriculture
Humane Society of Greater Savannah
Oatland Island Wildlife Center

INTRODUCTION

The emergency support function of Animal Services involves direction and coordination, operations, and follow-through during an emergency or disaster.

Purpose

The ESF-18 Animal Services Annex supports the EOP and complies with standards set forth in the National Response Framework. This document provides guidance pertaining to the safety and well-being of animals including companion animals during an emergency or disaster event. This however is not a tactical response document. ESF-18 Animal Services is designed to ensure timely and seamless integration of animal services resources following an emergency or disaster affecting Chatham County.

Scope

ESF-18 provides a framework for the identification and coordination of transportation assets, in conjunction with ESF-1 Transportation, to assist with the evacuation of pets and for the identification, staffing and support of pet-friendly shelters, animal shelters, and pet and/or animal confinement/quarantine areas during an emergency or disaster event.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

General

During an emergency or disaster, ESF-18 may be activated to support operations and assist with the development of a common operating picture. The scope, scale and magnitude of the threat/incident will dictate which support agencies will be requested for the support of ESF-18 Animal Services in the EOC.

Preparedness

- a. Develop plans and/or procedures providing for the coordinated and safe evacuation of pets and animals during an emergency or disaster event.
- b. Ensure coordination with appropriate entities to provide vaccinations to pets and animals prior to transport and/or sheltering during an emergency or disaster event.
- c. Develop and maintain a listing of all identified animal shelter and confinement areas that are available to provide support during an emergency or disaster event.
- d. Coordinate with ESF-6 Mass Care/Sheltering to identify potential pet-friendly shelters in proximity to approved emergency shelter locations.
- e. Coordinate and/or participate in the development of public service announcements to increase the awareness of the public regarding animal directives and available pet options during an emergency or disaster event.
- f. Coordinate the development of MOA's with appropriate agencies/organizations for the provision of services to assist individuals and families affected by the emergency or disaster.
- g. Ensure the development of procedures for the humane re-entry of animals post event and reunification with their owners.
- h. Participate in and/or conduct training and exercises to evaluate available animal and animal industry response capabilities.
- i. Ensure all ESF-18 personnel integrate NIMS principles.

Response

- a. Coordinate the evacuation of animals from risk areas and provide technical assistance to prevent injury to animals and the dissemination of diseases.
- b. Ensure the provision of care for livestock and other animals impacted by the emergency or disaster event.
- c. Coordinate with local public, private and Non-Governmental Organizations to provide support to include equipment and technical assistance for the sheltering and stabling of both large and small animals during an emergency or disaster event.

Recovery

- a. Ensure coordination with regional and state assets as appropriate.
- b. Provide support to State of Georgia Animal Rescue Teams.

- c. Provide support to agencies with long-term maintenance, placement or disposition of animals that cannot be returned to their normal habitat or which have been separated from their owners.

Mitigation

- a. Support and plan for mitigation measures.

Organization

The County EOC will be activated to coordinate a multi-jurisdictional level response.

Representatives from the applicable ESF-18 Agencies may be assigned to the EOC or alternate location, as best suited to meet incident needs and coordinate operations.

ESF Role Aligned to Core Capabilities

The following table lists the response capability that ESF-18 most directly supports, along with the related ESF-18 actions supporting the capability.

Core Capability	ESF-18 Animal Services
Situational Assessment	• Provide all decision makers with decision-relevant information regarding the nature and extent of the hazard, any cascading effects, and the status of the response. This includes but is not limited to: ➤ Size, Scope and potential cascading effects.

Responsibilities

Coordinating Agency	Actions
Chatham County Animal Services	• Coordinate ESF meetings to ensure planning functions are carried out to support this ESF. • Coordinate resources to support pets and service animals at the County Evacuation Assembly Area upon activation. • Coordinate resources to support post-event animal rescue and provide operational support. • Provide support staffing to the EOC for the following position: ➤ Animal Services

Supporting Agency	Actions
All Supporting Agencies	• Attend meetings to ensure planning functions are carried out to support this ESF. • Identify Agency staff representatives to support this ESF and other operational practices during emergency and disaster operations. • Ensure the presence of resources (human and physical) are in sufficient numbers to support the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF. • Conduct recovery and restoration tasks in coordination with the EOC/RCC and federal assistance program guidance. • Annually evaluate Critical Workforce staffing needs and report sheltering and/or equipment staging locations as requested. • Coordinate pertinent disaster recovery information with the County Joint Information Center (JIC). • Identify damages and/or losses and prepare an action plan for recovery activities. • Maintain records of expenditures and document resources utilized during response and recovery operations. • Develop appropriate Plans, Procedures, Mutual Aid Agreements, Checklists, Go-Kits and other supporting documentation as needed to facilitate execution of the Agency's responsibilities to this ESF. • Prepare to support the EOC as necessary. • Participate in drills, exercises and other preparedness events to evaluate the Agency's readiness to support this ESF. • Ensure Agency staff maintain NIMS compliance and report compliance measurements annually as requested.
Georgia Department of Agriculture	• Provide available resources to support pre-event animal evacuations and post-event animal rescue and operational support. • Provide technical assistance for the inspection of facilities to ensure the safety of animals during an evacuation.
Humane Society of Greater Savannah	• Provide available resources to support pre-event animal evacuations and post-event animal rescue and operational support.
Oatland Island Wildlife Center	• Provide available resources to support pre-event animal evacuations and post-event animal rescue and operational support.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK