

The WOAAH role in the management of animal welfare issues during natural disasters

Paolo Dalla Villa

Technical Officer - Dog Population Management and Disaster Management
WOAH Standards Department

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World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



Property of the IZS - Teramo



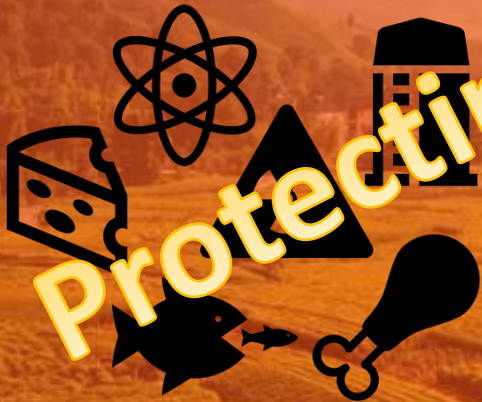
Infectious diseases, including emerging zoonoses and vector-borne pathogens



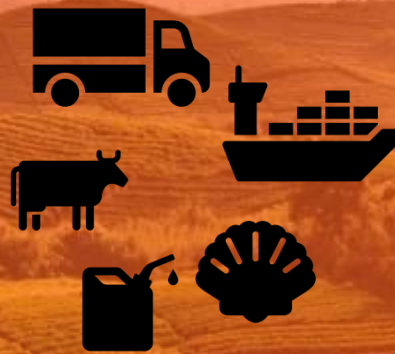
Geological events: earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis



Adverse weather and climatic events: storms, floods, fire and drought



Technological disasters and contamination of food and feed chains



Transport and maritime accidents, including oil spills



Agro-crime, agro-terrorism, cybersecurity, conflict, refugees

Protecting animals, preserving our future

OIE

**GUIDELINES
ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT
AND RISK REDUCTION IN RELATION
TO ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE
AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH**
(GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES)

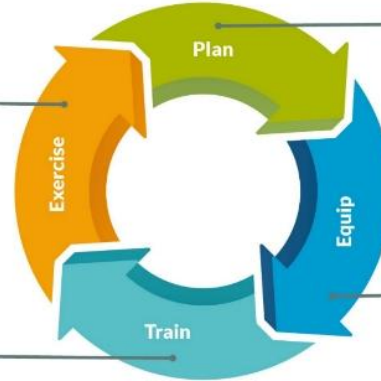


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MAYO 2016

Develop, conduct and evaluate simulations that test the planning equipment and training, and result in after-action review reports and improvement planning

Develop the knowledge, skills and abilities of those expected to implement the plans and procedures



Develop frameworks, systems, risk analysis and resources mobilisation plans and procedures

Secure the necessary equipment and supplies to implement the plan through resource mapping and mobilisation



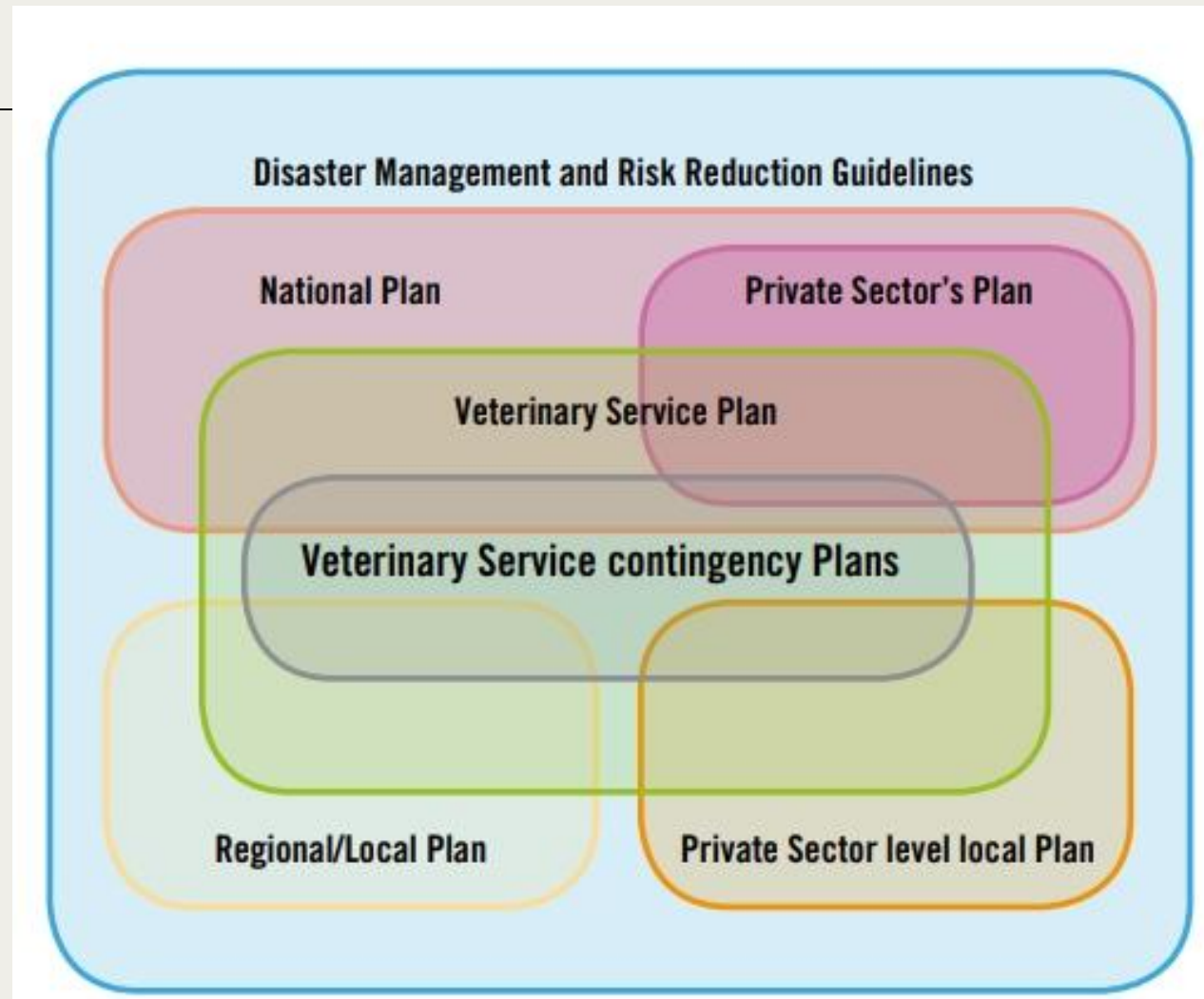
**WOAH Platform
on animal welfare
for Europe**



GUIDELINES FOR SIMULATION EXERCISES

A consistent set of good practices for preparing, delivering, and learning from animal health and welfare and veterinary public health simulation exercises for Veterinary Services

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Veterinary Service contingency plans, for animal disease outbreaks or any other hazards, acknowledged within the overarching national framework for emergency management

(from: OIE Guidelines on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction in relation to Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health)



A three-year pilot project was launched in 2018 for the Balkan countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania and Serbia), aiming at building a culture of emergency preparedness among Veterinary Services and relevant stakeholders



- ✓ Three most commonly reported disasters are **FLOOD - FIRES** and **EARTHQUAKES**
- ✓ National DMRR plans prioritize **livestock (48%), companion animals (35%), zoo and aquatic (21%),** wildlife (19%), lab animals (17%) and others
- ✓ 60% AW incorporated in the National Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plan
- ✓ 33% Contingency Plans for AW emergencies
- ✓ 17% Standard Operating Procedures
- ✓ 27% train for AW emergencies
- ✓ 15% conduct simulation exercises for AW emergencies

Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness

www.cambridge.org/dmp

Original Research

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Keywords: animal welfare; capacity building; disaster management; natural disaster; preparedness and response; veterinary disaster

Corresponding author: Gary Vroegindewey;
Emails: gary.vroegindewey@linunet.edu or dvroeg@gmail.com.

World Organisation for Animal Health Members' Capacity to Deal With Animal Welfare Emergencies During Natural Disasters in Europe

Gary Vroegindewey DVM, MSS¹ , Karen Gruszynski DVM, PhD¹, Daniel Handler DVM¹, Tomasz Grudnik DVM², Roberto Balbo DVM, MSc^{2,3} and Paolo Dalla Villa DVM^{2,4}

¹College of Veterinary Medicine, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN, USA; ²World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), WOAH Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, Belgium; ³Agriculture Directorate Rural Affairs Department of the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights, Qormi, Malta and ⁴Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale," Teramo, Italy

Abstract

Objective: Little is known about individual European countries or regional capacity to respond to animal welfare emergencies during natural disasters; therefore, it is important to establish baseline information (eg, types of disasters, training) to enable more focused and data-driven actionable support for future disasters.

Methods: A 55-question survey was distributed by an email link to the 53 World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) European Region Members plus 1 observer country.

Results: Forty-nine countries (91%, n = 54) responded to the survey. Fifty-one percent (25/49) indicated they incorporated animal welfare into their national disaster regulatory framework, whereas 59% (29/49) indicated animal welfare was incorporated in the Veterinary Service National Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plan. Thirty-nine percent (19/49) indicated they had "no" or "limited" legal authority to manage animal emergencies in natural disasters. Floods, forest fires, and snowstorm/extreme cold were the 3 most commonly reported disasters over the last 10 years with 79% (27/34) reporting Veterinary Services was involved in managing these disasters.

Conclusion: The survey results indicated a wide range in the capacity of WOAH European Member Countries to respond to animal welfare in natural disasters, highlighting the gaps and potential areas of improvement in this arena.

Disasters have had significant impacts on human health along with animal health, economies, trade, environment, and societies, which have resulted in animals and animal-related issues becoming an increasingly important part of disaster management and risk reduction planning. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Annual Report 2019¹ estimated the global economic losses from natural hazards at US \$232 billion in 2019, highlighting the animal component of disasters by citing Australia's October 2019 to March 2020 bushfires that killed an estimated 1.25 billion animals. In recognizing the critical importance of resilience in agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) analyzed the post-disaster needs assessments undertaken in the aftermath of medium-to-large-scale disasters in Africa, Asia, and Latin America over the decade from 2003–2013. Livestock were the second most affected subsector after crops, accounting for US \$11 billion, or 36% of all damage and losses.² In 2021, the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) reported a total of US \$40 billion in economic costs caused by the 2012 Germany flood.³

World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), founded as The Office International des Epizooties (OIE), has maintained its basic mission of "protecting animals, preserving our future" since its founding in 1924. It is the primary international agency addressing animal and animal-related issues. Both the government and the public have the expectation that the national Veterinary Services of each country will be prepared for and able to respond to a wide range of disaster scenarios, at the regional, national, and local levels while addressing animal welfare concerns. The focus on animal welfare has multiple benefits, including the promotion of the physical and behavioral health of animals; supporting the humane values of compassion and caring across stakeholder domains; safeguarding the physical health of human survivors and responders; supporting disaster response effectiveness; supporting effective recovery on a physical, social, economic, environmental, and emotional basis; and maintaining public confidence and support of the government.⁴

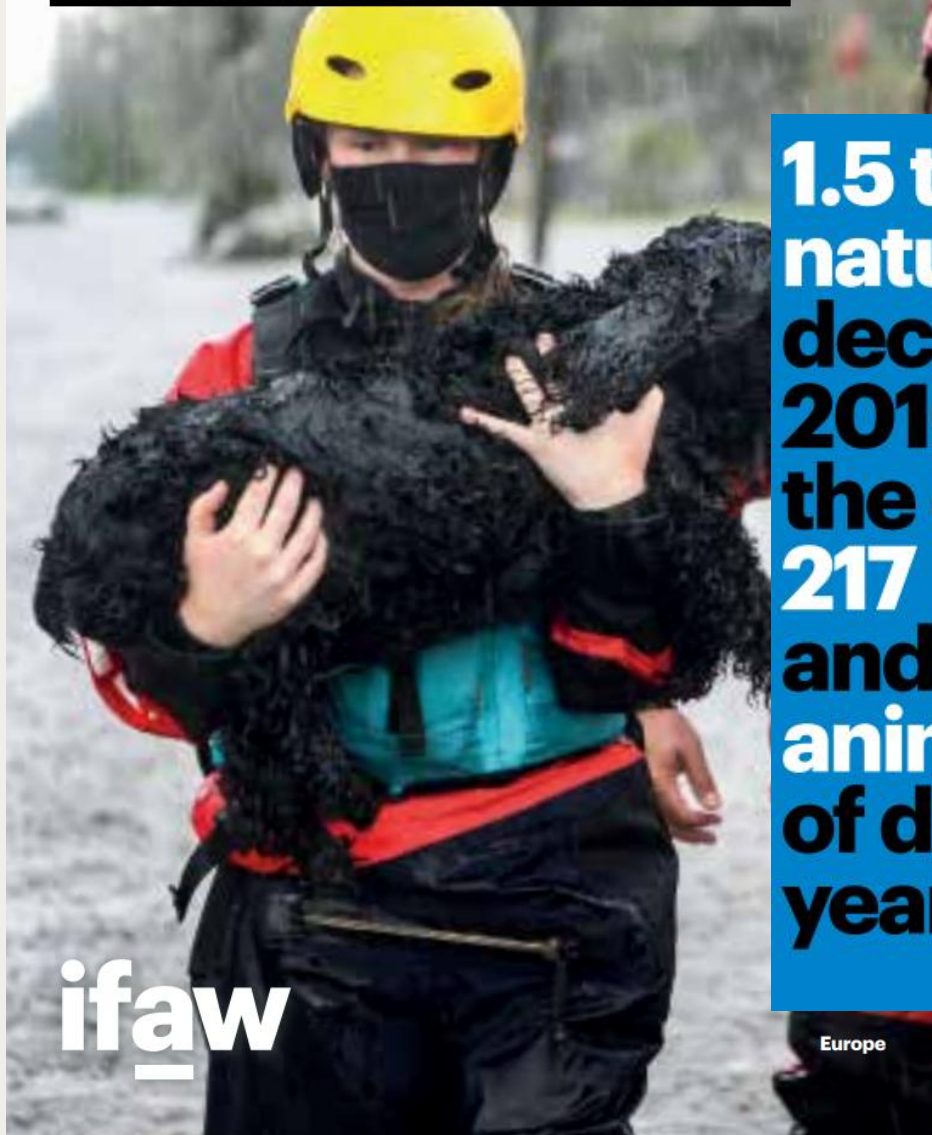
Additionally, animal health is inextricably linked with human health under the One Health umbrella. In disasters, there are many links between the two components. Protecting the safety

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SDMPH
SOCIETY FOR DISASTER MEDICINE & PUBLIC HEALTH



beyond rescue: animals in disasters



ifaw

**1.5 times more
natural disasters
declared between
2010 and 2019 than
the decade before.
217 million people
and likely billions of
animals are at risk
of disasters every
year.**

Europe

EUROGROUP
FOR
ANIMALS

**ANIMALS IN
DISASTERS**

the need for protection
and coordination
across Europe.







TRIAGE - A veterinary challenge, not only an animal welfare issue.....

- *Animal and public health* aspects
- *Rescuers safety & biosecurity* risks
- *Environmental* consequences
- *Economic* implications
- *Ethical* dimension

ANIMAL TRIAGE TRAINING GAME

- FOR FIRST RESPONDERS -

INSPECT

LISTEN

FEEL

URGENT I

BEYOND
SAVING II

DELAYED III

MINOR 0

Do you know which color code to assign to each animal?

Can you perform the right triage on these animals before the veterinarian arrives?

Powered by



Animal Welfare.
Worldwide.

UCDAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA





TAKE HOME MESSAGE

12

Veterinary Services should maintain a **proactive attitude toward contingency planning**, to be aligned with the need to coordinate crisis management efforts and mitigate the impact of disasters **in a One Health perspective**

The finalization of the WOAHP Platform's triannual pilot project in the Balkans should be seen as **a starting point for the widest implementation of the WOAHP Guidelines on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction** in Europe.

At the request of Members, discussions are ongoing regarding the development of a **Network of Contact Points on DMRR**.

An **Incident Management System** is being developed to increase the WOAHP resilience and capacity to support its Members in emergency situations. A side event at the 92nd GS is planned on this theme.

Thank you

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France
T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49
F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87

woah@woah.org
www.woah.org

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