



UC Davis IAWTI Animals in Disasters Training Modules Developed for Cal-EMA and Department of Homeland Security 2011-2012

As part of the Cal-EMA Animals in Disasters grant provided to Dr. John Madigan and the International Animal Welfare Training Institute (IAWTI) we have created the following four NIMS & SEMS compliant 8-hour modules for first responders, veterinarians, government and non government organizations, tribal nations, and public volunteers.

- 1. Guidelines for Establishing an Emergency Animal Shelter: Veterinary Considerations- CE approved**
- 2. Loose Livestock, Injured Wildlife and Humane Euthanasia of Animals for First Responders**
- 3. First Responder Guidelines for Equine Emergencies: Level 1**
- 4. Veterinarian Integration into Multi-Agency Emergency Equine Rescue and Disaster Response - CE approved**

Extensive review and input has been performed during the process of module creation. The development of each module was done by a team of IAWTI board certified veterinarians in partnership with statewide multiagency experts and delivered as pilot courses in five jurisdictions in the state of California. The animal welfare aspects of portions of the trainings have been developed to comply with American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) approved guidelines for euthanasia and follow AVMA welfare principles. Additionally individual subject matter experts in animal welfare from the American College of Animal Welfare and USDA have reviewed key welfare components of the training. An initial working group of identified subject matter experts including CVMA county disaster coordinators, California Department of Fish and Game, various police, sheriff, animal control, and fire departments were involved to identifying the needs of the training and provide critical analysis. The final assembly and review following this diverse input was completed by project team veterinarians Dr. John Madigan, Dr. Eric Davis, Dr. Cheryl Ellis, and project manager Tracey Stevens. Modules have been submitted to the Department of Homeland Security, POST (Peace Officer Safety Training) for further review and approval and have been assigned federal ID numbers.

Upon final DHS approval, all government agencies will be able to utilize their DHS training funds for fee-based participation ensuring sustainability of these needed training programs.

Additionally, modules 1 and 4 listed above are approved for veterinary CE credit and will aid organized veterinary medicine, including CVMA, in reaching the goals of veterinary involvement in disaster emergency response. As part of this effort we



have created ONLINE components to integrate ONLINE learning for a portion of the emergency animal-sheltering module, which we intend to make available to CVMA county coordinators for ease of access to training. Further testing of this approach will be performed in year 2. We conducted beta tests of the emergency sheltering exercise as part of module 1 utilizing veterinary students, animal control officers, and emergency planners for input and critic. We are currently in the planning stages with Yolo County OES to conduct a simulated Care and Shelter exercise that will include humans and animals.

The UC Davis IAWTI project team are current members of the CVMA Disaster Planning Committee for statewide integration of veterinary medicine into the CAVMA-MRC (Medical Reserve Corp). The UC Davis VERT team is one of the original Veterinary Medical Reserve Corp Teams in the nation. The modules that provide CE credits will allow further integration and cross training efforts for the CVMA county coordinators statewide, which will expedite veterinary emergency resources for all counties. This will be a first time-established collaboration for Cal EMA, UC Davis and CVMA, for disaster planning.

CARES (California Animal Response Emergency System) is still underway to create a formal charter for the state of California. The IAWTI team has been active and participative in providing solutions to further this mission. John Madigan is a CARES steering committee member representing UC Davis and IAWTI. The Animals in Disaster program has become the lead in training first responders, local government, NGO and other groups, which is an essential component for the establishment of a statewide response system. Funding of year 2 of our 2 year grant from Cal-EMA will support further efforts for creating train the trainer programs and additional DHS, POST and CE courses for the entire state with anticipation of being adopted by the CARES Steering Committee.

We look forward to further collaboration between UC Davis IAWTI and the CVMA, other state veterinary associations, CARES, Red Cross, fire departments, law enforcement, animal services and county and state emergency planners to provide these state of art peer reviewed trainings in California and nationally.