

Community Emergency Response Team



Pet Response and Preparedness

Released: 29 August 2021 **Contra Costa CERT Coalition**

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Community Emergency Response Team

- 👤 Personal safety is ALWAYS the number one priority
- 👤 Show up prepared
 - Wear appropriate clothing and footwear, have WATER
 - Wear PPE - your personal protective equipment ...gloves, helmet, goggles, mask, boots, etc.
 - Have at least one communications device: cell, radio, etc.
- 👤 Work as a team
- 👤 Size-up - maintain situational awareness
- 👤 The CERT goal is to do the **Greatest Good for the Greatest Number**
- 👤 *Hope for the best but plan for the worst!*

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Unit Objectives

- 👤 Identify CERT Responder safety protocols when encountering or handling animals
- 👤 Explain animal operations procedures
- 👤 Explain personal pet preparedness

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CERT Pet Encounters are Frequent

-  67% of U.S. households own pets
 - Dog
 - Cat
 - Fish
 - Bird
 - Small animal
 - Reptile




-  In a CERT search and rescue operation, you are likely to encounter household pets



(2019-2020 Study APFA National Pet Owners Survey)

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Pets Impact People in a Disaster

2005
Hurricane Katrina

- Pets viewed as non-essential
- 44% of residents refused to obey the mandatory evacuation because of their pets
- 100,000 pets were separated from families and 70,000 perished
- Separated pets impact health and safety during a disaster

2006
PETS Act

- **Pets Evacuation & Transportation Act** makes it mandatory for states and local governments to include plans for pets in their emergency procedures

2017
Hurricane Harvey



- Humans and animals welcomed at evacuation centers or pets housed in adjacent facilities
- ASPCA expanded disaster response divisions
- Responders viewed animals as part of the family unit, improving evacuation success

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Safe CERT Pet Handling

What you will learn:

-  The importance of responder safety when CERTs encounter animals while conducting light search and rescue operations
-  Knowledge needed to perform CERT tasks that may involve handling dogs and cats

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Why CERTs Train in Animal Handling

- 🐾 Following a disaster, abandoned and stressed animals create risks for responders
- 🐾 Infectious disease risk increases when abandoned pets roam freely following a disaster
- 🐾 Animals help reduce owner trauma, sense of displacement, and long-term post traumatic stress
- 🐾 Evacuation operations are more effective when families and pets are treated as an intertwined unit

🐾 Pets Matter, Because People Matter...

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Approaching an Unknown Animal

When confronted with non-aggressive animals:

- 🐾 Size up the situation
 - What is your objective
 - Is the injured owner able to help you talk to or direct the animal?
 - Assess whether you can contain the animal (capability, your team size, available time, supplies)
 - How will you keep your egress clear?
 - How is the animal behaving?
 - What will you do with the animal once contained?

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Approaching an Unknown Animal

When confronted with non-aggressive animals:

- 🐾 Maintain a relaxed, controlled environment
 - Avoid prolonged direct eye contact
 - Do not show fear
 - Always use a soft, calm voice - try to gain their confidence
 - Do not reach out to the animal, let them come to you
 - Tip: tap on a food can or use treats if available
 - Do not loom over an animal or grab it by the collar

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Approaching an Unknown Animal

When confronted with non-aggressive animals:

- Approach with your body turned sideways
- Use a slip leash to control a dog, use a towel or pillow case to pickup a cat
- Always wear your PPE – gloves and eye protection
- Use as little restraint as needed

IMPORTANT: Never attempt to approach or restrain an **aggressive** animal. Report the location of pets left behind so their welfare can be monitored by others later.

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Approaching an Unknown Animal

How to Greet a Dog (and What to Avoid)

Appropriate greetings are common sense. Imagine if someone greeted you the way many people greet dogs!

NEVER RECOMMENDED	NEVER RECOMMENDED	NEVER RECOMMENDED

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Approaching an Unknown Animal

When encountering –

Frightened animals:

- Seek assistance unless you are experienced
- Don't approach unless others can assist you
- Move slowly, try to get the animal to come to you

Aggressive animals:

- Do not approach, back away slowly
- Notify your CERT supervisor

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Approaching and Crating a Cat

- 🐾 Stand the carrier up so the door is open, facing the ceiling. Make sure you are wearing gloves and goggles.
- 🐾 Hold a lightweight towel with two hands. Calmly approach the cat with the towel from behind or from the side.
- 🐾 In one fluid movement, gently but confidently wrap the towel around the cat like a burrito – with only their head sticking out. You will need to hold the towel securely so you don't hurt the cat, but it can not gain traction with its back legs to squiggle out.
- 🐾 Slip the tail end of the towel-wrapped cat into the carrier and swiftly shut the door. Don't unwind the towel – they will do it themselves.

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Approaching and Crating a Cat

Alternative pillowcase method:

- 🐾 Open the carrier so the door is open, facing the ceiling. Gather the pillowcase together like an accordion into your two hands.
- 🐾 In a gentle, fluid movement, unfurl the pillowcase as you place it over the cat's head and then down around it's body.
- 🐾 Swiftly close the end of the pillowcase while gently guiding the cat-pillowcase down head-first into the carrier.

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Approaching and Crating a Cat

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Approaching and Crating a Cat



☛ If you do not have a carrier for the cat, secure the top of the pillowcase with a twist tie or cord to transport.

Photos courtesy of Walnut Creek CERT

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Placing a Slip Lead on a Compliant Dog

- ☛ Using a pre-made slip lead (a sturdy band with a metal ring sewn securely into one end), prepare the lead by placing the end of the lead through the metal ring, creating a very large loop (lasso).
- ☛ Make the loop so large that you can slip it over the dog's head without bending over. The goal is not to bend over, which would place your face too close to the unknown dog's head.
- ☛ Slip the large loop over the dog's head and pull up on the long end of the lead. The loop will slip down around the dog's neck and gently pulling the lead up will ensure it is snugly placed around the dog's neck.
- ☛ Do not pull so hard that you are jerking the dog's head or making the lead too tight. This movement should be careful yet gentle.
- ☛ Hold the lead with both hands. One hand should be holding the lead midway between the dog and your body. Your dominant hand should be holding the end of the lead.

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Placing a Slip Lead on a Compliant Dog



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Placing a Slip Lead on a Compliant Dog

- 🐾 Never use a slip lead on a puppy or very small dog
- 🐾 Never tie a dog to an object with a lead
- 🐾 Never leave a dog unattended when it is on a lead
- 🐾 Never allow the dog to pull hard and constantly on a slip lead as it may damage its throat

- 🐾 If a dog becomes so frightened dog that it continues to pull with its neck on a lead, you must remove the lead completely and leave the dog behind. Follow your organization's protocols for documenting an animal left behind.

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Keeping Pets With Owners - Documentation

- 🐾 Your CERT Organization has a method for ensuring owners and companion pets are identified together
- 🐾 Before transporting:
 - Ensure you have the proper transportation capability
 - Know the location of your organization's animal intake center
 - Complete documentation including owner's information and intake number, pet information and intake number

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Transport Decisions

- 🐾 Preparation begins before the disaster strikes. Pet owners should make advance preparations for alternative care of their pets should the need arise
- 🐾 Both the owner and the driver must feel comfortable and safe in transporting the pet in the driver's private car
- 🐾 If a pet is left behind, CERTs should document its location and condition using SAR markings and/or follow your jurisdiction's protocols

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Transporting Animals - General

- Make sure crates are of adequate size
- Allow only one animal per crate
 - Exception in case of mother and babies
- Control climate within vehicle
 - Keeping any animals in stationary vehicles in hot weather can result in death
- Cats should always be in a carrier
- Dogs may be tethered if not in a crate; *do not use slip leads to secure the animal*

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A Warning about Transporting Pets

- Car temperatures can be deadly!
- How hot is my car (degrees Fahrenheit)
- At 120° the pet may suffer irreversible organ damage or die

Outside Temp	Inside 10 Minutes	Inside 30 Minutes
75	94	109
80	99	114
85	104	119
90	109	124
95	114	129

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Search Marking

If you must leave a pet behind, remember to note them in your Search Marking

MAIN ENTRANCE SEARCH MARKING

DATE AND TIME SEARCH TEAM LEFT STRUCTURE
 HAZARDS
 TOTAL VICTIMS STILL INSIDE STRUCTURE
 X or 0 = NO VICTIMS
 USE TRIAGE COLORS
 B = BLACK, DEAD
 R = RED, IMMEDIATE
 Y = YELLOW, DELAYED
 G = GREEN, MINOR

SEARCH TEAM NAME AND DATE / TIME ENTERED STRUCTURE

SEARCH TEAM: CERT-A 4-15-09 14:30

HAZARDS: RATS BROKEN STAIRS AGGRESSIVE DOG

VICTIMS: 2-B 1-R 2-X 1-DOG Y 1-CAT G

DATE AND TIME: 4-15-09 14:45

STRUCTURE: MAIN ENTRANCE

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Animal-Inflicted Injuries

- 🐾 In the event of any animal attack, report to your CERT supervisor
- 🐾 If facing an aggressive dog, try basic commands, such as sit, stay, or down
- 🐾 If possible, put an object or distance between yourself and dog
- 🐾 Back away; do not run away
- 🐾 If you fall, curl up and cover your head
- 🐾 Do not scream or yell

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Animal-Inflicted Injuries

- 🐾 Wash any animal scratch, bite, or injury immediately with soap and water
- 🐾 Administer first aid as appropriate
- 🐾 Seek immediate attention for any bite
- 🐾 Report all injuries to your CERT supervisor immediately and seek professional medical attention

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Personal Pet Preparedness

- 🐾 Plan for your animals, your home may be compromised
- 🐾 Create a controlled environment
- 🐾 Have kennels/Evac-Sacs in a safe, accessible place
- 🐾 Assign retrieval tasks to family members
- 🐾 Have a Buddy System
 - Exchange Keys / Plans With Neighbor / Pet Sitter (in possession of your pre-authorization letter)
- 🐾 Identify safe outdoor holding area
- 🐾 Obtain materials to create a holding area

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Identifying Evacuation Locations


- 🐾 Safe distance from home
- 🐾 Coordinate with neighbors
- 🐾 Identify and confirm pet friendly hotels:
 - bringfido.com or 877-411-FIDO
 - dogfriendly.com or 888-281-5170
 - doginmysuitcase.com or 888-0254-0637
 - pet-friendly-hotels.net or 866-966-3046
 - pets-allowed-hotels.com or call 800-250-1625
 - petswelcome.com
 - tripswithpets.com
- 🐾 Identify Boarding Kennels and Ranches

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Evacuation

- 🐾 Evacuate with your animals
 - PETS Act: Mandatory evacuation of companion pets with humans
- 🐾 If you are not home
 - You may not be home when the evacuation order comes; find out if a trusted neighbor would be willing to take your pets and meet you at a prearranged location
- 🐾 Leave a letter with your trusted neighbor or sitter, authorizing them to retrieve and/or care for your pet



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Keep Your Animals Alive

- 🐾 Store animal food (2 weeks)
 - Airtight, waterproof containers
 - In secure area
- 🐾 Store extra water (2 week supply)
 - Not in direct sunlight
 - Water that is unfit for human animals is unfit for ALL animals
- 🐾 Food and water bowls
- 🐾 Paper towels, dish soap, disinfectant



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Keep Your Animals Healthy

- Pet first aid kit
- Medications
- Blankets
- Toys and treats
- Protective Booties (infant socks)
- Plastic poop bags or cat litter and litter trays
- Ask vet about his/her disaster plan




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Provide a Clean, Safe Place

- Dogs and cats
 - > Collapsible crate or kennel
 - > Harness, leash, muzzle, cable screw / stake
- Horses, swine, cattle
 - > Halter and lead rope
 - > Bedding material
 - > Manure fork
- Birds, reptiles, rabbits
 - > Cage liners
 - > Evacuation cage or carrier
- Fish?



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ID Your Animals and Yourself

- ID your pets
- Put an ID tag on collar
- Microchip each pet (new law)**
- Vet contact
- Vaccination records / spayed or neutered
- Register your pet
- Authorization letter



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ID Your Animals **and** Yourself

- 👤 ID yourself with your animals
 - Take photos of yourself with your pets
 - In wallet
 - In emergency kit (go-bag)
 - With loved ones outside local area
- 👤 Maintain these important items in waterproof container like a Ziplock bag
 - LOST Poster
 - Animal license (copy)
 - Last veterinary invoice showing vaccination dates

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Travel ID Baggie

LOST

Please help us find this animal:



Species: Canine	Breed: Brittany	Sex: Female, spayed
Colors: White / Orange	DOB: 03/2017	Collar/Tag: Patterned nylon collar with ID, Rabies tag and license
Weight: 29 lbs	Micro Chip: AVIP014917782	

Last seen:


If you have any information pertaining to this animal, please contact:
 Name: Loren and Isam Bolor Phone Numbers: (425) 123-0567
 Address: 1234 Connecticut Ln (520) 766-9876
 Blandif, CA 90909

Please do not remove this poster. Write down the information.

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Questions



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Takeaways

- 🐾 Pets matter because people matter
- 🐾 Only assist in evacuating a companion animal if you can do so safely
- 🐾 Keep your own animals safe
 - Secure your animals
 - Identify evacuation locations
 - ID your animals **with** yourself
- 🐾 Get additional training

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What's Next

- 🐾 Local Animal Response Program
 - SAR Team forms to document owner with pet
 - CERT animal handling supplies and locations
 - Animal intake forms and procedures
- 🐾 Take FEMA courses online
 - IS-10 - Animals in Disaster, Awareness and Preparedness
 - IS-11 - Animals in Disaster, Community Planning
 - IS-111 - Livestock in Disasters
 - <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>
- 🐾 Join an animal rescue group

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