

# Basic Animals Emergency Services



## Course Description

### Scope Statement

This course and manual were developed to educate people who will be involved in animal rescue and sheltering in the event of a disaster. Animal emergency response is a complex rescue and sheltering field that requires specific skills and expertise. This course is designed to be a basic introduction to the components of animal emergency response, and not a step-by-step resource guide for rescue and sheltering.

### Course Terminal Learning Objective

To develop the basic knowledge and skills to respond with an animal rescue and sheltering operation during or after a disaster, whether at the local or national level.

### Course Enabling Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Develop an understanding of the need for a national animal response
- Identify non-government organizations and the role they play in animal rescue
- Explain how to activate a disaster response team
- Describe the components of disaster response
- Identify safety factors and concerns in the field and shelter
- Develop an understanding of the incident command system in the overall response and how it relates to shelter and field operations
- Develop an understanding of animal behavior and handling for dogs, cats and horses
- Explain the types of animal shelters and the components of sheltering
- Explain the basics of field operations, roles and responsibilities, search techniques and the unique challenges in rescuing animals
- Explain animal triage in a disaster
- Identify the requirements and recommendations for responding with American Humane Association

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites; however, it is recommended that learners have some knowledge and experience with companion animals and the Incident Command System

### Course Length

The course is 14 hours over two days.

### Testing/Certification

- Students will demonstrate the proper technique for placing animals in crates and removing them from them
- Students will create a design for the layout of the mock emergency animal shelter
- Students will participate in a mock scenario to demonstrate learning
- A certificate of completion is awarded at the end.

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## Unit 1: The Need for National Animal Disaster Response

### Scope Statement

This unit discusses the need for animal rescue and sheltering groups, changes that occurred in animal rescue as a result of the summer of 2005, and the procedure for activating a response team to aid with disaster rescue and sheltering operations.

### Terminal Learning Objective

At the completion of this unit, participants will have a basic awareness of factors that contribute to the need for animal emergency rescue and sheltering.

### Enabling Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Identify reasons for the existence of animal rescue and sheltering groups
- Describe non-government organizations (NGOs) and their function in disaster response
- Recognize common terminology used in the emergency field
- Explain the changes in emergency response that followed Hurricane Katrina
- Discuss the PETS Act
- Describe the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) and member agencies
- Explain how an NGO and other disaster response teams and individuals are activated

### Lesson Topics

This unit is a basic introduction to animal rescue, non-government organizations involvement and federal mandates for animal rescue and sheltering preparedness.

#### **I: American Humane Association, Red Star History**

#### **II: Common Acronyms and Terms**

#### **III: Non-Government Organizations**

#### **IV: Animal Response Teams**

#### **V: The Summer of 2005 and After**

#### **VI: The Human-Animal Bond**

#### **VII: Federal Mandate “The PETS Act”**

#### **VIII: National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC)**

#### **IX: Activation of a Disaster Response Team**

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## Unit 2: Components of Disaster Response

### Scope Statement

This unit discusses the components for a safe and successful response, such as safety, incident command, media relations, communication and managing volunteers.

### Terminal Learning Objectives

At the completion of this unit, participants will have a basic awareness of safety in disaster response and the roles of leadership that contribute to a successful response.

### Enabling Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Discuss procedures for safety and injury reporting during a response
- Explain basic Incident Command System (ICS) for the overall response
- Explain how animal response fits into overall Incident Command System
- Discuss the basics of public relations and what to do and not do
- Explain the importance of communication and the challenges during a disaster response
- Discuss the role of volunteers and the advantages and disadvantages of convergent and trained volunteers
- Discuss physical and emotional reactions to disaster response by the volunteer and their family and friends

### Lesson Topics

This unit is a basic introduction to safety, the overall incident command structure and where animal response falls within that structure, public relations, communication, and volunteer needs and challenges.

#### I: Safety

#### II: Incident Command System (ICS)

#### III: Communication

#### IV: Volunteers

#### V: Coping with Disaster Response

## Unit 3: Sheltering Operations

### Scope Statement

This unit discusses emergency shelter operations, the types of animal shelters, incident command structure within the shelter operation, safety, components of shelter setup and housing for companion animals and horses.

### Terminal Learning Objectives

At the completion of this unit, participants will have a basic awareness of the necessary components for an emergency animal shelter and factors contributing to a safe and functional shelter operation.

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## Enabling Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Define the difference between temporary and co-location sheltering
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each type of shelter
- Explain the function of the shelter leadership team and how it fits into ICS
- Discuss safety within the shelter
- List the components of shelter setup
- Explain the setup for animal housing

## Lesson Topics

This unit is a basic introduction to types of shelters, incident command structure in the shelter, safety, components of shelter setup, companion animal housing setup, and horse housing setup.

### I: Types of Animal Shelters

### II: Incident Command System in the Shelter

### III: Safety

### IV: Components of Shelter Setup

### V: Companion Animal Housing Setup

### VI: Horse Housing Setup

## Mock Sheltering Event

### Scope Statement

The Mock sheltering event will provide an opportunity for the learners to implement the learning from the classroom instruction into a shelter setup exercise.

### Terminal Learning Objectives

At the completion of this exercise, participants will have a basic awareness of participating in an animal emergency sheltering response.

### Enabling Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to implement the classroom learning by:

- Designing an emergency companion animal shelter
- Setting up the shelter
- Participating in a mock disaster exercise
- Debriefing the exercise

## Lesson Topics

This exercise is a basic introduction to emergency sheltering of companion animals which will include the use of the incident command system, emergency shelter setup and clean-up, animal behavior and handling techniques, and managing volunteers and the public.

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## Unit 4: Dog and Cat Behavior and Handling

### Scope Statement

This unit discusses cat and dog communication, how and why they might be acting the way they are, and safe and humane methods for capturing and sheltering them during a disaster.

### Terminal Learning Objectives

At the completion of this unit, participants will have a basic awareness of factors influencing dog and cat behavior and learn strategies for rescuing and handling them safely.

### Enabling Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Read and understand animal communication signals
- Recognize an animal's potential "fight or flight" triggers
- Understand how to approach, catch and handle animals safely
- Understand that animals may behave or react differently in emergency situations

### Lesson Topics

This unit is a basic introduction to factors influencing dog and cat behavior, reading body language, approaching, capturing and restraining them for rescue.

#### I: Factors Influencing Behavior

#### II: Reading the Whole Dog

#### III: Reading the Whole Cat

#### IV: Approaching, Capturing and Restraining Dogs and Cats

#### V: Muzzling

## Unit 5: Horse Behavior and Handling

### Scope Statement

This unit discusses horse communication, how and why they might be acting the way they are, and safe and humane methods for capturing and sheltering them during a disaster.

### Terminal Learning Objectives

At the completion of this unit, participants will have a basic awareness of factors influencing horse behavior and learn strategies for rescuing and handling them safely.

### Enabling Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Read and understand animal communication signals
- Recognize an animal's potential "fight or flight" triggers
- Understand how to approach, catch, halter and lead a horse safely
- Understand that animals may behave or react differently in emergency situations

### Lesson Topics

This unit is a basic introduction to factors influencing horse behavior, reading body language, approaching, capturing and handling them for rescue.

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## **I: Factors Influencing Behavior**

## **II: Reading the Whole Horse**

## **III: Approaching and Capturing a Horse**

## **IV: Haltering a Horse**

## **V: Leading a Horse**

## **Unit 6: Field Operations**

### **Scope Statement**

This unit discusses field operations during an animal response, where animal rescuers fit into the overall disaster response, and safe and effective search and rescue techniques for companion animals and horses.

### **Terminal Learning Objectives**

At the completion of this unit, participants will have a basic awareness of types of field response, safety, and search and rescue techniques.

### **Enabling Learning Objectives**

Participants will be able to:

- Define the different types of field operations
- Explain the function of the field leadership team and how it fits into ICS
- Explain roles and responsibilities
- Discuss safety in the field
- Discuss search procedure
- Explain documentation of animals rescued in the field
- Understand initial medical field assessment for the animals
- Discuss large-animal concerns
- Explain unique challenges in rescuing animals

### **Lesson Topics**

This unit is a basic introduction to animal search and rescue, types of field operations, incident command in the field, safety, roles and responsibilities for responders, animal triage, search procedures for companion animals and safety in rescue of horses.

## **I: Types of Field Operations**

## **II: Incident Command System in the Field**

## **III: Roles and Responsibilities**

## **IV: Safety**

## **V: Companion Animals Search**

## **VI: Documentation for Animals Found in the Field**

## **VII: Initial Animal Field Assessment**

## **VII: Large Animals – Horses**

# Basic Animals Emergency Services

## Unit 7: Responding with American Humane Association

### Scope Statement

This unit discusses the resources American Humane has available for emergency response, volunteer requirements and recommendations for responding at the national level.

### Terminal Learning Objectives

At the completion of this unit, participants will have a basic awareness of equipment and resources available for national disaster response and necessary training and vaccinations for responding to animal emergencies.

### Enabling Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Identify resources available from American Humane Association
- Identify the requirements to respond
- Identify the recommendations to respond
- Explain the activation process for responding with American Humane Association
- Identify necessary and suggested equipment for responding

### Lesson Topics

This unit is a basic introduction to American Humane Association's resources, and volunteer requirements.

### I: American Humane Resources

### II: Volunteer Requirements

## Course Agenda

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### Day 1

- Introduction – 30 minutes
- Unit 1: The Need for National Response – 1.5 hour
- Unit 2: Components of Disaster Response – 1.5 hour
- Unit 3: Sheltering Operations – 2 hours
- Mock Scenario – 2 hours

### Day 2

- Unit 4: Dog and Cat Behavior and Handling – 3 hours
- Unit 5: Horse Behavior and Handling – 2 hours
- Unit 6: Field Operations – 1.5 hours
- Unit 7: Responding with American Humane – 30 minutes