

# EMERGENCY SHELTERING DURING CORONAVIRUS DISEASE PANDEMIC

NARSC COVID-19 SHELTERING TASKFORCE, JUNE 2020



# NARSC

NATIONAL ANIMAL RESCUE AND SHELTERING COALITION



# NARSC AND AMERICAN RED CROSS GUIDANCE TO JURISDICTIONS

## NARSC and American Red Cross Joint Statement:

*We recognize that many Americans will not evacuate without their pets and given that many families have been staying home full time, the bond between humans and their animals will likely be stronger than ever. As such, the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) in conjunction with the American Red Cross is providing guidance intended to ensure jurisdictions are aware of planning changes necessary to meet the extra burden in cleaning, staffing and logistics during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.*

# COVID-19 IMPACTS EMERGENCY ANIMAL SHELTERING NATIONWIDE IN 2 MAIN WAYS

## Personnel Availability

- Organizations you may have relied on in the past for emergency sheltering staffing may not be deployable due to COVID-19 concerns
- The impact on a jurisdiction's ability to stand up and staff an emergency shelter may be greatly impacted

## Social Distancing and Other COVID-19 Protocols

- Red Cross plans to house people in pet friendly hotels, and utilize **more but smaller** shelters
- Social distancing will impact all areas of emergency sheltering, from intake to disposition

# PLAN NOW

This season will be tougher than ever. Emergency shelters will need extra planning to ensure protocols and resources are in place.

- Jurisdictions are required by law to plan for the needs of pets and their owners
- Identify resources in your jurisdiction
- Work together with Red Cross to explore sheltering options that meet your local planning assumptions
- Red Cross is not supporting cohabitation, so any cohabitation shelters will need to be self-managed; depending on your jurisdiction, Red Cross may still provide logistics support (meals, sheltering supplies)

# FOUR TYPES OF EMERGENCY ANIMAL SHELTERS

- Hotel—people with animals in private hotel rooms
- Cohabitated—people and animals (crated) in same living space; owners care for their own animals
- Collocated—animals live in separate area of building, or in nearby building; owners care for their own animals
- Animal only—animals live in a shelter away from where owners live; staff cares for all the animals.

# COHABITATED SHELTERING, THE MOST EFFICIENT MODEL

- COVID is causing a labor shortage; the cohabitated model takes the least number of animal personnel to operate
  - ▣ Animal Care Monitor—circulate in the shelter and manage issues
  - ▣ May have one Animal Care Monitor per approximately 50 families
  - ▣ Can scale up if needed and add an Animal Lead and additional monitor(s)
- Apart from COVID-19 concerns, this is the **best model for the well-being of** both the people and the animals
- The American Red Cross has stated that it will not be supporting the cohabitated sheltering model this season which may have a large impact on jurisdiction planning and coordination

# WE RECOMMEND SOME COVID-19 ADAPTATIONS TO ANIMAL SHELTERING OPERATIONS

- Social distancing needed at intake and for all operations
- Residents and staff wear cloth masks
- Intake—our recommendations mirror those of the CDC One Health working group: screen people for COVID-19 symptoms, triage animals for housing in the shelter
- Shelter set up—space cages 6' apart/use alternate cages/kennels if they are built in (such as a animal shelter building)
- Staff—screened for COVID-19 symptoms
- Cleaning and disinfection—no changes needed here from normal operations; use quaternary disinfectants, Rescue, Accel



# GUIDANCE DOCUMENT—WALK THROUGH

- Audience is jurisdiction personnel—planners, Emergency Managers, operations
- Guidance document
  - Planning assumptions—staffing challenges, travel restrictions, social distancing needed to protect people
  - Planning—what is needed to safely shelter for all types of sheltering, including hotels
  - Resources—where to get the resources you'll need for daily care, veterinary medical care, and material supplies
  - Best practices for shelter operations
  - Strategies for all shelter types

# GUIDANCE DOCUMENT—WALK THROUGH

- Job Aids
  - Appendix A—Checklist for COVID-19 Adoptions
  - Appendix B—Animal Care Monitor Job Description (cohabitated)
  - Appendix C—Animal Care Monitor Checklist
- References
- NARSC Help

# NARSC is here to help!

- Virtual disaster planning—from obtaining resources to COVID-19 protocols, NARSC personnel are available to help you with your planning
- Remote support during disasters—live help by phone during your sheltering operation

**NARSC CONTACT**

[narscshelteringhelp@gmail.com](mailto:narscshelteringhelp@gmail.com)

(904) 863-5198

# SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SHELTER TASK FORCE

- Amanda Landis-Hanna, PetSmart Charities: [alandis-hanna@petsmartcharities.org](mailto:alandis-hanna@petsmartcharities.org)
- Anne McCann, ASAR Training and Response: [amccann@asartraining.com](mailto:amccann@asartraining.com)
- Beth Gammie, RedRover: [bgammie@redrover.org](mailto:bgammie@redrover.org)
- Jennifer Gardner, IFAW: [jgardner@ifaw.org](mailto:jgardner@ifaw.org)
- Joe Hinkle, ASPCA: [joe.hinkle@aspca.org](mailto:joe.hinkle@aspca.org)
- Tiffany Deneaux, American Red Cross: [tiffany.deneaux@redcross.org](mailto:tiffany.deneaux@redcross.org)