

## ANIMAL DISASTER / ANIMAL CARE PLAN

### See also:

Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, "ESF 16: Animal Care," Appendix XVI to the "Basic Plan" in the [State of Rhode Island Emergency Operations Plan](http://www.health.state.ri.us/environment/biot/resources/SEOP.pdf) (2004) <<http://www.health.state.ri.us/environment/biot/resources/SEOP.pdf>>. [Shelter Operating Manual for the Rhode Island Disaster Animal Response Team \(RIDART\)](#) (6-8-SOM)  
[Help for RI Cities and Towns in Preparing for Emergency Animal Care](#) <[http://www.dem.ri.gov/animals/help\\_eac.htm](http://www.dem.ri.gov/animals/help_eac.htm)>

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## **SHELTER OPERATING MANUAL FOR THE RHODE ISLAND DISASTER ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM (RIDART) (6-8-SOM)**

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**See also:**

[Incident Command \(ICS\) Forms](#) in Section 10 of the DEM ERP or via the [National Incident Management System \(NIMS\) Download Center](#)  
<[http://www.nimsonline.com/download\\_center/index.htm](http://www.nimsonline.com/download_center/index.htm)>

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this plan is to provide for the coordination of local and state resources in response to pet, farm, and wild animal-care needs immediately before, during, and following a significant natural or man-made emergency.

## **SCOPE**

The scope of this plan is the overall management, coordination, and prioritization of statewide resources that support pet, farm, and wild animal needs in the event of a declared emergency or disaster.

## **SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS**

### **Situation:**

The number of domestic animals in the USA rivals the human population. In addition to tens of millions of farm stock, Americans care for more than 60 million dogs and 70 million cats, with a total of more than 400,000 in Rhode Island alone. Thousands of yet other domestic animals and livestock rely on these human caretakers. A significant natural or man-made disaster could quickly overwhelm not only these caretakers but also local government's ability to provide backup support. Such a disaster could pose threats to public health and safety such as displacement, injury and death among animals, increased risk of the spread of rabies or other zoonotic or highly contagious diseases, strain on emergency care, shelter, and rescue capabilities, interruptions in agriculture, and related issues. Additionally, addressing these problems could increase other human needs and drain response resources. The possibility of such a disaster necessitates a plan to address risks to animals utilizing local, State and/or Federal assistance.

Generally when a disaster is imminent in the State of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) activates the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and representatives from selected state agencies gather there for unified decision making. The Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) are the conduits for information and assistance for animal-related needs as delineated in this document. HEALTH is the primary agency for public health issues and the DEM is the primary agency for animal health issues.

In a declared emergency, DEM cooperates with HEALTH and RIEMA to address disaster animal issues in a coordinated manner. State emergency support services to implement this plan also rely on support from volunteers, particularly the Rhode Island Disaster Animal Response Team (RIDART).

### **Assumptions:**

All appropriate Rhode Island State agencies and departments will be involved in emergency operations, consistent with their functions and responsibilities for animal issues attending a disaster.

State and local government, private sector, and volunteer agencies that are assigned responsibilities for animal issues in a disaster will have established operating procedures specifying their functions. They will be prepared to communicate and coordinate their actions in an emergency to best deploy their capabilities.

## **CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

### **General**

Given beliefs that animals can fend for themselves, animal issues may be overlooked in the disaster planning process. This lack of planning can lead to serious problems, as when abandonment, injury, and hunger force animals from their habitats. By developing procedures to care for these animals prior to such an event, this plan may reduce the risk to public health and safety as well as the drain on state response resources.

### **Phases of Emergency Management**

The State Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) depicts the potential hazards to which Rhode Island could be exposed in a disaster. The four phases of emergency management provide the framework for delivery of emergency support services. They are: *Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.*

### **Direction and Control**

#### GENERAL

This plan shall be activated when Incident Command determines that there is a potential for a disaster that entails animal issues in Rhode Island. The decision to implement the Plan shall be coordinated with the State Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) for optimal effectiveness.

#### RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

- The designated primary agencies must plan to be as self-sufficient as possible during the first 72 hours following an event, when there may be only limited assistance from support agencies.
- With the advice and consent of the Director of the Department of Environmental Management, the State Veterinarian or his/her designee will activate this plan, in cooperation with relevant local authorities and the Rhode Island Disaster Animal Response Team (RIDART).

#### FUNCTIONS

Animal-related services under this Plan are categorized in the following functional areas (indicated in italics), followed by the agencies assigned responsibility for leading or supporting each function.

*Investigate animal bites and provide rabies control.*

Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)

DEM, Division of Agriculture, Animal Health Unit

HEALTH, Disease Control Division  
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA)

*Assist response teams with animal emergency care and/or related animal problems.*

American Humane Association  
American Red Cross (ARC), Rhode Island Chapter  
Animal Rescue League of Southern Rhode Island  
Audubon Society of Rhode Island  
DEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
DEM, Division of Agriculture  
Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)  
Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)  
Potter League for Animals (PLA)  
Providence Animal Rescue League (PARL)  
Rhode Island Animal Control Officers Association (RIACOA)  
Rhode Island Disaster Animal Response Team (RIDART)  
Rhode Island Federation of Riding Clubs (RIFRC)  
Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)  
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA)  
Roger William's Park Zoo  
Save the Bay  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)  
Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA)  
Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island (WRARI)

*Provide humane care and handling of animals before, during, and after disasters by staffing emergency animal care centers as well as treatment/euthanasia assistance stations, as required.*

DEM, Division of Agriculture  
DEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Rhode Island Disaster Animal Response Team (RIDART)

*Appropriate equipment and supplies for pre- and post-disaster sheltering and rescue of horses and farm livestock.*

Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)  
RIDART  
DEM, Division of Agriculture, Animal Health Unit  
University of Rhode Island, Alton Jones Campus Farm

*Provide emergency medical care to injured animals.*

Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)  
DEM, Division of Agriculture, Animal Health Unit  
DEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
RIDART  
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA)  
Audubon Society of Rhode Island  
Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island (WRARI)

*Remove and properly dispose of animal carcasses.*

DEM, Division of Agriculture, Animal Health Unit

DEM, Division of Law Enforcement  
DEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)  
DEM, Air and Hazardous Waste Division  
Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC)

*Release information to the general public through responsible spokespersons from the designated agencies, regarding such issues as quarantine areas, rabies alert, public service information announcements, etc.*

HEALTH  
RIEMA  
DEM

## **ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES.**

### **Primary Agencies**

Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM)  
Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH)  
Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RI EMA)

### **Leadership**

THE STATE VETERINARIAN or his/her designee is the leader for maintenance and implementation of this plan. The leader is responsible for the following, as the incident may require:

- Notify and mobilize appropriate agencies for emergency animal care.
- Coordinate support agency actions in performance of assigned missions.
- Enforce state animal control statutes (Reference RI GL Chap. 4).
- Quarantine large animals for observation.
- Coordinate requests among appropriate agencies for assistance and additional resources that are necessary for the mission.
- Designate a representative to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to coordinate emergency animal-care activities assigned to the primary and support agencies in this plan.
- Arrange for the removal and disposal of dead livestock.
- Coordinate with the Rhode Island Department Health (HEALTH) for the release of public information regarding animals and public health.

LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS, with support from the Animal Health Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture, are responsible for the following, as the incident may require:

- Enforce municipal animal control ordinance(s).
- Report all animal bites to the Office of the State Veterinarian in the Animal Health Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture for investigation.
- Facilitate the transportation of injured, stray, or nuisance animals to appropriate animal-care facilities.
- Assist emergency response teams with animal-related problems.
- Arrange for the removal and disposal of small dead animals.

- Quarantine bite animals for observation.
- Impound animals at-large.
- Arrange with the Office of the State Veterinarian in the Animal Health Unit of the DEM Division for authorized and assigned persons to euthanize sick and/or injured animals.
- Arrange with DEM, Division of Fish and Wildlife to return wild animals, insofar as practicable, to appropriate habitats.
- Investigate animal cruelty and neglect complaints.
- Facilitate the capture of nuisance animals.
- Help staff emergency animal care centers.

RHODE ISLAND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (RIEMA) is responsible for the following, as the incident may require:.

- Provide initial notification to the designated primary agencies that the State EOC is open and operational and that there is a need to implement all or portions of this plan.
- Coordinate requests for support among other agencies that are represented in the State EOC and the Federal government.
- Maintain, refine, distribute, and initiate improvements in this plan.

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (DEM), DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE is responsible for the following, as the incident may require:

- Coordinate emergency management of farm animals

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (DEM), DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE is responsible for the following, as the incident may require:.

- Manage care of displaced or injured wild animals, including protected and endangered species.
- Arrange for the return of captured wild animals to appropriate habitats.

RHODE ISLAND VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (RIVMA) is responsible for the following, as the incident may require:.

- Assist in the establishment of triage units for the care of injured animals.
- Provide emergency medical equipment and supplies for animals.
- Provide rabies vaccinations for animals in care centers.
- Provide additional emergency animal care center support.
- When appropriate, euthanize severely sick or injured animals.
- Assist with the emergency movement and sheltering of companion animals, in coordination with American Red Cross (ARC), Rhode Island Chapter.

## **Support Agencies**

*THE MAIN SUPPORT AGENCY FOR EMERGENCY ANIMAL CARE IN A RHODE ISLAND IS THE RHODE ISLAND DISASTER ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM (RIDART). In turn, the following agencies have been identified as providing support to RIDART:*

*American Humane Association*

*American Red Cross (ARC)*

*Animal Rescue League of Southern Rhode Island*

*Audubon Society of Rhode Island*  
*Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)*  
*Lincoln Greyhound Park*  
*Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs)*  
*Potter League for Animals (PLA)*  
*Providence Animal Rescue League (PARL)*  
*Rhode Island Animal Control Officers Association (RIACOA)*  
*Rhode Island Audubon Society*  
*Rhode Island Farm Bureau*  
*Rhode Island Federation of Riding Clubs (RIFRC)*  
*Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA)*  
*Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)*  
*Roger William's Park Zoo*  
*Save the Bay*  
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*  
*Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA)*  
*Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island (WRARI)*

Under the direction of the RI State Veterinarian or his/her designee, RIDART is responsible for the following, as the incident may require:

- Notify and mobilize appropriate personnel and equipment to perform or support assigned functions as designated within this plan.
  - In coordination with the American Red Cross (ARC), Rhode Island Chapter, and the local Animal Control Officers (ACOs) assist in the placement of animals.
  - Help staff emergency animal assistance.
  - Report animal bites to the Animal Health Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture.
  - Help staff emergency animal care centers.
- Designate and assign personnel to staff emergency animal care centers and provide appropriate reports to Incident Command .
- Coordinate mission actions of support agencies with the primary agency, the Animal Health Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture.
- Identify and report to a team leader all personnel and resource requirements that exceed the support agencies' capability to perform their assigned missions.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF RIDART SUPPORT AGENCIES, as the incident may require

*All RIDART Support Agencies*

- Follow the directions of the RI State Veterinarian or his/her designee.
- Assist in the recruitment, training, certification, equipping, and overall readiness of volunteers to respond to an animal care emergency.

*Roger William's Park Zoo.*

- Provide expertise and assistance in the capture and control of wild and exotic animals.

*Rhode Island Federation of Riding Clubs.*

- Provide expertise and assistance for equine emergency care.
- Maintain equipment and resources necessary to manage livestock in a disaster situation.
- Facilitate the work of large-animal veterinarians.

- Support the transportation of livestock in the aftermath of a disaster.
  - Assist in the establishment of shelter or pasture for displaced livestock.
- Rhode Island Audubon Society, Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife.*
- Assist in the transportation and care of injured and displaced wildlife.
  - Assist in the capture and return of wildlife to appropriate habitats.
- Lincoln Greyhound Park.*
- Provide emergency care for track animals.
- Rhode Island Farm Bureau and URI, Alton Jones Campus Farm*
- Provide expertise and assistance in the capture, control, and care of injured and displaced livestock.
  - Assist in the establishment of shelter or pasture for displaced livestock.

#### PLAN DEVELOPEMENT AND MAINTENANCE.

Maintenance of the Rhode Island Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is the responsibility of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA). This portion of the EOP was developed with input from representatives of the Primary and Support Agencies under the aegis of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM). The Chief Officer of RIDART reviews this plan to ensure that necessary updates and revisions are prepared and coordinated, based on deficiencies identified in emergencies and/or exercises. Changes to this plan are coordinated by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency.

### PHASES OF OPERATIONS FOR EMERGENCY ANIMAL CARE

#### Mitigation Phase

- The Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture develops this Section of the State Emergency Operations Plan and, on request, provides to the RI Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) lists of emergency animal care facilities and RIDART support agencies.
- The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) provides to the Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture contact information for all ARC shelters.
- The Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture serves as a clearing house for emergency animal care facilities.
- RIEMA maintains a copy of this plan for review and distribution.
- The Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture provides public education on emergency animal-care preparedness.

#### Preparedness Phase

- RIEMA alerts the State Veterinarian of an impending emergency and associated hazards in the State of Rhode Island.
- The State Veterinarian alerts RIDART of an impending activation.
- At the direction of the State Veterinarian or his/her designee, the chief officer of RIDART activates a phone tree to confirm the response readiness of RIDART volunteers and appropriate RIDART support agencies.
- The DEM Division of Agriculture in coordination with appropriate support agencies (e.g., the RI Chapter of the ARC and the DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife) begins releasing a

press package, informing the public that competent, emergency animal care is available and that certain public preparations to receive that care are required.

- If this plan is approved for State and Federal Recovery, a copy is maintained at the Disaster Field Office (DFO) and at the State EOC. In addition, when a regional reception and staging area has been established, a copy is maintained at that location.

## **Response Phase**

### **DOMESTIC ANIMALS.**

- Local animal control officers and RIDART volunteers mobilize to transfer pets whose owners need transportation assistance.
- When necessary, owners drop off pets at an emergency animal care center, sign release forms, and go to a Red Cross (ARC) shelter or make other arrangements for themselves. (See appended sample Release Form.)
- If the owner arrives at an ARC Shelter with pets, the ARC Shelter Manager consults the list of emergency animal care centers and directs the owner to the closest facility.
- Owners transport pets to an emergency animal care facility. If an owner is unable to provide transportation, the ARC Shelter Manager works with RIDART to arrange transportation to the nearest emergency animal care center.

### **LIVESTOCK.**

- Unless otherwise informed, the owner turns animals out to pasture, provides adequate water for the animals, and applies a form of identification to each animal.
- All personnel, evacuees, and pets remain at the closest safe location and wait there until travel becomes safe.
- When travel is safe, the owner or his/her designee transports livestock to a private or RIDART-staffed emergency animal care facility, stable, or pasture.
- Livestock remain in pastures unless otherwise indicated.

## **Recovery Phase**

- Upon Direction of the Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture, the chief officer of RIDART notifies RIDART volunteers and appropriate RIDART support agencies to begin mobilization of resources and personnel and to commence recovery operations.
- Immediately following notification to activate the recovery phase of this plan, RIDART volunteers complete the following actions, commensurate with emergency priorities of Incident Command and the availability of resources:
  - Assure necessary emergency operating facilities and reporting systems continue to operate.
  - Maintain communications with the EOC, obtain status reports, and keep EOC informed of progress.
  - Staff animal-care facilities in accordance with each agency's disaster recovery plan.
  - Provide for rotation or replacement of staff.

- Provide personnel and resources for field assessment and recovery teams, as necessary.
- The state EOC is staffed on an appropriate schedule to communicate and coordinate with other agencies and to prioritize recovery assistance requests.
- The EOC monitors and coordinates recovery operations of municipal, volunteer, and support agencies.
- The Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture establishes, mobilizes, and deploys assessment team(s) to determine specific animal-care needs and priorities. These assessment teams coordinate with other primary and support agencies represented at the EOC, especially to support the relief of nuisance- and health-related problems involving animals and their impact on human relief efforts.
- Under the direction of Animal Care Unit of the DEM Division of Agriculture, RIDART continues to provide assistance in the following areas, as the incident requires:
  - Recovery of displaced animals.
  - Sheltering, medical care, feeding, relocation, and reunification with owners
  - Acquisition of additional food and supplies from vendors to support the recovery efforts
  - Continued coordination with other primary and secondary agencies for timely and proper carcass disposal.
  - Continued care of sheltered animals
  - Outreach for the adoption of unclaimed animals and the relocation of sick and injured animals.
- The Director of DEM or the State Veterinarian is responsible for all animal-related activity at the EOC, with guidance of this plan.
- Pet owners are responsible for retrieving their pets from emergency animal care centers or, if unable to do so, for notifying centers within five days.
- Local Animal Control Officers (ACOs), in consultation with the RI Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) assist in locating any unreached pet owners.
- All requests for animal control assistance are channeled through the State EOC to the Animal Control Dispatch Center created for the incident management or directly to the appropriately local Animal Control Officer (ACO).

## **ACTIVATION CHECKLIST**

The following checklist is intended to guide actions before, during and after a state animal emergency. In consultation with Incident Command, the State Veterinarian will determine if any or all of these actions are appropriate.

The time triggers in this schedule depend on the situation, particularly for incidents such as hurricanes, when regularly updated forecasts from the National Weather Service are relevant and available. The timing also may be adjusted in response to changes in more particular constraints, capabilities, and other conditions on the ground. If the incident occurs without warning, the activation sequence would be compressed. Many of the actions listed below would have to be accomplished concurrently.

Authority and discretion for initiating any or all of these actions rests with the Office of State Veterinarian.

## MITIGATION AND PREPAREDNESS PHASE

### NORMAL OPERATIONS

Normal daily activities and monitoring of conditions are ongoing. Responses to individual incidents are handled with available personnel and resources, insofar as possible at the local level.

- Monitor hazards for animals in the state
- Identify opportunities to reduce risks and to improve capacity to respond to animal emergencies
- Maintain the [Animal Disaster/Animal Care Plan](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8.pdf) (Section 6-8 <[http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6\\_8.pdf](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8.pdf)>) and [Animal Disease Plan](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_9.pdf) (Section 6-9 <[http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6\\_9.pdf](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_9.pdf)>) in the DEM [Emergency Response Plan](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp.htm) (RI DEM ERP <<http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp.htm>>)
- In consultation with the RI Disaster Animal Response Team, maintain the [Shelter Operation Manual for RIDART](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_som.pdf) (<[http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6\\_8\\_som.pdf](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_som.pdf)>)
- Cooperate with the RI Emergency Management Agency to maintain “Animal Care” (State Emergency Support Function #16) in the [State Emergency Operations Plan](http://www.health.state.ri.us/environment/biot/resources/SEOP.pdf) (SEOP, Appendix XVI <<http://www.health.state.ri.us/environment/biot/resources/SEOP.pdf>>)
- Encourage livestock owners to develop evacuation and continuity of operation plans
- Monitor weather systems (e.g., named tropical systems) that could present a threat to the region
- Coordinate with relevant local, state and federal agencies as well as non-governmental support agencies to ensure coordinated emergency preparations and response. These agencies include:
  - Local animal control (ACO) and shelter/pound management
  - RI Emergency Management Agency (RI EMA)
  - RI Department of Health (HEALTH)
  - RI Disaster Animal Response Team (RIDART)
  - RI Chapter of the American Red Cross (Red Cross)
  - RI Federation of Riding Clubs (RIFRC)
  - RI Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA)

- RI Veterinary Medical Association (RIVMA)
- US Department of Agriculture, Region #1 (USDA)

- Encourage commercial lodging and pet boarding providers to prepare for a surge in animal care needs during an emergency. Maintain public guides to those resources: [Where Can We Go? Motels](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_a10.pdf) <http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6\_8\_a10.pdf> and [Where Can We Go? Kennels](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_a11.pdf) <http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6\_8\_a11.pdf>

- Identify and participate in available training activities to enhance response capabilities

- Protect and enhance State response personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and properties

- Promote public education to enhance citizen preparation for emergency animal care. Media to maintain and promote include:
  - Website [EmergencyAnimal.info](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/emergencyanimalinfo) with links to guides for animal owners
  - Brochure [Prepare Pets for RI Emergency](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/petprepbrochure.pdf) with tips for animal owners <http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/petprepbrochure.pdf>
  - Website [HelpEAC.info](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/helpEAC) with support for RI cities and towns in preparing for emergency animal care

**READINESS PHASE**

**PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES**

120-72 Hours (5 Days - 3 days)

A situation has been identified that could potentially require the State to implement its Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) and to active the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The Governor has not declared a State of Emergency. No or extremely limited staffing of the SEOC.

- Monitor weather advisories
- When appropriate, issue press releases or otherwise recommend that livestock owners begin moving large animals from more to less vulnerable properties.
- Review emergency response plans, including
  - [Animal Care](http://www.health.state.ri.us/environment/biot/resources/SEOP.pdf) (State Emergency Support Function #16) in the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP, Appendix XVI <http://www.health.state.ri.us/environment/biot/resources/SEOP.pdf>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8.pdf">Animal Disaster/Animal Care Plan</a> (Section 6-8 &lt;http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8.pdf&gt;) and/or <a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_9.pdf">Animal Disease Plan</a> (Section 6-9 &lt;http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_9.pdf&gt;) in the DEM <a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp.htm">Emergency Response Plan</a> (RI DEM ERP &lt;http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp.htm&gt;)</li> <li>○ <a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_som.pdf">Shelter Operation Manual for RIDART</a> (&lt;http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_som.pdf&gt;)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Brief the Chiefs of the DEM Division of Agriculture and the DEM Office of Emergency Response</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Check response vehicles, trailers, and fuel to ensure they are ready for response</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Prepare to State assets to open an Emergency Animal Care Center at Boss Ice Arena in Kingston and/or Thayer Ice Arena in Warwick. Issues include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Verify readiness and contact information with RIDART Shelter Managers</li> <li>○ Review SOPs in SEOP and DEM ERP</li> <li>○ Notify facility managers of Boss and Thayer Arenas of potential need to dedicate their facilities as State Emergency Animal Care Centers</li> <li>○ Fuel vehicles</li> <li>○ Check tires on trailers with response supplies</li> <li>○ Try generators and check fuel supply</li> <li>○ Check computers, printers, and communications</li> <li>○ Confirm food, first-aid, shelter, back-up communications and coordination with RI Chapter of the American Red Cross: (401) 831-7700</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Pre-stage perishables. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Request delivery of pet food at least 72 hours prior to anticipated need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Director, Specialty Markets, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.</li> <li>Phone: (800) 255-0449, ext. 5639; Alternate: ext. 5043</li> <li>After-hours phone: (785) 478-3950</li> <li>Fax: (785) 368-5474; E-mail: Joyce_Schloetzer@hillspet.com</li> </ul> </li> <li>Estimate of initial, 3-day supply of food to pre-stage, assuming there will be 500 cats and 500 large dogs in each of two facilities (2000 pets in all): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3000 pounds of Canine Adult and Sensitive Stomach</li> <li>▪ 520 pounds Feline Adult/Kitten (canned)</li> <li>▪ 250 pounds Feline Adult/Kitten (10 25-pound bags)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Arrange to receive and secure shipment at emergency animal care centers (e.g., schedule labor and pallet jack or fork lift for each emergency animal care center to unload and store as much as a ton of cargo per delivery)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Finalize and distribute the <a href="http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_pr1.pdf">Preparedness Phase Press Release</a> (6-8-PR1 in the DEM ERP &lt;http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_pr1.pdf&gt;)</li> </ul>

- Establish communications for coordination with likely support agencies, such as:
  - [Animal Rescue League of Southern RI](#) (ARLSRI): (401) 783-7606
  - [Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.](#), Director, Specialty Markets, (800) 255-0449, ext. 5639 or alternate: ext. 5043.
  - [Humane Society of the United States](#) (HSUS), Emergency Services, National Disaster Animal Response Team: (202) 452-1100; Regional Office: (802) 368-2790; State Office: (401) 333-1084
  - [National Veterinary Response Team](#) (NVRT), DHHS Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations (OPEO), Regional Emergency Coordinator, Region 1: (617) 565-1159
  - [PetSmart Charities](#): 1-800-423-7387 ext. 2840, or 602-320-2719
  - [Potter League for Animals](#): (401) 846-8276
  - [Providence Animal Rescue League](#) (PARL): (401) 421-1399
  - [RI Chapter of American Red Cross](#) (ARC): (401) 831-7700
  - [RI Disaster Medical Assistance Team](#) (RI DMAT): (401) 615-9151
  - Transportation (ESF-1), [RI Department of Transportation](#) (RIDOT): (401) 734-4810 or (401) 222-2450; [RI Public Transit Authority](#) (RIPTA): (401) 781-9400
  - [RI Federation of Riding Clubs](#) (RIFRC): (401) 397-9242 or 861-1427
  - [RI Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#) (RISPCA): (401) 438-8150
  - [RI Veterinary Medical Association](#) (RIVMA): (401) 751-0944
  - [RI Veterinary Technician Association](#) (RIVTA): (401) 364-2275 or 323-8938
  - [Regal Reptiles](#): (401) 277-9000
  - [Roger Williams Park Zoo](#) (RWP Zoo): (401) 785-3510
  - [US Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS)
    - Eastern Region Animal Care (ESF-11): (617) 565-7291 or (508) 963-7406
    - New England Animal Disease: (508) 363-2290 or (508) 889-7211
    - [National Veterinary Stockpile](#) (NVS): (800) 940-6524 or (301) 734-5875
    - [Emergency Management Response System](#) (EMRS): <<http://emrs.aphis.usda.gov/emrslogin.html>>
    - USDA/APHIS Emergency Program: 301-734-8073 or 800-940-6524
  - [Veterinary Medical Assistance Team 1](#) (VMAT-1): 800-248-2862 ext. 6632 or (847) 285-6632
  - [Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of RI](#) (WRARI): (401) 294-6363

- Prepare to coordinate with local animal control. Issue include:
  - Establishing channels of communication to request assistance (directly or through the SEOC)
  - Protection (or if necessary, relocation) of animals currently in town pound/shelter
  - Receiving or relocating evacuees

## INCREASED READINESS PHASE

### PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES

72 – 48 Hours (3 Days – 2Days)

A situation has developed that will require the State to take action under the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP). A State of Emergency might be issued in anticipation of state-level involvement in response activities, including animal emergency care.

- Brief the Chiefs of the DEM Division of Agriculture and the DEM Office of Emergency Response
- Develop an Incident Action Plan for Animal Care (ESF 16 in the State EOP)
- Cancel non-essential services of the DEM Division of Agriculture
- Promote public information, emphasizing:
  - The finalized [Preparedness Phase Press Release](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_pr1.pdf) (6-8-PR1 in the DEM ERP <[http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6\\_8\\_pr1.pdf](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_pr1.pdf)>)
  - Guides for proper emergency care of animals through the website [EmergencyAnimal.info](http://www.dem.ri.gov/emergency/animalinfo)
  - Continuity of operations for livestock growers
- Recommend that pet owners who reside in vulnerable areas now prepare ID kits and Go-kits to evacuate WITH their animals
- Recommend that livestock owners move large animals from more to less vulnerable properties
- Stage resources to open an Emergency Animal Care Center at Boss Ice Arena in Kingston and/or Thayer Ice Arena in Warwick. Issues include:
  - Move and secure trailer with equipment and supplies to Boss and/or Thayer
  - Acquire and secure perishable supplies (food and medicine). Controlled substances are to be delivered to and secured by the Office of the State Veterinarian
  - Reserve 1-3 DEM cell phones for each emergency animal care center
  - Secure from RI EMA one 800 MHz radio for each emergency animal care center
- Verify readiness and place RIDART members on standby via blast email call-out. Issues include:
  - Weather status

- Preparation to protect self and dependents during emergency
- Likely time and place of activation
- Go kit (personal supplies for 3 days)
- Members of Shelter Management Teams report readiness status to their Shelter Manager
- Other RIDART Volunteers report readiness status to RIDART coordinator

- Begin Resource Tracking, beginning with regular situation reports from the RIDART coordinator and the Shelter Managers.

- Begin Event Log

- Begin documentation of response activities and financial costs related to the incident

- Re-evaluate threat and situation

**RESPONSE PHASE**

**WATCH/WARNING ISSUED**

48-24 Hours (2 Days – 1 Day)

The SEOP is being implemented. The State Emergency Operations Center has been partially or fully staffed, appropriate to the potential threat. The Governor may have issued or is considering issuance of a State Emergency declaration and/or there may be a Federal declaration (Emergency or Major Disaster) already in effect.

- Finalize and distribute the [Response Phase Press Release](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_pr2.pdf) (6-8-PR2 in the DEM ERP < [http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6\\_8\\_pr2.pdf](http://www.dem.ri.gov/topics/erp/6_8_pr2.pdf)>

- Notify the RIDART coordinator and Shelter Managers to mobilize the Shelter Management Teams and volunteers.

- Arrange for a licensed veterinarian from each emergency animal care center to pick up 1-3 cell phones and a share of controlled substance medications from the Foundry and to secure them at the shelters.

- Set up and open the Emergency Animal Care Centers at Boss and/or Thayer Arena in advance of evacuation orders (when the Governor declares a “State of Emergency”)

- Staff ESF #16 (“Animal Care” Emergency Support Function) in the State Emergency

Operations Center (SEOC)
<input type="checkbox"/> Establish Incident Action Plan for next 24 hour period
<input type="checkbox"/> Brief SEOC staff on ESF #16 Response and Recovery Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Continue to monitor the track of the storm
<input type="checkbox"/> Carry out initial damage assessments and evaluate the overall situation, including updates from local animal control
<input type="checkbox"/> Update Status Boards/Events Log and report to the appropriate agencies
<input type="checkbox"/> Take all necessary actions to preserve life and property utilizing available resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate response and support functions with outside agencies and volunteer organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate Operations, Logistics, Planning and Admin/Finance functions
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain documentation and tracking of financial costs related to the event

**AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES**

**Authority**

FEDERAL

The Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288, as amended.  
 Public Law 100- 707, (Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act).

STATE

General Laws of Rhode Island. Title 30, Chapter 15, Rhode Island Defense Civil Preparedness Act of 1973, as amended.

**References**

Rhode Island Disaster Animal Response Team (RIDART) Volunteer Mobilization Plan (separately promulgated)

## **DEFINITIONS OF ACRONYMS AND TERMS**

### **Acronyms**

ACO: Animal Control Officer  
AHS: American Humane Society  
ARC: American Red Cross  
DART: Disaster Animal Response Team  
DEM: Department of Environmental Management  
EOC: Emergency Operations Center  
EOP: Emergency Operations Plan  
HEALTH: Rhode Island Department of Health  
HSUS: Humane Society of the United States  
PARL: Providence Animal Rescue League  
PLA: Potter League for Animals (Private Organization)  
RIACOA: Rhode Island Animal Control Officers Association  
RIAS: Rhode Island Audubon Society  
RIDEM: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
RIEMA: Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency  
RIDART: Rhode Island Disaster Response Team  
RIFRC: Rhode Island Federation of Riding Clubs  
RIGL: Rhode Island General Law  
RIRRC: Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation  
RIVMA: Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association  
SOE: State of Emergency  
SPCA: Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
USFWS: The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Federal Agency)  
VSA: Volunteer Services for Animals

### **Terms**

Euthanization - The act of humanely ending a severely sick or injured animal's life support.

Federal Disaster Declaration - A determination by the President of the United States that a disaster is of such magnitude and severity to warrant major disaster assistance to supplement the efforts and available resources of States, local government and disaster relief organizations in alleviating the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering caused thereby.

Rehabilitation - To restore to a former state or condition.

State of Emergency - By Declaration of a Governor or the Chief Elected Official of a local community (Mayor, Council President, Town Manager), an incident that is beyond the scope of State or local government's ability to respond/protect local population and property.

State Veterinarian - Staff Member of the state Department of Environmental Management.

Triage - A system designed to produce the greatest benefit from limited treatment facilities by degree of injury/stress.

Quarantine - A period of time during which an animal suspected of carrying a contagious disease is detained/observed under enforced isolation to prevent disease from entering into the general population or natural habitat.