Disaster Preparedness for Animals

Utilization of a Community-Based Exchange Network in Providing Assistance for Animals

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Summary
Natural and manmade disasters usually come without much warning and knowing what to do and where to go in advance is important. Incorporating animals in our disaster preparedness planning will help assure their safety as well. Discussed are federal, state, and county disaster preparedness programs for animals and our new program which relies on neighbors for assistance using a community exchange network/TimeBanking model.

Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2-vSg8OrpQ

Animal Ownership - The Statistics
With 71.5 percent of all US households owning pets (Humane Society of the United States (HSUS); 1) there is a strong need to have disaster preparedness programs in place for animals as well as their owners. Many people consider their dogs and cats/other animals their companions and part of their families. One reason why some people may not want to evacuate from their home in an emergency is because they don’t want to leave their pet behind.

It is estimated (2013) that there are approximately 88.3 million dogs and 95.6 million cats in the US (Humane Society of the United States (HSUS); 1). Dogs and cats are the most abundant of the ‘companion animals’, with small animals, birds, reptiles and even fish also falling into that category. Approximately $55 billion in 2013 in the US will be spent on our companion animals on food ($21.26 billion) supplies/OTC medicine ($13.21 billion), vet care ($14.21 billion), live animal purchases ($2.31 billion) and pet services: grooming & boarding ($4.54 billion) (http://www.americanpetproducts.org/press_industrytrends.asp).

Horses, although not generally considered as companion animals, are very popular with roughly 2 million people owning horses (2). Of the approximately 9.2 million horses in the US, 850,000 horses are used for showing, 2.7 million for show, 3.9 million for recreation and 1.7 classified as other (other includes farm work, police work, rodeo, carriage horse, polo, etc.) (2). The horse industry contributes $39 billion in direct economic impact to the U.S. economy and supports 1.4 million jobs. The equine industry is extremely large in the US. In New Jersey alone, the horse industry contributes $710 million to the economy (3,4). Horses also fall under the category of farm animals. According to The Animal League Defense Fund (ALDF), there are approximately 10
billion farm animals raised annually (5); that includes bovine, swine, poultry and any other animal used for profit.

What will happen to all these animals when a disaster strikes? How well prepared are people with their animals in any case of an emergency or evacuation? How effective are federal and state programs regarding the safety of one’s pets? These are important questions that must be answered in order to improve the effectiveness of preparing and acting during emergency situations.

Unwanted Animals
If not a natural disaster, personal ones can also arise. Unforeseen events can disrupt a person’s lifestyle and tough choices may have to be made. Perhaps financial issues come up and sacrifices must be made, or a pet owner must move to an area that does not support their pet. Whatever the reason, some individuals find that they can no longer support their animals on a daily basis. That itself is a disaster of its own kind.

The average cost of owning a horse is generally between $1,800 and $2,400.00 yearly depending on the horse (6). The costs add up very quickly when you factor in the amount of hay and grain horses eat daily, farrier cost, veterinary care, vaccinations, boarding, and supplies for your horse. Horses are also social and herd animals. One horse does not fare very well by itself and it is suggested that they be kept with at least one other horse. For some, this will amount to quite a large sum of money to spend on animals but nowhere close to the cost of maintaining a race horse.

Some horse owners may need to decide that they can no longer afford the horse. It is estimated that there were 170,000 unwanted horses in the US in 2007 (7). That number has only grown as prices have risen higher and higher in the last five years. There are a large number of unwanted horses in the US for a multitude of reasons, expenses being only one. In the racing industry, a horse becomes unwanted if it is sick, injured, or just too old. Those possibilities hold true for companion horse owners as well. Sick, injured and older animals all require more care attention, and unfortunately, more money.

This now begs the question; what does one do with an unwanted horse? There are many options. The first thought that comes to an owner’s mind is to find their horse a good home. Perhaps they could donate it to a rescue foundation or retirement fund or find someone willing to take their horse for a price or for free. Selling the unwanted horse is always an option. Then of course there are the less cheerful ways of ridding of an unwanted horse- the slaughterhouse and glue factory. A lot of owners tend to shy away from this option for they may still think of their horse as part of the family. However, sometimes a horse that is ‘free to a good home’ does not end up in a good home, but gets sold to a slaughterhouse. Unfortunately, some individuals will claim that they’ll give your horse the life you could no longer provide for it, but in reality, they are only looking to make profit.
Horses are not the only animals to become unwanted. It is harder to maintain a large animal versus a cat, but the same stands true regardless. Approximately 6 to 8 million dogs and cats enter shelters each year. Of these animals, 2.7 million pets that are adoptable will get euthanized (8). Shelter euthanasia is considered the leading cause of death of many dogs and cats in the US (9). In addition, only about 25% of those animals will get adopted from shelters (10). It is evident that placing an animal in a shelter may not be the most favored choice among pet owners.

Another option is having the pet fostered by a family until it gets adopted. This is a good alternative to placing one’s animal into a shelter, unless you know that it is a no-kill shelter. Paws Companion Animal Shelter is an example of a no kill shelter that also offers fostering. Choosing to have one’s pet fostered is more reassuring in the sense that they will be in a home setting and will receive individual attention. However, finding a reliable person who is willing to foster animals can get quite complicated. Some organizations rescue more than 1,600 animals each year through their Foster Care Program (11).

Even with choices, some pet owners that are desperate will just release their animal outdoors and abandon them. This is the worst-case scenario, since it causes a multitude of problems. These issues include transmittance of diseases, unwanted cat and dog litters, and simply increasing the number of animals that are brought into shelters each year as well as overpopulation. According to the American Humane Association, shelters take in about 8 million stray animals each year in the US (9).

**Natural Disasters**

An animal being unwanted is not the only disaster a pet could face. Unfortunately, natural and man-made disasters happen all too often throughout the world and when they strike, no one is ever truly prepared. It can be much easier to get humans out and alive than animals. While small dogs, cats and other lightweight pets can be carted about in a carrier, it is much harder to drag your horse around with you during an evacuation and it would be physically impossible to up and move all the animals on a farm.

Natural disasters can occur many times throughout the year and it is therefore important that people have emergency plans in place. From 2010 to 2013 alone, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has declared a total of 547 disasters (12). When there are warnings of disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, or flooding, people need to have a well thought out and developed plan that considers the safety and well-being of their animals. Certain federal and states are in place currently to advice and guide people how to properly prepare and care for their pets before a disaster strikes.

**Evacuation Guidelines**

There are federal, state and county programs, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Emergency Services (DESPP), and Offices of Emergency Management (OEM), that are designed to help prepare for both natural and man-made disasters. These programs aid during disasters as well as recovery from disasters. There are various different resources available on their websites as far as
preparation for disasters go. In most situations, they do not recommend leaving one’s pet behind in the event of an emergency. They advise planning ahead to avoid being in such a situation and to keep in mind that not all shelters will accept pets. In the case that an animal is abandoned, not only will their ability to survive decrease drastically, but the chances of being reunited with its owner are also slim (13). In addition to guidelines, FEMA offers training courses for awareness and preparation of animals in disasters.

**Disaster Organizations**
The New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) is the New Jersey State agency responsible for animals in disasters. They provide helpful links to the public with information on how to prepare and care for one’s pets before and during a disaster. The website provides a list of helpful links that even indicate which shelters and hotels are pet friendly in the area (14). The New York Extension Disaster Education Network (NY EDEN) provides resources in the New York State area with regards to animals in disaster. Among the resources is the Empire State Animal Response Team (ESART) that supports aid during emergencies affecting animals in the state (15). The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is similar to the other organizations mentioned in that it aids with preparing a disaster kit, and advises to get in contact with shelters before hand to educate oneself of their policies and guidelines (16). In addition, PEMA offers advice on what to do before, during and after such emergency situations.

While each of the states listed has their own program and agency, they’re all just guidelines as to how to prepare for an emergency. There is nothing written in stone to tell one where to go or who to contact in case of an emergency when an owner must leave without their pet. Although these programs have a great amount of useful information and recommendations for people, the general problem that seems to arise is accessibility to all the different organizations and links to resources. In order to find information, one has to search the web. In the midst of a disaster, this may prolong the ability to properly take action if one needed easier access to information. Although preparation is always key in preventing casualties and retaining a more ordered community, it is often not enough when it comes to emergencies.

Prior to 2006, the issue of what to do with animals during a disaster was not addressed by government agencies in a comprehensive way. When Hurricane Katrina struck, thousands of animals had to be abandoned leading to the death of most of these animals, as well as the heartbreak of many people. In the aftermath of this tragedy, the matter of animal welfare with respect to disasters and evacuations was brought to the attention of the public. The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS), an amendment to the Stafford Act, was signed into law on October 6, 2006. This law, known as PL 109-308, requires any States that requests FEMA assistance to have an evacuation plan to accommodate pets and service animals when the need to evacuate residents during a disaster arises (17).

**Reasons for Animal Evacuation Failures**
Despite PL 109-308 and the guidelines outlined by government agencies for disaster evacuation planning there is still an overwhelming failure in animal evacuation. According to a blogger from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University (18), regulations regarding animal evacuations have failed because of the following reasons:

1. Bad regulations often start with bad congressional statutes
2. Regulations face little oversight. Beyond internal supervision, only a fraction of regulations face external oversight.
3. Agencies often fail to examine the need for regulation. After Hurricane Katrina, the USDA offered little evidence that the lack of disaster evacuation plans was a widespread problem that required the federal government to try to regulate.
4. Agencies often fail to examine the regulation’s effectiveness. The USDA’s plan to save animals in case of a disaster was to require owners to draw up an evacuation plan. It offered little evidence that having a plan would in fact save the animals.
5. The public has little influence in the process.
6. Public comments are generally ignored.

The above reasons indicate that there are no follow up reviews for PL 109-308 with regards to enforcing or evaluating the effectiveness of it. Are animal owners developing an evacuation plan? Are State and County Emergency Management Offices developing a plan? Does the law need to be revised or expanded on? These are questions that should be answered before another catastrophic disaster strikes.

When hurricane Katrina reached land she wrecked havoc. More than 15,000 animals were eventually rescued by humane organizations in the aftermath of Katrina, but only about 15 to 20% were able to reunite with their owners (19). Those that were rescued went through the process of being in shelters or foster homes with hopes of someday either finding a new permanent home or reuniting with their families once again. People learn by example and mistakes. Least not let the same mistake happen for a second time.

Studies have found that another reason animal evacuation efforts fail is due to the fact that some pet owners do not evacuate because they have nowhere to go that would allow their pets. The strength of the human-animal bond plays an important role in how owners perceive the risk of staying versus evacuating without their pets. In a disaster, the longer a pet owner takes to decide to evacuate the greater the potential danger. Pre-disaster planning should place a high priority on facilitating pet evacuation through pre-disaster education of pet owners and emergency management personnel (20).

Preparing for Companion Animal Evacuations

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Offices of Emergency Management (OEM) have guidelines of what to do in the event of a disaster/evacuation specific to animals. The Offices of Emergency Management have developed State Animal Response Teams (SARTS), and County Animal Response Teams (CARTS) that would help evacuate shelter animals, companion animals, horses, and farm animals. For larger animals, as well as large quantities of animals found on farms, the US Department of
Agriculture and Agriculture in cooperation with the Cooperative Extension offices located at land grant universities have established guidelines. All the agencies have the same common theme: be prepared before a disaster by having a plan. Evacuating animals, from the smallest pet to a large-scale farm, can be the source of heartbreak, challenges, and added expenses if a plan does not exist and has not been updated at regular intervals. FEMA guidelines for the evacuation of pets emphasize that leaving pets during emergency evacuations should be an absolute last resort and the guidelines encourage owners of pets and livestock to learn about which shelters allow animals during emergencies and to have an animal emergency kit prepared. FEMA recommended guidelines for planning for pet evacuation is as follows (21):

1. Go online and locate several “pet-friendly” hotels in and out of your area. Identify friends or relatives outside your area where you and your pets can stay.
2. If there is a pending disaster evacuate early with your pets. Do not wait for a mandatory evacuation order.
3. Animals should have leg bands or tattoos, microchips or identification tags with their name, address, and phone number.
4. Enough food and water should be stored in a waterproof container to last seven days, as well as a can opener.
5. Medications, medical records and your veterinarian’s name and telephone number.
6. Familiar items such as toys, treats, and bedding can reduce stress for your pet.
7. Sturdy leashes and/or carriers to move pets safely and securely.
8. Litter, litter box, newspaper, paper towels, plastic trash bags and chlorine bleach for sanitation.
10. Appropriate size crates should be purchased and available for each animal before a disaster. Label the crate with pet’s name, type of animal, your name, address and contact information, veterinary’s name and phone number and any special instructions.

Preparing for Farm Animal Evacuations

Planning for horse and farm animal evacuations provides unique challenges making appropriate planning crucial. FEMA recommends evacuation coordination between neighbors, friends, livestock organizations, horse clubs, and county extensions. The evacuation destination and mode of transportation needs to be planned well in advance. FEMA recommended guidelines for what to do with these large animals during a disaster and evacuation are as follows (21):

1. Farm owners should have plans for alternative accommodation for their animals, which should be verified annually, in the event of disasters needing evacuations.
2. Generators should be purchased in the event of loss of power. Farms depend on electricity for milking machines, feed and water pumps.
3. Hay and feed distributors should be identified in the areas where animals would be evacuated.
4. Animals would need to be marked for identification.
5. A contact person in an area outside the disaster.
6. Household pet, service animal, and livestock owners can also communicate information among themselves. For example, telephone or visiting trees (when one
person phones or visits two others, who in turn each phone or check two others, etc.) can facilitate sharing information and resources.

7. Veterinarians, animal shelters, breed associations, and horse clubs should establish such communication networks ahead of time.

8. A list of volunteers.

The key problem with these suggestions and guidelines is that is all they are. They are just guidelines. There is no real plan in case a disaster strikes. New Jersey ‘Disaster Action Guidelines for Horse and Livestock Owners’ goes on to tell owners to evaluate their properties and find the best place to keep their large animals (22). Despite all these guidelines, when the time comes and a disaster occurs, people panic. Owners may forget what they are supposed to do and panic. Panicking is the worse thing possible when the threat of a storm is looming. People tend to have the mentality that ‘it won’t happen to me’ and never see themselves in any danger; a sure fire way to spell trouble.

These can all lead to problems after the storm as well. The storm has passed and a horse owner is now returning to the barn where they were forced to leave their horse for the duration of the disaster. Perhaps they heeded all warnings and guidelines, followed every precautionary step, but problems can still arise. Barns are not safe places. They’re prone to fires and collapse easily, especially if they’re older (23). Power outages and downed power lines aren’t just an annoyance; they’re also dangerous. The loss of power will turn off electric or invisible fences and animals are able to wander freely (23). If they’re hungry or dehydrated they will go off in search of food or water. Maybe they come across a puddle or pool of water. In the past, horses have sought out water that had downed power lines running through it, resulting in electrocution (23). It is not only the storm itself an owner must be wary of; the aftermath can be equally as deadly.

As the FEMA, HSUS, SART, and CART guidelines indicate much help would be needed to insure the animals’ safety. Many volunteers would be needed and many people would need to be ready to help at a moment’s notice, especially when disasters happen without warning. Once a disaster strikes volunteers come forward with the need to help rescue victims and do whatever they can. While human rescue and assistance is always the priority, animal rescue and assistance will not only help the animals, but also their human owners as well. Many people wanting to help victims of a disaster feel hopeless and unsure of what they can do. People usually know if they are the type that would want to help in the event of a disaster. These people should also plan ahead before a disaster strikes by signing up to volunteer and obtaining information on how to help in the event of disasters. Many animal advocates who also want to help, unfortunately think that there is nothing they can do until the disaster actually occurs.

Where Communities Come In

Pet owners continuously forget about the value of one’s own community, or neighboring communities. By uniting and connecting with one another, one can find that many people are more than willing to lend a hand when need be. Although federal and state programs are designed to help, sometimes communities help sustain themselves when it comes to
helping others out. For example, neighbors, friends, and families could be willing to foster or pet-sit animals temporarily during disasters. This idea of using the community as a service is not a new one. In fact there is already a system in place known as ‘time banking’.

**Time Banking**
The idea of time banking was conceived in the early 1980’s by founder Edgar Cahn as a way to “reward decency, caring, and a passion for justice”. Cahn founded time banking based on the following five foundational principles:

1. **Assets**: We are all assets. Everyone has something to contribute.
2. **Redefining work**: Some work is beyond price. Redefining work to include whatever it takes to raise healthy children, build strong families, revitalize neighborhoods, make democracy work, advance social justice, and make the planet sustainable. This value of work needs to be honored, recorded and rewarded.
3. **Reciprocity**: Helping works better as a two-way street. “How can I help you?” This question needs to be changed to “How can we help each other build the world we both will want to live in?”
4. **Social Networks**: We need each other. Networks are stronger than individuals. People helping each other reweave communities of support, strength and trust. Community is built upon sinking roots, building trust, creating networks. Special relationships are built on commitment.
5. **Respect**: Every human being matters. Respect underlies freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and everything we value. Respect supplies the heart and soul of democracy. When respect is denied to anyone, we all are injured. We must respect where people are in the moment, not where we hope they will be at some future point.”

The purpose of time banking is to build stronger communities by valuing the contributions of all, by providing an outlet for unused resources to be joined to unmet need. In 1995 Time Banking, USA was formed with the mission to nurture and expand the time banking movement. The time banking movement promotes equality and builds caring community economies through inclusive exchanges of time and talents. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recognized the important role Time Banking, USA could provide in helping with senior care and invested $1.2 million in 1990. Today some time banks are focused on addressing a specific need; such as helping frail elderly remain in their homes, or allowing for more independence. Others aim to reduce social isolation within a community or to build a sense of community within a geographic area. Still others pursue different goals that combine into the larger mission of rebuilding community (24).

**Using Time Banking in Disaster Preparedness for Animals**
In theory Time Banking, USA is a form of “paying it forward”. Time Banking, USA can establish a way to unite people that are interested in helping animals to safety in a disaster. In Dec 2013, Dr. Julie Fagan, Associate Professor at Rutgers University, established free community engagement/exchange networks for each county in NJ, PA and NY that will enable community members to help one another. Individuals can now
access their county network by name (their “county state strong”, for example “Middlesex County NJ Strong”) with the url, for example, http://www.middlesexnjstrong.timebanks.org (replace Middlesex with the appropriate county and state). Individuals now need to be informed of the engagement network and sign up to be a member (and also ask their neighbors to join) and put what services they could offer one another.

The “County State Strong” website could provide a link for people to download and complete ahead of a disaster. The specific information that would be needed for a shelter, pet owner, horse owner, or farm owner to obtain help in evacuation would be provided in the “County State Strong” webpage. The local “County State Strong” webpage can be linked to County Offices of Emergency Management, Agriculture Cooperative Extensions, local veterinarians, and local animal shelters. Pet owners and potential volunteers could be made aware of the “County State Strong” project through social media networking sites as well as local community television. Information gathered from the webpage would provide such information as how a volunteer can provide help or assistance. For example, trailering animals to other accommodations, providing temporary accommodations, and if so, how many animals they can accommodate. A volunteer that does not have land, a feed or supply store, a trailer for transportation, etc. can provide help in a variety of ways including manual labor, helping to transport shelter animals to other shelters, tagging farm animals or horses for identification, provide foster care for pets needing a temporary place to go.

Some pet owners cannot afford to stay in a hotel, they might only have friends that live in the same area or maybe their friends live in apartments that do not allow animals. The possibilities to provide needed help are endless. People who are physically unable to help could provide record keeping, which would be helpful when attempting to reunite the animals with their owners when it is safe to do so. By having access to such information, it will motivate people to prepare ahead of time and make necessary arrangements, disaster kits and more. All of this contributes to preparedness and will alleviate some of the cases where people and animals are separated and unable to reunite. It will also make it easier for officials and organizations to aid others if there is more overall preparedness from everyone.

Other than aiding in disaster, the concept of time banking and using the community, as a source will also help said unwanted animals. Instead of going straight to a shelter an owner could try to find a new home for their dog through the time banking in case they can no longer care for them. Not only does that lessen the strain put on animal shelters and rescue, but could also hopefully lower the number of animals euthanized each year. The same could be said for horses. There are only so many horse rescues that can take in such a small number of horses compared to the number of unwanted ones. The Time Bank would be a place for owners to advertise either they have room for an unwanted horse or to take in those during a disaster. This could be done with all pets alike and would be to the benefit of the owner to have such resources available before a disaster strikes.
We envision the “County State Strong” web disaster preparedness for animals information and sign up form to be a tab that would be specific to helping animals in a disaster. The main tab once clicked would open to options such as shelter animals, pets, farm animals, equine, unwanted horses. Under each of these options, there would contain subsections with the unique challenges posed by each of the options. Prospective volunteers would be able to choose where they would be most able to help and provide their pertinent information.

As a whole, the community has more power to suggest new laws or to help change policies on existing laws and programs that aid in caring for pets. In the end, it is all about the safety and care of one’s pets. Relying on the community may be a quicker way to ensure animals’ health and care during disasters. This is true since past animal recovery programs tend to take time, due to the large amounts of animals that are separated or abandoned by their owners.

Just as the American Red Cross assists various government agencies in providing emergency and disaster relief to millions of people and often leads the rescue efforts for humans, such community engagement networks like “County State Strong” can become this leader in assisting state and local government agencies with emergency and disaster relief for animals. Time banking can become the leader in organizing volunteers of people who just want to “pay it forward”. We feel “County State Strong” can provide a solution to this dilemma by helping to make people aware of the need to think about volunteering before they are actually needed and providing a means for them to commit.

**Incorporating Disaster Preparedness into the existing community exchange/ “County State Strong” network format.**

Below is what will go on each community exchange network as a pull down tab. Links to specific state/local Office of Emergency Management animal evacuation guidelines (State Animal Response Teams (SARTS), and County Animal Response Teams (CARTS) will be incorporated into each county state strong network.

**SOS – Animal Help! What to do with animals in the event of an emergency…**

There are federal, state and local guidelines for what to do in the event of a disaster/evacuation specific to animals. It is crucial to be prepared before a disaster by having a plan. Leaving behind animals, from the smallest pet to a large-scale farm, can be the source of heartbreak, challenges, and added expenses if a plan does not exist and has not been updated at regular intervals. You can view complete animal evacuation guidelines at [http://www.ready.gov/caring-animals](http://www.ready.gov/caring-animals) or from your state/local Office of Emergency Management. Leaving behind animals that will not be cared for during emergency situations should be an absolute last resort.

This page is designed to help you setup how you could be helped by your neighbor or help a community member with animals in the event of an emergency. Please read some of the suggestions below and then go back to the main page and click on the tab to fill out
your profile. Please include in your profile your level of experience with animals and the specific species (dog, cat, horse, reptile, farm, etc.), contact information, references, what you can contribute to others and what you may need help with. You can provide any other information about yourself that you would want to include. The answers to the questions in bold are some ideas to include in your profile. On your profile please indicate whether you are available to provide help anytime or only in the event of disasters/evacuations. Once you create your profile, please then make a request or post an offer. Please click on help at home and then the sub-tab pets. Start your ad with the following “In the event of a disaster I can help/ I need help with…” Put the “I can help” as a “give”, and the “I need help with” as a “receive”.

**Companion Animals**

1. Locate several “pet-friendly” hotels in and out of your area. Identify friends or relatives outside your area where you and your pets can stay.

   - Can you provide temporary sheltering? How many animals can you accommodate?
   - Do you need a place to bring your animals?

2. If there is a pending disaster evacuate early with your pets. Do not wait for a mandatory evacuation order.

   - Can you help transport animals to other locations?
   - Do you need help with transportation?

3. Animals should have leg bands or tattoos, microchips or identification tags with their name, address, and phone numbers. A crate for each animal with animal’s name, type of animal, your name, address, contact information, veterinary’s name and phone number, which should be affixed to the crate. Do that now!

   - Are you able to provide time helping with labor/organization?
   - Do you need labor or organizational help?

**Horses/Farm Animals**

1. Evacuation coordination between neighbors, friends, livestock organizations, horse clubs, and county extensions. The evacuation destination and mode of transportation needs to be planned well in advance.

   - Do you have horse trailers that you can offer for use?

2. Farm owners should have plans for alternative accommodation for their animals, which should be verified annually.

   - Do you have pasture? How many animals can you accommodate? How many animals do you need to evacuate?

3. Animals would need to be marked to later identify.

   - Can you provide labor or organization skills?
   - Do you need help?

4. A contact person in an area outside the disaster. Keep a list of volunteers.

   - I am willing to help if the need arises. Contact me.

**Unwanted Horses & Other Animals**
Unforeseeable crises may lead to the inability to care for your animal. If you are in a situation that prevents you from keeping your animal, consider your “County State Strong” network for a possible solution; a neighbor may be delighted to adopt or at least take care of your animal (or know of someone else that can).

Horse:
My horse can be ridden (level of ability).
My horse can no longer be ridden, but could be a wonderful companion to another horse.
I am able to take an unwanted horse.
I am looking for a horse

Other Animals:
My pet (identify) is good/not good with children and/or other pets (identify).
I am able to foster a pet.
I am looking for a pet.

Below is a list of links for the State Animal Response Teams (SARTS), and County Animal Response Teams (CARTS) specific to each county in NJ, NY and PA.

NJ Counties:
Atlantic- [http://www.aclink.org/](http://www.aclink.org/)
Bergen- [https://www.facebook.com/BergenCART/info](https://www.facebook.com/BergenCART/info)
Cape May- [http://www.capemaycountyemergency.net/join-county-animal-response-team-cart/](http://www.capemaycountyemergency.net/join-county-animal-response-team-cart/)
Cumberland- [http://www.cumberlandcounty.org/CART/](http://www.cumberlandcounty.org/CART/)
Hudson- [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hudson-County-Animal-Response-Team/126260817456529](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hudson-County-Animal-Response-Team/126260817456529)
Hunterdon- [http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/911/oem/cart.html](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/911/oem/cart.html)
Middlesex- [https://www.facebook.com/MiddlesexCART](https://www.facebook.com/MiddlesexCART)
Monmouth- [http://www.monmouthsheriff.org/Sections-read-150.html](http://www.monmouthsheriff.org/Sections-read-150.html)
Morris- [https://www.facebook.com/MorrisCountyAnimalResponseTeam](https://www.facebook.com/MorrisCountyAnimalResponseTeam)
Ocean- [http://www.ocean.nj.us/](http://www.ocean.nj.us/)
Somerset- [http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/cart/index.html](http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/cart/index.html)
Sussex- [http://www.sussex.nj.us/](http://www.sussex.nj.us/)
Union- [http://ucnj.org/](http://ucnj.org/)
Warren- [http://warren.nj.us/](http://warren.nj.us/)
NYC Counties: http://www.empiresart.com/
Bronx
Kings
New York
Queens
Richmond

NY Counties
Allegany- http://www.alleganyco.com/
Cattaraugus- http://cattco.org/
Cayuga- http://www.cayugacounty.us/
Chemung- http://www.chemungcounty.com/
Chenango- http://www.co.chenango.ny.us/
Clinton- http://www.clintoncountygov.com/
Columbia- http://www.columbiacountyny.com/
Cortland- http://www.cortland-co.org/
Delaware- http://www.co.delaware.ny.us/
Dutchess- http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/
Erie- http://www2.erie.gov/
Essex- http://www.co.essex.ny.us/
Franklin- http://franklincony.org/content
Fulton- http://www.fultoncountyny.gov/
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Dear Editor:

With the recent anniversary of Super Storm Sandy, it’s time to review your disaster/evacuation plans; not only for yourself, but also for your animals. Kind and caring people in your neighborhood are likely willing and able to take your animals during an evacuation and/or provide help in your evacuation. Dr. Julie Fagan, Associate Professor at Rutgers University, has established a free community exchange network for each county in NJ, PA and NY that will enable you to help others or be helped by others in your community. You can access your county network by name (your “county state strong”) with the url, for example, http://www.middlesexnjstrong.timebanks.org (replace Middlesex with the county in which you reside). Sign up to be a member (and also ask your neighbors to join) and put what services you could offer others and what services you would like to receive. Amongst yourselves, establish through your county’s community exchange network a buddy system so that you and your animals will be prepared in the event of an emergency.

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