

## PLANNING FOR ANIMALS IN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EMERGENCIES

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Providing for animals during a disaster ensures the personal safety and mental health of evacuees, responders and the population as a whole. Unfortunately animal plans are often considered to be a low priority, but history has shown that without the appropriate preparation, animal issues can become an emergency in themselves. Using the State Emergency Operations Plan, Minnesota is able to coordinate the effective use of public and private partnerships for the care and well being of animals during and after a nuclear power plant emergency. To facilitate planning and response, Minnesota has organized domesticated animals into four categories: exhibition/large animal, household pet, livestock and service animal. In this presentation, Minnesota clarifies how animals in each category fit into a radiological response planning and response. The presentation also outlines pre-event public messaging as well as messaging during an event/exercise. The state's process of integrating the Minnesota Veterinary Reserve Corp and American Humane Society into the reception center activities and their method for the proper monitoring and decontamination of household pets is also discussed in detail.

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