Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps and Radiological Emergency Preparedness & Response
Minnesota’s Strategy for Animals During A Nuclear Plant Incident

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Objectives

- Discuss the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (MVMRC)
- Discuss the Minnesota Animal Disaster Coalition (MN ADC)
- Discuss Minnesota’s Plan for Animals in the Radiological Emergency Preparedness program (REP)
- Discuss Pet Monitoring and Decontamination
- Define & Discuss Companion Animals
- Define & Discuss Service Animals
- Define & Discuss Assistance Animals
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps

Established in 2004 under the MN Board of Animal Health (BAH)

- Roles
  - Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) response
  - Radiation Emergency Preparedness (REP)
  - “All Hazards” emergency response

- Recruiting audience includes: veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary students and veterinary technician students
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (cont.)

Funding

- USDA Start Up Grant
- Federally mandated nuclear power plant support (REP)

- Minnesota has two nuclear power plants
  - Monticello & Prairie Island

- Program managed by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM)

- Currently three evacuee reception centers
  - Based on population density
  - Close to adding two more reception centers
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (cont.)

- 2004 - One of the first Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps founded in the US
- 2004 - Held first orientation training
  - Three locations around the state
  - Resulted in 300 plus membership
- 2004 - First Vet Reserve Corps participation in REP reception center planning & training
  - Right to Know training
  - Reception Center drill and exercise
2005 the MN Board of Animal Health determined that it’s mandate is limited to disease issues

- MVMRC transitioned to the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA)
- MVMRC became a non-governmental organization (NGO)

Challenging
- Funding: Self-supporting through grants: (MVMF, AVMF, MRC)
- Credentialing: (MVMRC operates strictly under ICS/NIMS)
- Insurance: (Liability, Workman’s Comp, etc.)
Minnesota Animal Disaster Coalition

The Minnesota Animal Disaster Coalition (MN ADC) is made up of representatives from federal, state, and local agencies and volunteer organizations active in animal emergency preparedness and response in Minnesota.

- Animal Control
- Emergency Management
- State, County and Local Agencies
- Non-Governmental-Groups (NGO’s)
  - Humane Societies
  - Red Cross
  - Other Groups
Minnesota Animal Disaster Coalition Membership

- MN Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Minnesota Animal Control Association
- MN Board of Animal Health
- MN Dept of Agriculture
- MN Department of Human Services
- MN Department of Health
- USDA APHIS - Veterinary Services
- Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps
- Basic Animal Rescue Training
- VMAT 5
- MN Horse Council
- Animal Humane Society
- Midwest Avian Adoption & Rescue Service, Inc
- Red Cross Disaster Services
- Ramsey County Emergency Service
- Stearns County Emergency Management and Dept of Human Services
- Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release
- Humane Society of the United States
- Minneapolis Animal Control
- St. Paul Animal Control
- New Hope & Crystal Animal Control
- Bloomington Animal Control
- City of Minnetonka Police Department
- City of Plymouth Police Department
- City of Richfield Police Department
- Pleading Paws Pet Rescue
Minnesota’s Strategy for Animals In a Nuclear Plant Incident

- **Animal Reception Centers for household pets co-located with human reception centers**
- **Livestock**
  - Shelter, feed and water in place
- **Equine**
  - Defined as livestock in Minnesota
    - Therefore shelter, feed and water in place
Minnesota’s Strategy for Animals In Any Nuclear Incident Is Based On the Planning and Annual Training Undergone & Funded Through Minnesota’s Radiation Emergency Preparedness Program (REP)
Radiological Emergency Preparedness

Risk County EOC

Nuclear Power Plant

State EOC

FEMA

MDH Lab

Radiological Field Teams

Reception Centers

Animal Station

MVMMRC

Host County

State Agencies:
- Agriculture
- National Guard
- Transportation
- Human Services
- Patrol
- DNR
- MDH
- HSEM

Voluntary Agencies Active in Disasters (VOAD) (NGO's)
Radiological Emergency Preparedness
Companion Animal Response

Minnesota Animal Disaster Coalition

Minnesota Department of Human Services

Minnesota Department Of Public Safety
Division of Homeland Security
Emergency Management
The Department of Human Services’ responsibilities under the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plan

- **Staff and Manage the Reception Centers**
  - Monitor, decontaminate evacuees and their vehicles
  - Register evacuees
  - Provide information to evacuees (insurance, etc.)
  - Monitor, decontaminate and provide care for their companion animals

- Provide staff for the SEOC
The Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (MVMRC)

- Staff and Manage **Reception Centers’ Animal Monitoring and Care Stations**
  - Receive and register evacuees’ companion animals
  - Monitor, decontaminate and provide care for these animals
  - Temporarily shelter animals while their owners are processed

- Provide staff for the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to support animal issues
Companion Animal Monitoring, Decontamination and Care Operations
Evacuees are advised to report to the Reception Center and take their household pets with them.

Evacuees with pets - To the Pet Shelter

Evacuees with no pets
To the Reception Center

Pet & Owner Registered

Pet Caged

Pet monitored for contamination
Companion Animal Scenario #2
Extended Evacuation

Pet Processed

Pet Owner <-> Reunited

Red Cross Shelter <-> Animal Co-Shelter
Companion Animal Scenario #3

Unable to decon or unable to monitor an animal

Out of control (Referred) → Animal caged until owner consulted → Internal Contamination (Referred)
Pet Shelter Scenario #4

Pet caged

Cleaned up

Unable to clean up

Pet caged

Abandoned
Cottage Grove Animal Station

2004 REP Exercise
(Public Works Garage)
Contamination Limits
Decontaminate when meter reading is greater than:

- 30
- 300 CPM
- 30

Note: Check background levels every 30 minutes during dosimetry checks.
Rogers Animal Station

2009 REP Exercise
(School Bus Garage)
Station 11
Pet Shelter

- #1: Evacuees drop animal off at facility, placed in cage and registered.
- #2: Animal awaits decontamination
- #3: Animal Decontamination
- #4: Animal Monitoring
- #5: Contaminated Animal Area
- #6: Clean Animal Claim Area
  Additional Clean Animal Claim Area at bus garage located on site
- #7: Animal Pickup

**Red indicates potentially contaminated areas**
**Green indicates clean areas**

Table
Stanchion
Rad Rope

2 separate Hot/Cold Water spigots

Area 1 Information and Registration

Area 2: Put caged animals in this area while waiting for decon

Area 3 Animal Decontamination

Area 4 Animal Monitoring

Area 5 Contaminated Animals

Area 6 Clean Animal Claim Area

Area 7 Animal Pickup

Dirty Animals

Clean Animals

Animal Cages

Garage Door

Monticello Plant (Rogers Site)
Animal Decontamination

◆ Current SOP
  – Wet decontamination procedure
    ◆ Bathe animal with mild shampoo
    ◆ Dry the animal as best as possible and then cage dry
    ◆ Repeat procedure if animal is still contaminated upon re-monitoring
    ◆ Once decontaminated, reunite pet with owner
Teams of two

Appropriate safety equipment and clothing
  - Tyvek suits
  - Face shields
  - Inner cotton gloves
  - Outer surgical gloves
  - Boots

Plenty of water and drainage
Animal Decontamination (cont.)

- National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP)
  - Developed and supported with FEMA and USDA
  - Animal Decontamination Best Practices Working Group
    - Developing national standardized animal decontamination SOP’s for all forms of contamination
    - Radioactive contamination is one of these
      - Possible Alternatives
        - Hepa-filter vacuuming
        - Clipping prior to shampooing
        - Simple caging and allowing isotope decay
Companion Animal

- **Household Pet**
  
  A domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent, or turtle that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes, can travel in commercial carriers, and be housed in temporary facilities. Household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses), and animals kept for racing purposes.

2007 FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.19
“Service Animal”

- Any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability

- This rule specifies that “the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition”

2011 – Department of Justice, Americans with Disabilities Act
Service Animal (cont.)

If it's not clear to you that the dog is a service dog, you can ask:

1. Is this your service dog and is it required because of a disability?
2. Can you please give me an example of a task the dog has been trained to perform? (or some flavor of that)

“You cannot ask to see the task performed, nor can any inquiry be disability specific. Now, sometimes folks will come right out and say, "I have diabetes and my dog alerts me when my sugar levels go low." (So the person just chose to disclose their disability...or at least part of it.) Remember, the answer to the second question may be as vague as, "The dog alerts me to an important change in my medical condition." As long as the person answers the questions in a "credible" way, the dog should be allowed. You can always required that an animal that is "out of control" be removed. “
Assistance Animal

Assistance animals

- Certain animals provide assistance or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability. Such animals, often referred to as “assistance animals,” “service animals,” “support animals,” or “therapy animals,” provide disability related functions including, but not limited to, guiding visually impaired individuals, alerting hearing-impaired persons to sounds and noises, providing protection or rescue assistance, pulling a wheelchair, seeking and retrieving items, alerting individuals to impending seizures, and providing emotional support to persons who have a disability related need for such support.
Any Questions?