

**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
ANIMALS IN DISASTER
RESPONSE PLAN**



PREPARED BY THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
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1.0 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this plan is to provide guidance to all agencies and individuals concerned with animal care and safety disaster relief actions within the City of Beverly Hills. While Beverly Hills is surrounded by other cities in the greater metropolitan Los Angeles area, this plan is directed at the care and support of pets belonging to residents of Beverly Hills specifically during and after a disaster.

This plan is intended to serve as an annex to the **City of Beverly Hills: Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)**. The Office of Emergency Management is the coordinating office for the City of Beverly Hills. The City will activate its Emergency Operations Center (herein referred to as “EOC”) as needed and/or when unified internal response is necessary. All animal rescue and services are to be directed and controlled through the Emergency Operations Center’s Operations Section: Building and Safety.

This plan is intended to protect all lawful and domesticated animals, as defined by the City of Beverly Hills Municipal Code, found within the City of Beverly Hills.

1.1 OBJECTIVES

- To provide for a safe environment for all domesticated animals (herein referred to as “animals”) located within the jurisdiction of the City of Beverly Hills during a disaster.
- To provide for a safe environment (free from threatening animals at large) for emergency personnel and the citizens and employees of the City of Beverly Hills during a disaster.
- To provide transportation and housing for displaced animals in a disaster, until they can be reunited with their owners in a safe and humane site.
- To provide evaluation and emergency veterinary care for animals who appear to be in need of medical evaluation and/or care due to a disaster.
- To recommend procedures that will protect the displaced population and pets in a disaster.

1.2 ASSUMPTIONS

- All animal-related laws (BHMC TITLE 5, CHAPTER 2) will be enforced during a disaster.
- All animal issues are to be under the control of Community Development and Building and Safety. In a large-scale emergency and/or upon activation of the Emergency Operations Center, this function will be under the control of the Building and Safety Branch, with oversight by the Emergency Operations Center’s Operations Section.
- Building and Safety: Code Enforcement is responsible for monitoring and regulating plan implementation.

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- Per the City of Beverly Hills Municipal Code 5-2-101, only dogs, cats, rabbits, parrots, *parakeets*, *mynah* birds, *lovebirds* and other normally accepted *psittacine* birds, may be kept on any real property within the City.
- Exemptions to BHMC 5-2-101 allow for animals or reptiles kept by a research laboratory, hospital or educational institution for experimental purposes, and where a special permit has been granted by the City under the provisions of section 5-2-103.
- It shall be unlawful for any animal guardian or shelter within the City to keep a vicious dog. BHMC § 5-2-302 (53.33) Proof that a dog has bitten a person shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence that the dog is vicious; provided further, a dog may be shown to be vicious even though it is not proven to have bitten any person. All vicious dogs shall be immediately and safely contained and removed from the City (BHMC §5-2-301) and transported to the contract Animal Shelter for observation.
- Pets are not to be allowed in shelters designated for displaced persons.
- The City will take all possible actions, within reason, to accommodate pets owned by individuals living in a Beverly Hills-operated shelter.
- Whenever possible, animals in need of medical evaluation and/or care will be taken to designated collection sites where evaluation and emergency treatment and hospital care can be provided as necessary.

2.0 ANIMAL COLLECTION

Animal guardians, whenever possible, will be responsible for control and transportation of their animals. In the event that the containment of animals on private property cannot be provided for by the animal guardian, or, in the event that an animal requires medical attention, said animal guardian may request assistance by contacting the City of Beverly Hills EOC hotline.

- As an additional resource, the City of Beverly Hills Division of Building and Safety may request assistance from the Contract Service Provider, LA City Animal Control, for field services related to the collection of animals.
- Building and Safety shall also seek the assignment of transportation of organic assets from the Transportation Unit of the EOC when needed.
- Additional resources such as transportation vehicles and equipment may be acquired when available through the Police and Public Works Department for the purpose of transporting animals and supplies.

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2.1 COLLECTION SITES

The following are locations pre-chosen by the City of Beverly Hills to serve as points of animal collection during an emergency. Animals requiring medical attention must be sent to the collection site noted specifically for medical evaluation and treatment.

Animals requiring medical evaluation/treatment:

Parking lot of 351 North Foothill Road.

Found animals requiring temporary housing until united with Guardian:

Amanda Foundation doing business as Dr. Ship Animal Hospital
La Cienega Tennis Center

Animals from the aforementioned group, but no medical attention may also be redirected to:

Contract Service Provider, LA City Animal Control, -approved shelters with appropriate documentation for boarding of animals.

2.2 CARE AND HOLDING FACILITIES

The primary shelter for the collection and boarding of healthy animals in a disaster will be the La Cienega Tennis Center. The Contract Service Provider, LA City Animal Control, may also have a mobile shelter which can be set up per request, at a collection point on Third Street or at a facility located at the specific park/shelter where humans are sheltered.

- Animal guardians are encouraged to find shelter for their animals whenever possible.
- Veterinary care for stray animals, animals for which the owners are not identified, or those whose owners are unable to pay all or part of the fees incurred, will be donated by the Amanda Foundation through Dr. Shipp's Animal Hospital. Dr. Shipp's Animal Hospital is located at 351 North Foothill Road.
- The Amanda Foundation has capacity to temporarily (2-3 weeks max) house up to 30 homeless cats and 50 homeless dogs in the event of an emergency.
- The Beverly Hills Small Animals Hospital, located at 353 North Foothill Road, has a small number of kennels available.
- Contract Service Provider, LA City Animal Control, and collection agents of the City of Beverly Hills will check all found animals for identification tags or microchips and attempt to contact animal guardian for retrieval in a timely manner.
- Any person inquiring of such animals must call the EOC hotline number for any information pertaining to the retrieval of said animal.

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3.0 ANIMAL CARE

The City of Beverly Hills reserves the right to ensure the safety and well being of all citizens, employees, and domesticated animals of the City of Beverly Hills, by any means necessary, as deemed appropriate by an agent of the City, or delegate thereof.

3.1 IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

- Animals received at collection points will be identified by a temporary ID band placed around the neck containing the alleged owner's name, if known, description (breed, color, sex) and name, if known. Animal ID numbers will be given and also placed on the band. There will be a master card prepared upon receipt of each animal at each collection site. Preprinted forms available in the EOC will be used and if owner is present, signed. They will contain the alleged owner's name, address, phone number (home and office), if known, or the location where the animal was captured and the animal's description (breed, weight, color, sex).
- Animals having ID chips can be positively identified provided the owners have a record of the chip's type and number.
- Animals with ID chips can be positively identified by photographs or ID tags located on their collars.
- In the event that an animal has not been claimed by the legal guardian in a to-be-determined reasonable amount of time, the animal will be transported to the Carson Animal Shelter for further board.
- Any animals which cannot be identified and have visible injuries will be transported to the Service Provider for further board.

3.2 ANIMALS UNDER MEDICAL CARE

- Animals with known owners are to be released to the guardians, once identified. Guardians must sign for animals taken back into their custody.
- Animals with unknown owners are to be transferred to a Contract Service Provider, LA City Animal Control, shelter upon release by the attending veterinarian. Transportation will be arranged by the Transportation Unit of the Operations Section of the Emergency Operations Center.

3.3 SUPPLIES AND STORAGE

- Dog and Cat Food are stored in the emergency supply bins located in the Public Works department.
- Three fixed cages may be found on the East Side of the BH Police Department.

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4.0 DISPOSITION OF DEAD ANIMALS

- **Animals positively identified and owner's location known:**
 - Owners may retrieve animals from the collection point if they have not already been transferred.
 - All deceased animals will be transferred to a permanent Contract Service Provider, LA City Animal Control, facility or a temporary Contract Service Provider, facility as soon as possible using City of Beverly Hills vehicles. Master record will be updated as to time transfer is made and to which location. Additional holding facilities can be authorized by Building and Safety as they become available.

- **Animals unidentified:**
 - Master cards will be prepared with as much data on the animal as available. Transfer to a Contract Service Provider, LA City Animal Control, shelter will be made as soon as all identified animals are transferred from the collection location. Additional holding facilities can be used if authorized by the Care and Shelter Branch of the Emergency Operations Center.
 - If Polaroid camera(s) and film are available, each unidentified animal will be photographed before leaving the collection point, and the back of the film annotated with a description of the animal to include approximate weight, age, color, breed and sex.

5.0 IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

EOC HOTLINE: (310) 550-4680

LACO AC: (562) 728-4610

AMANDA FOUNDATION: (310) 278-2935

BEVERLY HILLS SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL: (310) 276-7113

EOC: OPERATIONS, BUILDING AND SAFETY BRANCH: (310) 550-4668

DOC: BUILDING AND SAFETY (310) 285-1137

PET HOTLINE: (310) 285-PETS

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6.0 AUTHORIZATION

The City of Beverly Hills Animals in Disaster Response Plan is hereby authorized in its entirety by the City Building Official, Community Development Division of Building and Safety, on this _____
Day of _____, 2013.

George Chavez, City Building Official