

# Evidence based support to the WOAAH Members' DMRR capacities



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Gary Vroegindewey, DVM,  
MSS, DACVPM USA

26 September 2024



World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health  
Founded as OIE

Organisation  
mondiale  
de la santé  
animale  
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal  
Fundada como OIE

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Richard A. Gillespie  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
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INFECTIOUS ANIMAL DISEASES





"First OIE regional workshop on the role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters for Balkan countries"

November 26-27, 2018

Hosted by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell' Abruzzo e del Molise - OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare Teramo, Italy

The OIE CCs agreed on the proposal to form an 'OIE network on veterinary emergencies' with the attached Terms of Reference.





Dear Dr Eloit,

Since its establishment, the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell' Abruzzo e del Molise - OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare - has been actively working to establish and maintain a network with other OIE Collaborating Centres in order to exchange knowledge, best practices and expertise and to support the capacity building process of OIE Member Countries.



Teramo, 20 DIC. 2018

SETTORE Direction

PROTOCOLLO 21784

Dr Monique ~~Eloit~~  
 Director General  
 World Organisation for Animal Health  
 (OIE)  
[oit@oie.int](mailto:oit@oie.int)

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 Chief Veterinary Officer  
 Directorate General for Veterinary  
 Health and Veterinary Medicinal  
 Products  
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Dr Keith Hamilton  
 OIE Headquarters  
[k.hamilton@oie.int](mailto:k.hamilton@oie.int)

SUBJECT: TIT. M.2. OIE Collaborating Center network - veterinary emergencies

Dear Dr ~~Eloit~~

Since its establishment, the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell' Abruzzo e del Molise - OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare - has been actively working to establish and maintain a network with other OIE Collaborating Centres in order to exchange knowledge, best practices and expertise and to support the capacity building process of OIE Member Countries.

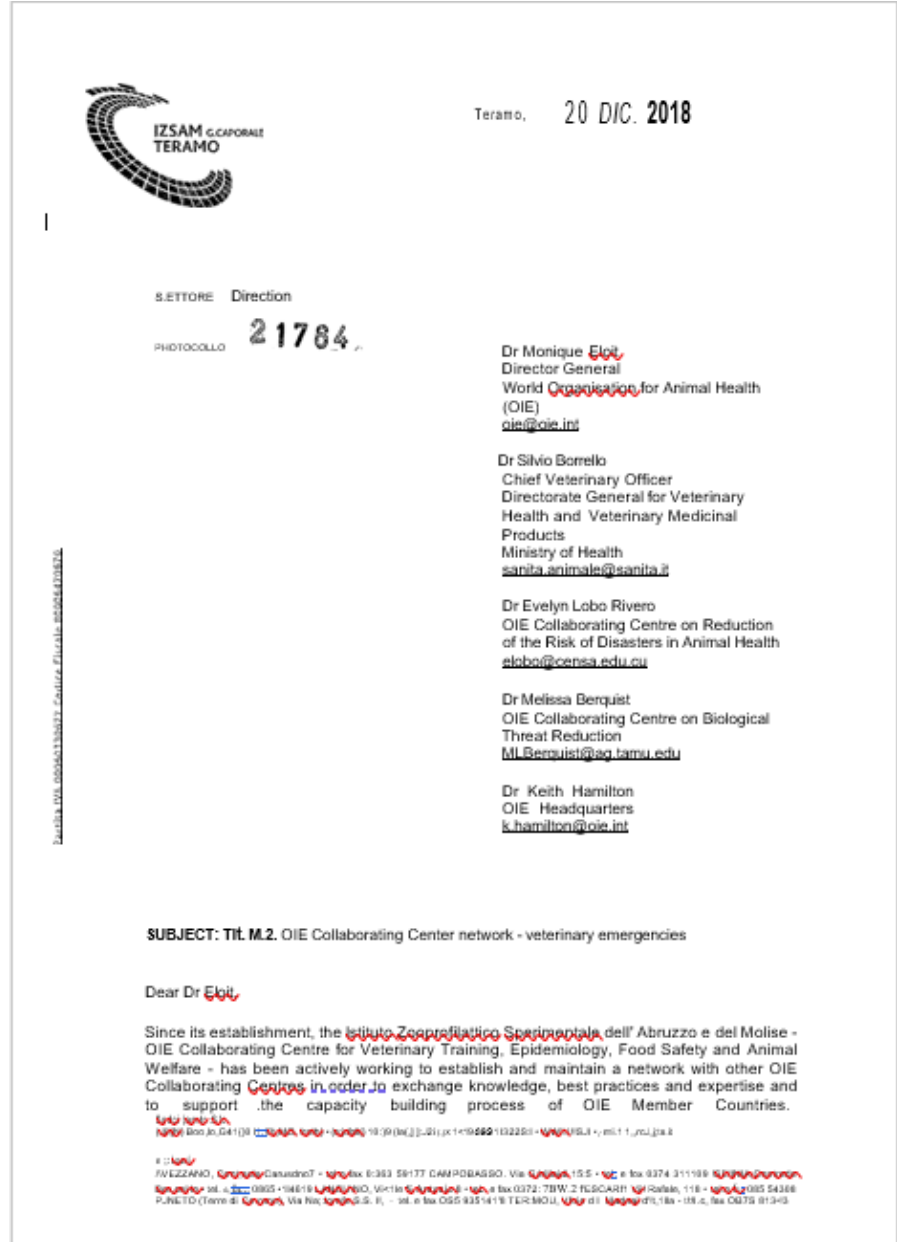
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 tel.: 0865 - 98618 Viterbo - fax: 0372 78172 FREGGARA tel.: 085 54368  
 PUNETO (Terme di Via Nazionale S. I. - tel.: fax: 055 4351418 TERAMO, tel.: fax: 0875 81343



As you are aware of, on November 26-27, IZSAM has hosted a meeting held during the "First OIE regional workshop on the role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters for Balkan countries", of the three OIE Collaborating Centres working in the area of emergency and disaster management:

- OIE CC for Reduction of the Risk of Disasters in Animal Health (CENSA, Cuba);
- OIE CC on Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare (Teramo, Italy)
- OIE CC for Biological Threat Reduction (IIAD, Texas A and M, USA).

The meeting was chaired by Dr Keith Hamilton, from the OIE HQs.





Dear Professor Mattioli,

Thank you for your letter of 20 December 2018, which you sent on behalf of several OIE Collaborating Centres, proposing to establish an OIE Collaborating Centre network on Veterinary Emergencies. The proposal was referred to the Biological Standards Commission for review at its meeting in February 2019, and I am pleased to inform you that the Commission reviewed and approved the proposal. You will find the decision in the final report of them meeting on the OIE website at

[http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International\\_Standard\\_Setting/docs/pdf/BSC/A\\_BSC\\_Feb2019.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/BSC/A_BSC_Feb2019.pdf)

I am also grateful for IZSAM's agreement to take on the role of network Secretariat for the first rotation. This is an important responsibility, with the Secretariat being the driving force for network activities and outputs. It is becoming increasingly important for OIE Collaborating Centres and networks to demonstrate that they are active and functional.

The OIE is in the process of developing Standard Operating Procedures and Terms of Reference for Reference Centre networks and my colleagues will welcome the opportunity to use your experiences as these guidelines are further elaborated.

Thank you again for your ongoing contribution to OIE's mission.

Yours sincerely

Dr Monique Eloit

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Organisation  
Mondiale  
de la Santé  
Animale

World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal

The Director General

Our Ref.: KH 30.245

Paris, 26 April 2019

Prof. Mauro Mattioli  
IZSAM G. Caporale  
Teramo  
Italy

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Yours sincerely

Dr Monique Eloit

cc: M. Stone, T. Brand, K. Hamilton, D. Donachie, P. Alfonso, M. Berquist, C. Holley, S. Linnane, G. Torres

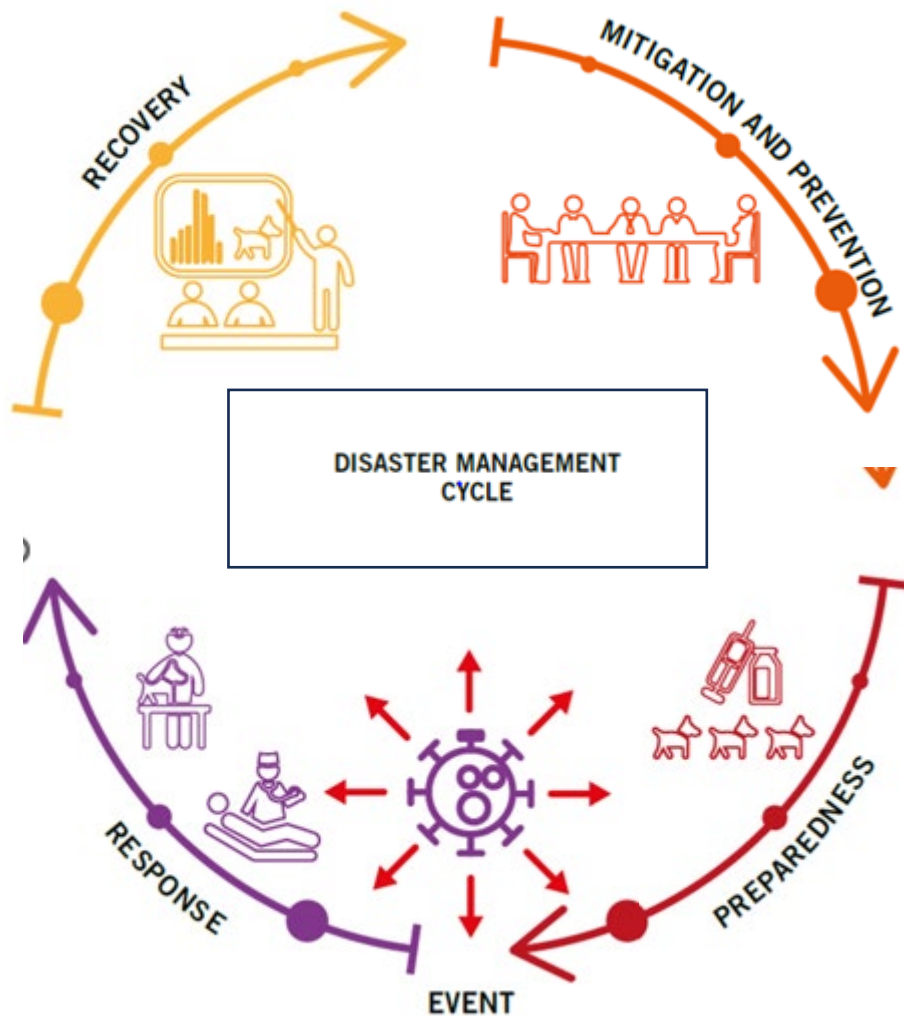


# EmVetNet Action Plan 2020-2024

- 1. To provide technical advice and support for training,** exercising, and evaluation across the emergency management cycle for all hazards, and to facilitate multidisciplinary approaches;
- 2. To exchange and share knowledge on best practices** (including models and case studies e.g., model legislation, contingency/emergency plans, communication);
- 3. To make recommendations on research** needs to support veterinary emergency management;
- 4. To identify, cooperate and coordinate with stakeholders** (Member Countries, NGOs, public health, private sector) and seek to extend and diversify the network;
- 5. To support operational activities** e.g. OIE, Tripartite (WHO, OIE, FAO), GOARN, or EMC response missions.



## EmVetNet works throughout the Emergency Management Cycle



Training, Education, Consultation, Workshops, Networking, References, Mutual Support, Research

Training, Consultation, Networking, References

Consultation, Workshops, Networking, Mutual Support, References, Research

Training, Education, Consultation, Workshops, Networking, References, Research



- EmVetNet has provided consultation associated with multiple disasters
- 2019
- Hurricane Dorian
- IIAD, CENSA, and IZSAM mobilized to provide support to the Bahamas, specifically the Grand Bahamas and Abacos islands, after Hurricane Dorian (September 2019).





- EmVetNet has provided consultation associated with multiple disasters

- 2020 harbor explosion

- Beirut Lebanon

IZSAM led coordination  
and provided lab support  
CENSA provided project  
revision  
IIAD pursued USAID  
funding





La Soufriere Volcano Caribbean 2020

- EmVetNet has provided consultation associated with multiple disasters
- 2022 War in Ukraine
- IFAW
- United States Department of Agriculture



# Floods Libya 2023



- EmVetNet has provided consultation associated with multiple disasters.
- 2024 Wildfires Chili South America



Veterinarians and volunteers collaborate to treat to animals that survived Chile's deadly wildfires in early February [Charis McGowan/Al Jazeera



## Technical assistance

- IIAD, CENSA, and IZSAM represented the animal health sector at OIE, WHO, and FAO meetings aiming at strengthening international frameworks for emergency preparedness (2019– 2020)
- IIAD have taken on a project to assess the vulnerability of the animal health sector to agro-crime and agro-terrorism (2019–2020)
- IIAD and CENSA supported the OIE ad hoc group on veterinary emergencies to draft guidance on simulation exercises (2019–2020)



## Technical assistance

- IZSAM provides scientific and technical support to the second Action Plan of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe (2017–2019) addressing the welfare of animals in disasters
- IIAD, CENSA and IZSAM participation to OIE Workshop on Approaches to Improve Sustainable Management of Animal Health Emergencies (Paris, 26-27 November 2019)





Disaster Medicine and Public  
Health Preparedness

[www.cambridge.org/dmp](http://www.cambridge.org/dmp)

### Original Research

**Cite this article:** Vroegindewey G, Gruszynski K, Handler D, Grudnik T, Balbo R, Dalla Villa P. World Organisation for Animal Health Members' capacity to deal with animal welfare emergencies during natural disasters in Europe. *Disaster Med Public Health Prep.* 17(e506), 1-9. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/dmp.2023.167>.

**Keywords:** animal welfare; capacity building; disaster management; natural disaster; preparedness and response; veterinary disaster

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Emails: [gary.vroegindewey@lmunet.edu](mailto:gary.vroegindewey@lmunet.edu) or [drvroeg@gmail.com](mailto:drvroeg@gmail.com).

## World Organisation for Animal Health Members' Capacity to Deal With Animal Welfare Emergencies During Natural Disasters in Europe

Gary Vroegindewey DVM, MSS<sup>1</sup>, Karen Gruszynski DVM, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Handler DVM<sup>1</sup>, Tomasz Grudnik DVM<sup>2</sup>, Roberto Balbo DVM, MSc<sup>2,3</sup> and Paolo Dalla Villa DVM<sup>2,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>College of Veterinary Medicine, Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN, USA; <sup>2</sup>World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), WOAH Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, Belgium; <sup>3</sup>Agriculture Directorate Rural Affairs Department of the Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Animal Rights, Qormi, Malta and <sup>4</sup>Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale," Teramo, Italy

### Abstract

**Objective:** Little is known about individual European countries or regional capacity to respond to animal welfare emergencies during natural disasters; therefore, it is important to establish baseline information (eg, types of disasters, training) to enable more focused and data-driven actionable support for future disasters.

**Methods:** A 55-question survey was distributed by an email link to the 53 World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) European Region Members plus 1 observer country.

**Results:** Forty-nine countries (91%, n = 54) responded to the survey. Fifty-one percent (25/49) indicated they incorporated animal welfare into their national disaster regulatory framework, whereas 59% (29/49) indicated animal welfare was incorporated in the Veterinary Service National Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plan. Thirty-nine percent (19/49) indicated they had "no" or "limited" legal authority to manage animal emergencies in natural disasters. Floods, forest fires, and snowstorm/extreme cold were the 3 most commonly reported disasters over the last 10 years with 79% (27/34) reporting Veterinary Services was involved in managing these disasters.

**Conclusion:** The survey results indicated a wide range in the capacity of WOAH European Member Countries to respond to animal welfare in natural disasters, highlighting the gaps and potential areas of improvement in this arena.

## Research Surveys

2022 – WOAH Europe Region  
91% Response Rate  
Thanks!

2024- CARIBvet Caribbean  
Region  
In process

2024- WOAH Asia-Pacific  
Region  
Planning phase



- All of the EmVetNet members have contributed to the development of the WOAHA online Emergency and Disaster Management course

The screenshot shows the landing page for a course titled "Introduction to Emergency and Disaster Management". The page has a white header with a blue navigation bar. On the left, there is a blue square with a white 'a' logo. The main title "Module 1: Introduction to Emergency and Disaster Management" is displayed in black, followed by "Updated by Julie Stowell-Moss • Current Version" in a smaller font. To the right of the title are links for "Review", "Feedback", and a "Sign In" button. The main content area is split: the left side features a photograph of a firefighter in a dark, smoky environment, and the right side is a solid orange background with the text "Introduction to Emergency and Disaster Management" in white, and a white "START" button below it.



# Exercise Phoenix

## Preparing to respond to agroterrorism

**Dr Kathy Gibson**

European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EuFMD)

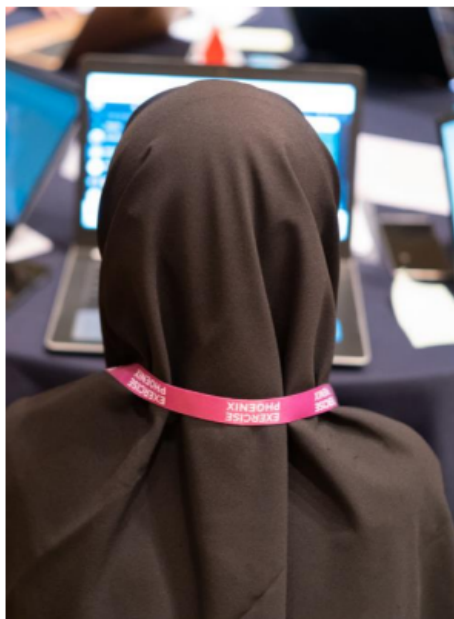
Daniel Donachie (WOAH), Fanny Ewann (INTERPOL), Pamela Hullinger (EuFMD), Frederic Poudevigne (FAO-EMC), Adrien Sivignon (INTERPOL), Jimmy Tickel (IIAD), Fabrizio Rosso (EuFMD)

**3-5 April 2023**

Maison de la Chimie, Paris, France

# Exercise Phoenix overview

- Exercise Phoenix (February 2023) was an international discussion exercise (TTX)



Comprising

- **Three 4 – day face-to-face regional exercises** involving the veterinary services and law enforcement agencies of **12 countries**
    - held concurrently across **three time zones**
    - Delivered in **three languages** (English and French, and translated on-site into Arabic)
    - And 10 days later
  - **A one-day discussion exercise** for international organisations
    - with **three participating** and **six observer** international organisations
    - Held in hybrid (face-to-face and virtual) format.
- Planned and delivered during a global pandemic.



***Overcoming the impact of Covid-19 on animal welfare:  
COVID-19 Thematic Platform on Animal Welfare***

N. De Briyne <sup>(1)</sup>, P. Dalla Villa <sup>(2)</sup>, D Ellis <sup>(3)</sup>, G. Golab <sup>(4)</sup>, K. Gruszynski <sup>(5)</sup>, A. Hammond-Seaman <sup>(6)</sup>, S. Moody <sup>(1)</sup>, Z. Noga <sup>(7)</sup>, E. Pawloski <sup>(5)</sup>, M. Ramos <sup>(8)</sup>, H. Simmons <sup>(3)</sup>, J. Tickel <sup>(3)</sup>, G. Vroegindewey <sup>(5)</sup>

Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine recruited summer research students whom catalogued over 1200 animal welfare related reports and provided 64 report narratives for the working group.

<https://bulletin.woah.org/?p=15661>

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# Inputs from the COVID-19 AW WG F



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This form is to share observations, lessons learned, and issues regarding animal welfare within the framework of the EmVetNet COVID-19 thematic platform.

Source of information (URL, DOI, etc):

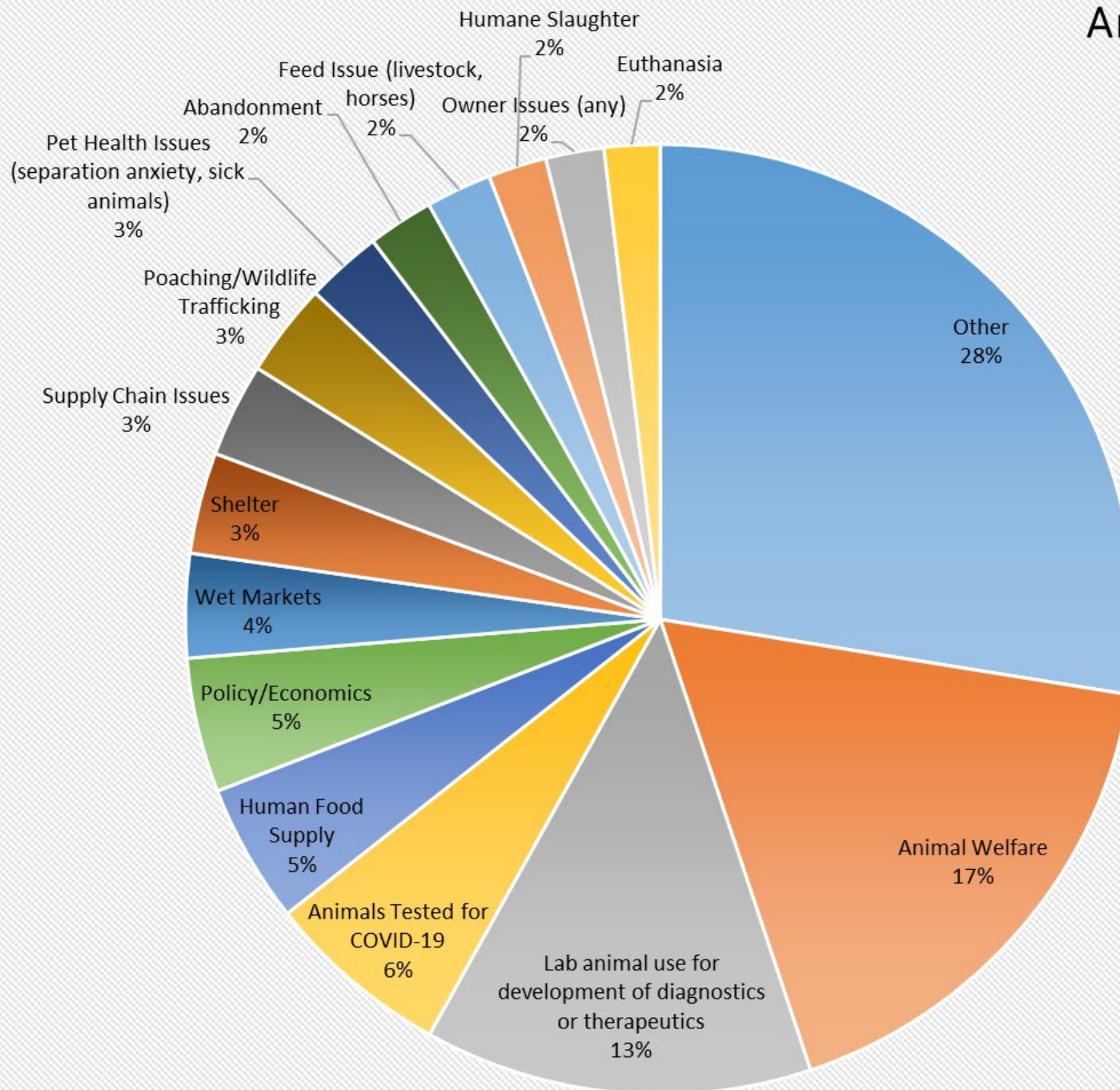
What is today's date?

Issue Theme:

[https://lmu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_beo5E](https://lmu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_beo5E)

Developed by Dr. Kare  
Curated by Ms. Emma

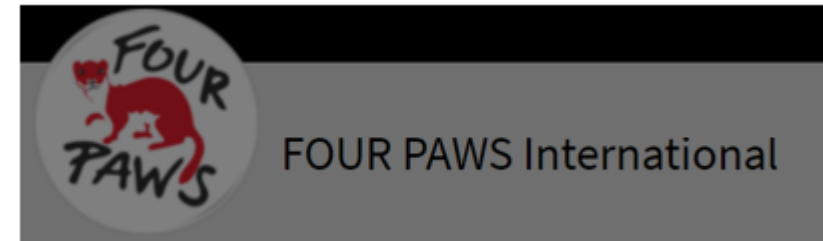
# Animal Issues





# COVID-19 AW WG Contributors

## The Power of Networking



WORLD VETERINARY  
ASSOCIATION



International



## Meetings and Workshops

The first OIE regional workshop on the role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters for Balkan countries.

26 – 28 November 2018 – Teramo, Italy)

The second OIE regional workshop on the role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters for Balkan countries (28-30 October 2019 – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The third OIE regional workshop on the role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters for Balkan countries (9 – 11 November 2021 – online workshop)





Global Events

# Global Conference on Emergency Management

Paris, France, 3-5 April 2023



All EmVetNet Collaborating Centers participated including as:  
moderators, workshop facilitators, and presentations

# WOAH Platform Action Plans' bridging workshop on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction

17 – 18 January 2024

Lisbon, Portugal





# Roster Expert Lists





# Emergency and Disaster Management Reference Project



This international GEMP Essentials guide is meant to support the advancement of key components of emergency management as countries continue efforts to work and prepare together. It sets out in a systematic way the elements required to achieve an appropriate level of preparedness and proposes an approach to animal health emergency management inclusive of all type of events, be they caused by natural phenomenon, including not infectious events, or by accidental or deliberate human action. The guide also includes the One Health approach.

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cb3833en> English

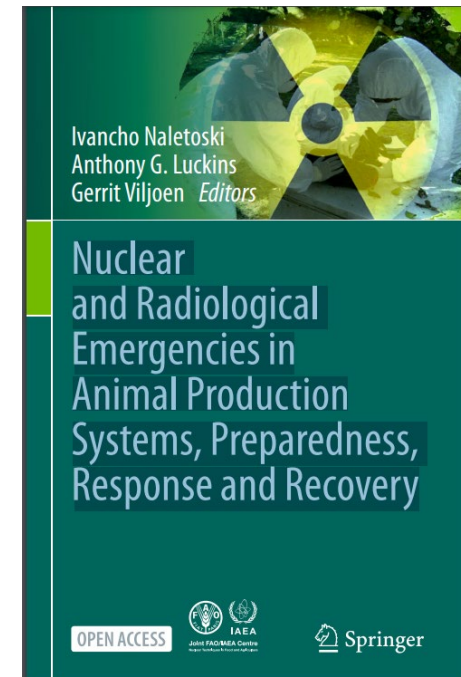
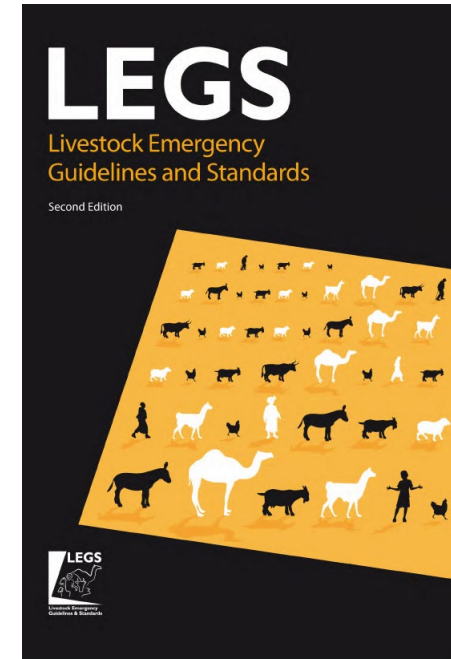
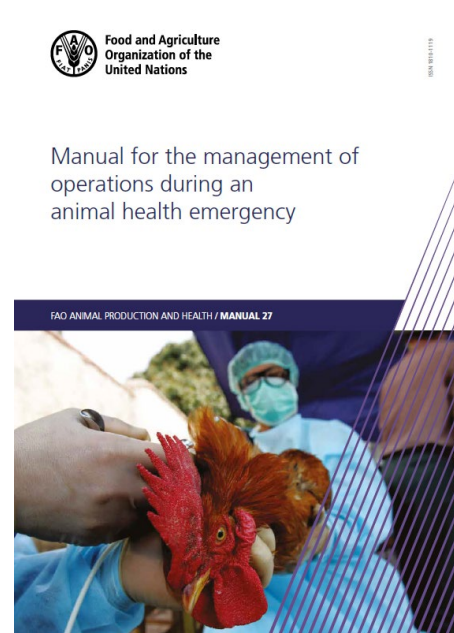
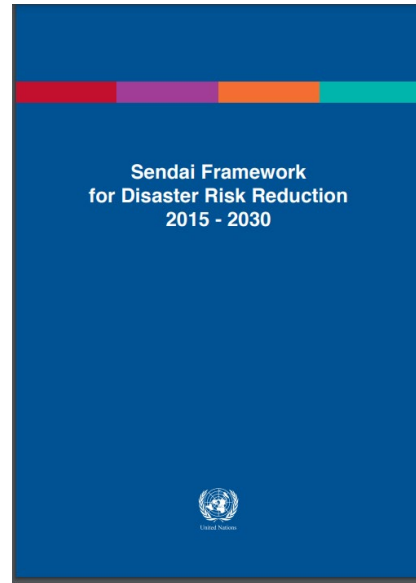
<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CB3833AR> Arabic

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CB3833FR> French

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CB3833ES> Spanish

<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CB3833ZH> Chinese

# Disaster and Emergency Management Resources for Veterinary Services








**GUIDELINES FOR SIMULATION EXERCISES**

A consistent set of good practices for preparing, delivering, and learning from animal health and welfare and veterinary public health simulation exercises for Veterinarians.




  
**GUIDELINES ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RISK REDUCTION IN RELATION TO ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE AND VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH**  
 (GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES)



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 Protecting animals, preserving our future


MAY 2016

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**Disaster prevention and preparedness**

**Prévention des catastrophes et préparation préalable**

**Prevención de desastres y preparación**




Vol. 39 (2), 2020


scientifique et technique



"Protéger les animaux, préserver notre avenir" - Protecting animals, preserving our future - Proteger a los animales, preservar el futuro

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**Terrestrial Animal Health Code**



2021 Edition    Volume I

  
**GUIDELINES FOR INVESTIGATION OF SUSPICIOUS BIOLOGICAL EVENTS**  
 (GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES)



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 Protecting animals, preserving our future

# IIAD's Dr. Jimmy Tickel Wins Global Animal Welfare Award

Posted on [March 30, 2022](#) by [sarah.manning](#) in [News & Events](#)



In March 2022, [Dr. Jimmy Tickel](#) traveled to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates to accept a global animal welfare award from the [World Veterinarian Association \(WVA\)](#) and [Ceva Santé Animale \(CEVA\)](#) for his disaster preparedness and response contributions and efforts in North America.



**Prediction is very difficult, especially if it's about the future.  
Niels Bohr**





# EmVetNet Future

Disasters impacting animal welfare and emergency management will continue at an increasing rate.

WOAH EmVetNet will continue to contribute to National Veterinary Services capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters.

CENSA Cuba will lead EmVetNet as Secretariat January 2025

New Action Plan for 2025-2029

Request for or establishment for Emergency Management Network Contact Points

Your Veterinary Service can participate



# Thank you

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animale  
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Disclaimer: The concepts are from Gary Vroegindewey and are not specifically the policy of any entity..

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