Introduction To Animal Disaster Response Operations For Decision Makers

Humane Innovations

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- 21+ years of field experience
- Companion Animal Management (DPM)
- Disaster Response and Planning
- Field Services Program Development
- Training and Consulting
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Photos Generously Provided By:

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Session Summary:

- Introduction and Mission Types
- Animal Services Disaster Structure
- Resources
- Communications
- Disaster Animal Encounters
- Safety In Disasters
- Legal Considerations
- Post-Disaster Recovery

Introduction and Mission Types

Disaster managers factor in three components:

- What you're required to do.
- What you want to do.
- What society expects you to do.

Core Roles

○ Responsible for most animal needs

- Rescue

- Sheltering

- Feeding and Watering

- Disease Management

- Deceased Animal Management

- Community Awareness (of resources and incident facts)

- Needs to be represented in larger response infrastructure

Mission Types

- Assessment
- Search and Rescue
  - Water
  - Technical
  - Fire
- Welfare Checks
- Evacuation
- Reunification
- Aid Distribution
- Emergency Sheltering
- Patrols

Mission Types Continued

- Cat Management
- Shelter in Place
- Pop-up Clinics
- Animal Transport
- Donation Management
- Bio Security Measures
- Emergency Feeding and Watering
- Deceased Animal Management
  - De-Population

Donation Management

Patrols

Technical Rescue

Water Rescue

The Importance Of Collaboration

- Disasters come in all shapes and sizes. Larger events will very rapidly exceed any individual or organization's capabilities.

- One of the core ways to help ensure a coherent, organized, and professional response is through regular communication with other public safety entities.

Additional Considerations

○ **Duration of Deployment**

○ **Specialized Skills and Training**

○ **Lodging**

○ **Meals**

○ **Communications**

○ **Vehicle Capacity and Capability**

○ **Shelter Capacity**

○ **Shelter Supplies**

○ **Large Animal Transport**

○ **Staffing**
○ **Finances**

Animal Services Disaster Management Structure

Incident Commander

Public Information Officer

Safety Officer

Liaison Officer

Operations Chief

Planning Section Chief

Logistics Section Chief

Finance Chief

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                    Operations
                      Chief


Field Services      Animal
Lead                Sheltering Lead      Vet Med Lead


Animal Control                           Veterinary
Officers            Shelter Team         Team
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Resources

Resource Typing

○Experience has taught us that most disaster types require some of the same roles.

○Standardizing roles, terms, and training helps everyone know what to ask for and what they are going to get.

○Resource typing should extend to people, teams, operational packages (e.g. large and small animal sheltering), and equipment.

Complete List Of Animal Resource Types

- Animal Care And Handling Specialist

- Animal Control/Humane Officer

- Animal Decontamination Specialist

- Animal Emergency Response Shelter Manager

- Animal Emergency Response Team Leader

- Animal Evacuation, Transport, And Reentry Team

- Animal Intake And Reunification Specialist

- Animal search and rescue technician

- Animal sheltering team -animal only

- Animal sheltering team- cohabitated

- Animal sheltering team- collocated

- Companion animal decontamination team

- Veterinarian

- Veterinary assistant

- Veterinary medical team

- Animal search and rescue team

- Animal behavior specialist

Sample Resource "Type":

Type II Animal Search and Rescue Team
(ASAR Team)

○ Led by a Type I Animal Emergency Response Team
   Leader (has its own typing) who is also an ASAR
   Technician (has its own typing)
○ Can perform water rescue/work in water
   environment
○ Main body of team comprised of Animal Search and
   Rescue Technicians
○ Responds to a single jurisdiction with multiple
   geographic areas (or a single large, complex site)
   and manages approximately 24 animals per 12-hour
   shift
○ PPE Requirements
○ Animal Handling Equipment Requirements
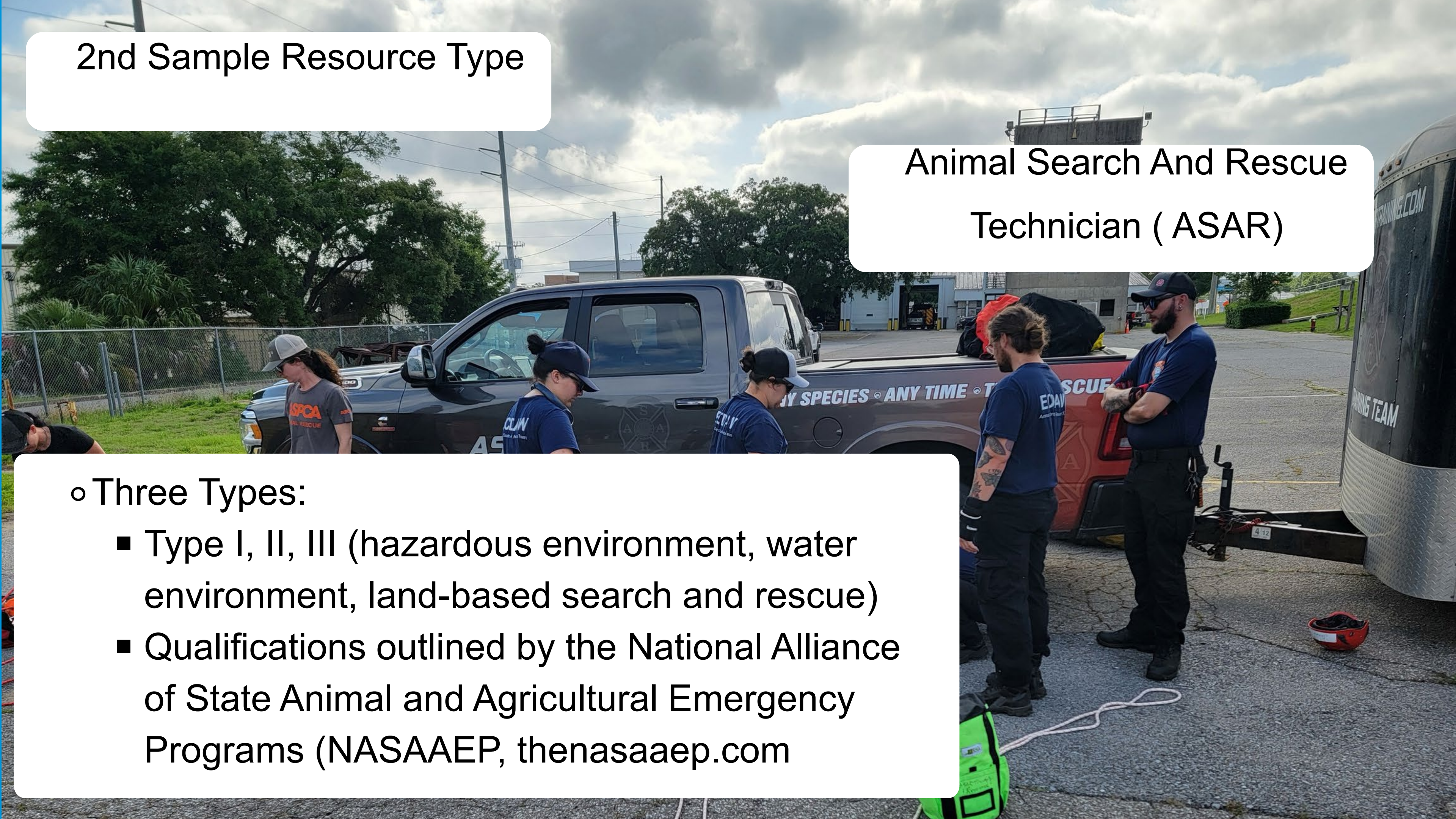○ Communications Equipment Requirements

2nd Sample Resource Type

Animal Search And Rescue Technician (ASAR)

- Three Types:
  - Type I, II, III (hazardous environment, water environment, land-based search and rescue)
  - Qualifications outlined by the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP, thenasaaep.com

Common Limitations and Challenges

- Training, credentialing
- Animal Services agencies have limited resources
- Usually inadequate vehicles and other equipment
- Often limited linkages to other agencies
- Often limited to no specialized disaster equipment
- Training budgets are minimal, especially for disaster
- Public expectations
- Disaster zone access

General Resource Needs

○Caging
○Livestock Care Equipment
○Trailers
○Vehicles
○Water Rescue Equipment
○Lighting
○Emergency Sheltering Locations
○Basic Animal Equipment
○Volunteers
○Veterinary Supplies

○PPE
○Livestock Panels
○Power Production
○Public Signage
○Communications Equipment
○Technical Rescue Equipment

Communications/Coordination

- Cellular infrastructure is often damaged; mobile towers quick to come online in some areas
- Radio systems vary and may include:
  - VHF
  - UHF
  - Ham
  - FRS
- Many organizations are using WhatsApp for disaster communications
  - Make groups for responders, leadership, etc. to streamline communications

Information Management

- Imagine a quickly expanding disaster with cascading systems failures.
- How do we continue to function?
- How do we organize information?
- How do we reunify pets with owners efficiently?
- What happens when we need help?
- How do we safely manage our teams?

WATCH DUTY

CALTOPO

SHELTERLY

petco lovelost
REUNITING PETS

Emergency Sheltering

- Types of shelter:
  - Collocated
  - Cohabitated
  - Animal Only
- Heightened Disease Concerns
- Lack Of Exercise and Enrichment
- Heavy Staff Needs
- Records Keeping

Disaster Animal Encounters

What should first responders do when they find an animal?

- Assess The Situation:
  - Rescuer Safety
  - Victim Safety
  - Animal Shelter
  - Rescue Capacity
  - Rescuer Sentiment

Keep in mind that people may not behave rationally regarding their pets.

- Take Action
  - Call for Resources
  - Evacuate
  - Move to safety
  - "Shelter in Place"
  - Report

Safety

- Disaster zones are often exceptionally hazardous
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is essential
- Toxins may be airborne, topical, or waterborne
- Electrical lines and other infrastructure may be damaged
- Bio-security concerns including species exclusions
- DECON considerations

Dead Animals in Disasters

- Dead animals pose a specific health hazard
- Animal information should be recorded and animals scanned for microchip
- Disposal follows a clear and pre-arranged process
- PPE should be changed between sites or even individuals if needed
- Refrigeration needs may be extensive
- Incorporate animal depopulation and disposal procedures

Legal Considerations

- Stray Hold Period
- Relocation Policy
- Deceased Animal Policy
- Exigency, Forced Entry
- Access to Disaster Zones
- Liability
- Volunteers

Conclusions

○ All animal disaster response operations require personnel, training, equipment, and planning.
○ Take the time to think through each element, then be willing to adapt to the circumstances you are faced with.

Thank You!

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