

WOAH workshop on Response Plan Development for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction

08th – 10th July, 2025,
Bucharest - Romania

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World Organisation
for Animal Health





1. What frameworks, law, or national/international policies are influencing how your plan is developed and activated? *(This might include disaster risk reduction strategies, veterinary legislation, biosecurity and incursion response frameworks, or international guidelines such as the Sendai Framework or WOAHA standards)*
2. Tell us about the current status of your contingency/response plan. *(Is there a national or regional plan? Who led its development? Has it been tested or activated recently?)*

Legislations in Iceland-

Civil protection falls under Ministry of Justice

Civil Protection responsibilities at the national level are delegated to the National Commissioner of the Icelandic Police (NCIP)

The NCIP takes decisions regarding civil protection alert levels at any given time

The NCIP runs a **Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management**

- responsible for daily administration of Civil Protection matters,
- maintains and operate a National Crisis Coordination Centre in Reykjavik in emergency situations



Legislations in Iceland

Law on civil protection (2008)

Civil protection council

- Ministers of health, energy, transport, defence etc.
but not Minister of Agriculture
- Police, Coast guard, Directorate of transport, environment, energy, search and rescue volunteers, Red Cross, Directorate of health etc.
but not the Chief Veterinary Officer





Legislations in Iceland

Several regulations

- Responders of civil protection and national command
 - Police, Coast-Guard, medical staff, firefighters, Red Cross, 112, Search and Rescue, Flight support
 - **not Veterinary Authority**
- Requirement of Contingency plans from 2010
- Regulation of responsibility of search and rescue volunteers organisation to rescue
 - People
 - Valuables



„I don't care about my house. I only care that my cat is rescued and save“



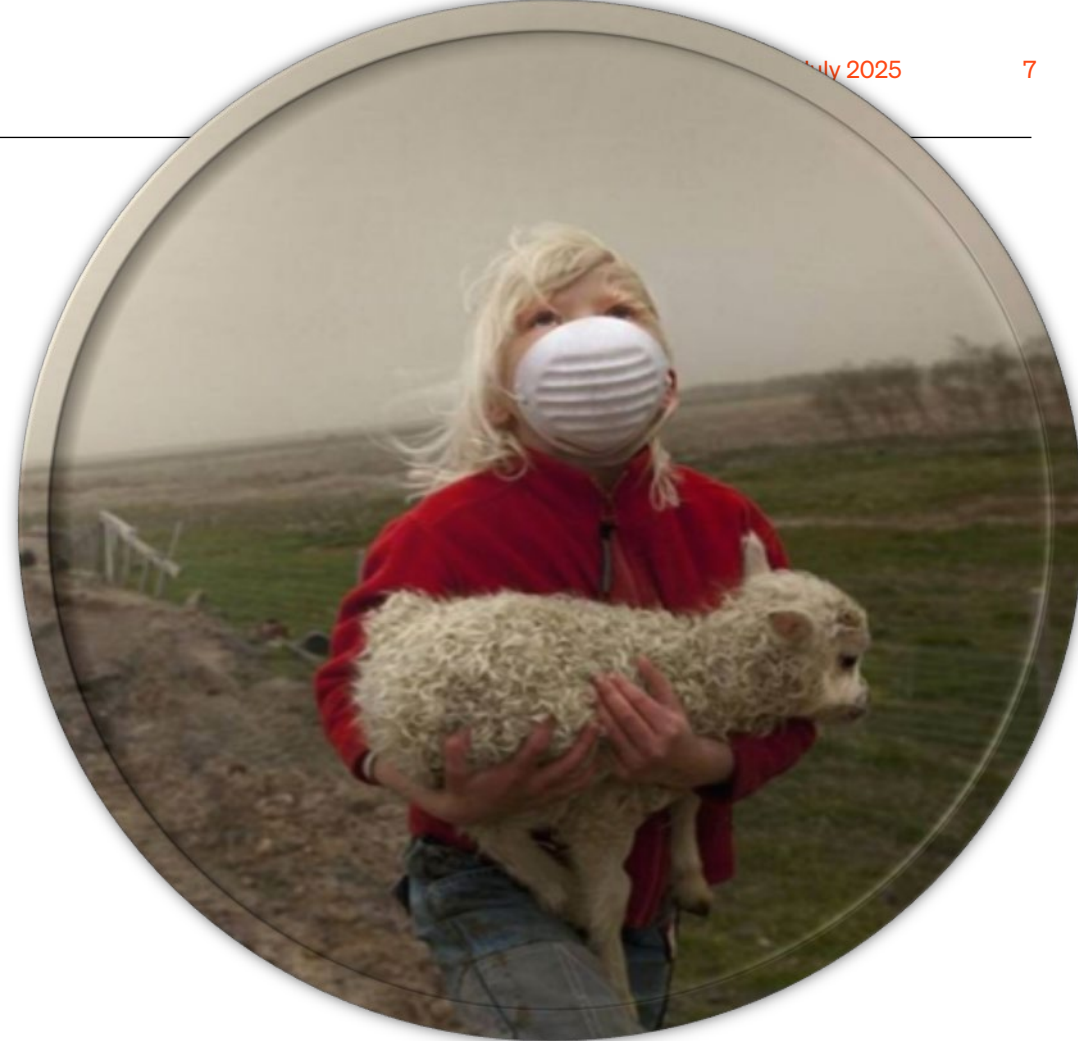
Legislations in Iceland

Contingency plans

- National
 - Happening likely to affect the whole country
- General
 - Regional areas and disasters
 - Flood, eruption, bad weather, large accidents
- Specific
 - Specific happening in specific areas

In general and specific contingency plans animals are rarely mentioned, nor the authority that is responsible for animal health and welfare.

Few plans mention the CVO should be notified of immediate threat and in Í örfáum eru nefnt að aðvara eigi yfirdýralækni og í einstaka viðbragðsáætlun er nevery few mentioned that representative from Food and Veterinary Authority should be part of the Crisis Coordination Center



The Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority - role

- Generic contingency plan regarding animal health & welfare and veterinary public health
- Guideline to owners how to prepare and react when disaster hits
 - Gradually building specific guidelines for different events
 - Publish information on website and distribute with emails
- Frequent updates of information on website to owners about animal health and welfare risk
- District veterinarians officers have overview over location of livestock, animal species and approximate numbers of animals
 - Can provide information to the Civil Protection/Operational Command
 - Applications to Operational Command asking for priority for animals rescue by ICE-SAR above dead valuables and access for owners to feed or water

Hætta fyrir hunda á gosstöðvum

Lestu hér mikilvægar varúðarráðstafanir!

MAST mælir eindregið gegn því að fara með hunda að gosi, en ef hundur fer með þarf að gera varúðarráðstafanir:

1. Ekki láta hunda drekka úr vatnspollum eða éta snjó á svæðinu!

Úrkomuvatnið er mikið mengað af alls kyns hættulegum gosefnum, m.a. flúrsýru og saltsýru. Hafið með drykkjarvatn og skál og bjóðið hundinum eftir þörfum að drekka úr skálinni.

2. Forðist að láta hunda sleikja feld eða þófa fyrr en skolað hefur verið af þeim með vatni eftir að komið er af gossvæðinu. Best er að setja hundasokka á loppurnar. Saltsýra og mjög lágt sýrustig á yfirborði getur ert þófana, sem hundurinn vill þá sleikja og fær í sig efnin.

3. Hafið hundinn ávallt í taumi! Gas getur leynst í lægðum. Lausir hundar geta hlaupið í lægðir þar sem er gas og jafnvel á hraunið. Lausir hundar geta líka valdið öðru fólki hættu og óþægindum á leiðinni með því að koma því úr jafnvægi eða velta á það grjóti.

4. Forðist að fara mjög nálægt hraunjaðrinum með hund!

Gas getur verið mikið niður við hraunjaðarinn. Hundurinn er töluvert lægri en við og getur fengið í sig mikið meira gas. Haldið ykkur ofarlega í brekkunni með vindinn í bakið.

Hundurinn treystir á þig!



Various Civil Protection contingency plans

Many mention that the Chief Veterinary Officer should be notified

- However, total lack of defined collaboration and connection **to operational command**
- Rescue of animals is owners responsibility by law
 - Commonly in disasters owners need to evacuate fast and can not take animals along, nor are allowed back to enter the affected area.

Contingency plan of pandemic and CBRNE

- Food and Veterinary Authority have defined role



Natural disasters and emergencies in Iceland

Hazards of

- Volcanic eruptions
- Earthquakes and ground rupture
- Floods
- Avalanches
- Landslides
- Snowstorms

- 103.000 km²
- 384.000 persons
- 3,7 souls pr. km²

Problems to be faced

Volcanic Eruption and earthquakes

- Gases, air pollution, ash, fluoride, blocked roads, ground rupture, lack of electricity (ventilation, milking, feeding) and water, lack of housing for animals, lack of transport vehicles fast enough, owner access limited

Avalanches

- Closed roads, lack of electricity and water, animals under snow, owner access limited

Snowblizzards

- Closed roads, lack of electricity and water, animals under snow, collapsed roofs

Flood

- Closed roads, lack of electricity and water, drowning animals, lack of transport vehicles fast enough, owner access limited

Recent experiences

- Long lasting disaster
- Many different threats
 - Earthquakes
 - Gas and ash
 - Eruption
 - Cracks visible and hidden
- Multiple evacuations
- By animal welfare act are owners of animals responsible for their health and welfare
- Authorities can not in general
 - Require evacuation of animals
 - Ban owner to take animals back in the area



Experiences

Challenges

- Not well organised cooperating system between governmental agencies
- Psychological stress/trauma
- Automatic system failure in lack of electricity (feed/water/milking) – reserve power supply mandatory?
- Housing of animals
- Feeding of animals
- Movement restrictions
 - Disease protection
 - Blocked roads or danger
- Lack of scientific knowledge

Success

- Efficient early warning system
- Very large and well operating volunteer search and rescue organisation
- Regular information meetings with representatives from the main stakeholders, including the Veterinary Authority
- Supportive people who take initiative and think in solutions

WOAH Guidelines on disaster management (2016)

Iceland

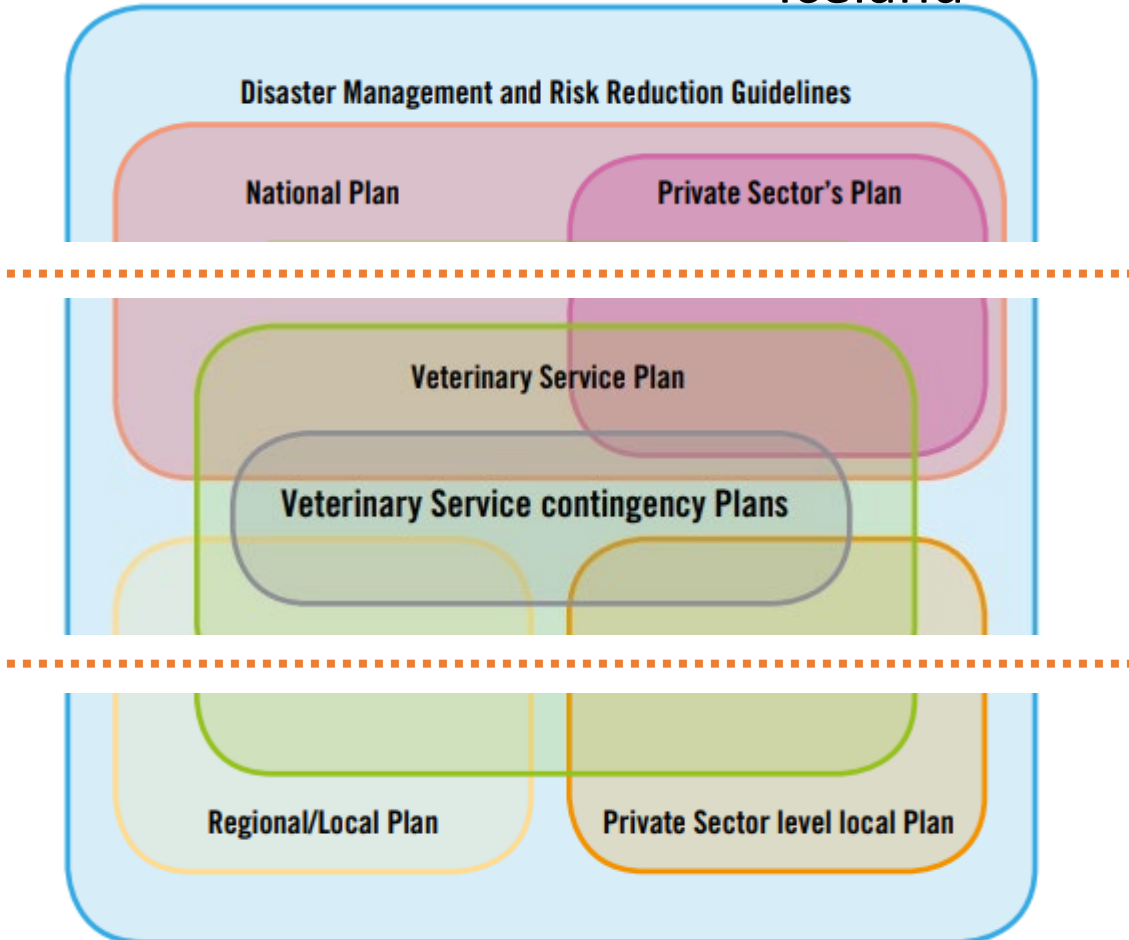


Figure 2. Relationship of Multi-Sectoral Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plans and Guidelines

Where we want to be

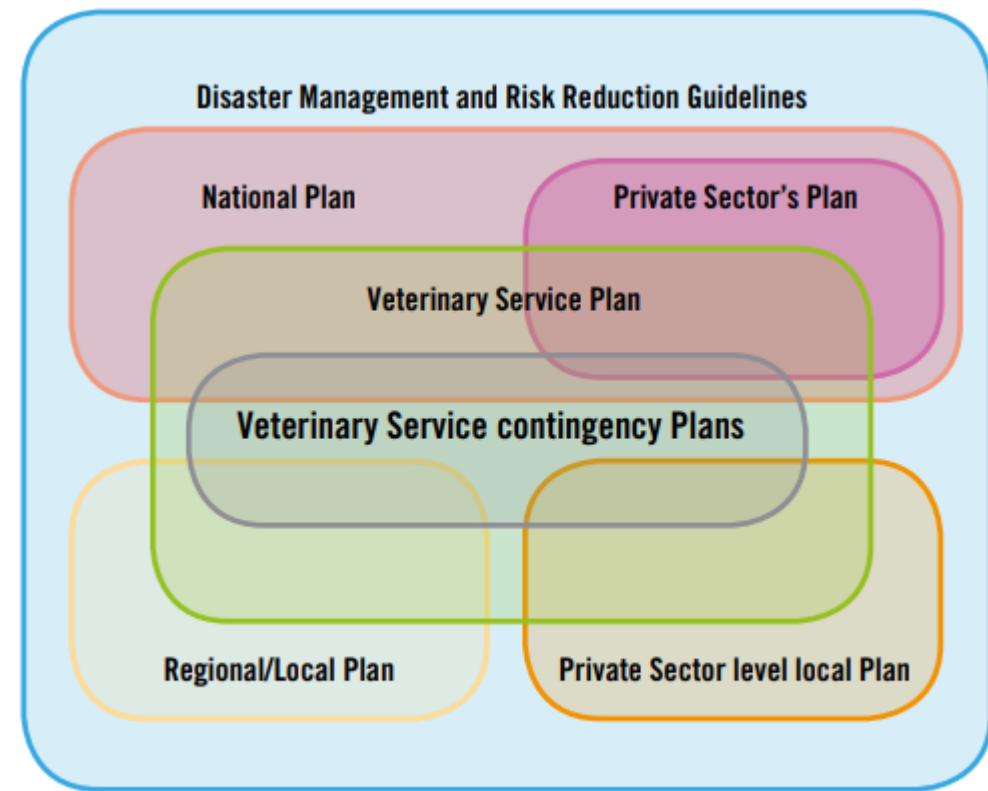


Figure 2. Relationship of Multi-Sectoral Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Plans and Guidelines

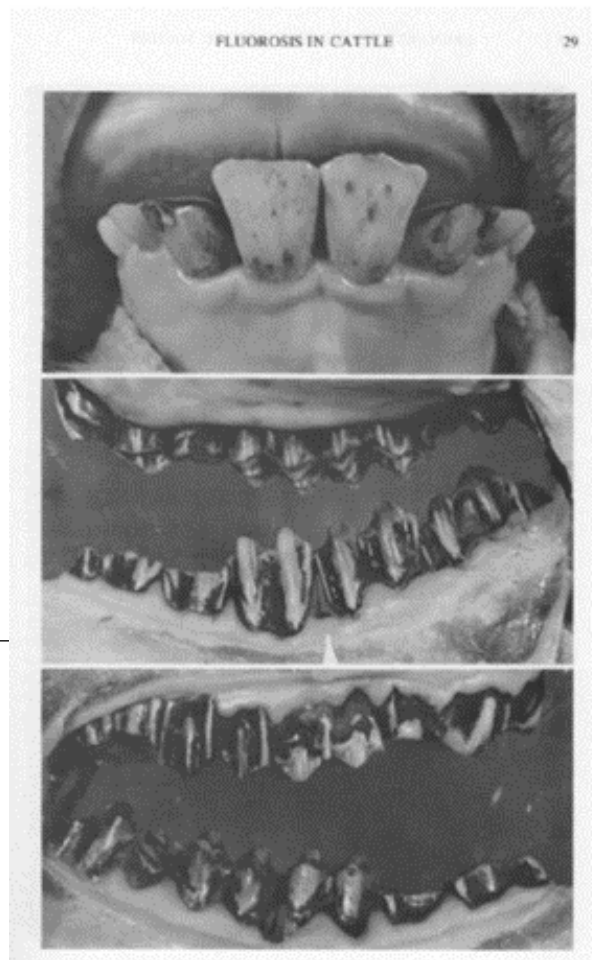
Opportunities for improvement

Legal framework

- Agriculture Minister and CVO part of the civil protection council
- CVO have a seat at national/operational command
- Animals are defined in the regulation of search and rescue above dead valuables as sentient being
- Livestock holdings depending on electricity – mandatory reserve power supply

Contingency plans

- Representative from Veterinary Authority in operational command for advice regarding animals
- Animals prioritized first after rescue of people before other valuables
- Different contingency plans for various disaster events





1. Tell us about the current status of your contingency/response plan. (*Is there a national or regional plan? Who led its development? Has it been tested or activated recently?*)
2. What frameworks, law, or national/international policies are influencing how your plan is developed and activated? (*This might include disaster risk reduction strategies, veterinary legislation, biosecurity and incursion response frameworks, or international guidelines such as the Sendai Framework or WOAHA standards*)
3. What are the main hazards or risks involving animals in your country, and how do these inform your planning? (*Are these natural hazards, disease incursions, or something else. Which species or animal-related industries are typically affected or involved?*)
4. Can you share any recent experiences your country has had with disasters involving animals, and what lessons those experience have revealed? (*Were these responses multi-agency. What role did technology play, if any?*)
5. How is your organisation preparing its workforce for animal-related emergency response? (*Think about training, exercise, resourcing, coordination readiness and use of tools or technology*)



6. How do you reflect and learn from emergencies? What processes are in place for reviewing and updating plans after events?
7. What expectations do people in your country, such as animal owners, farmers, NGO's, veterinary professionals, or community groups have of your organisation during emergencies? (*Are there tensions between legal roles and public expectations?*)
8. What role do public/private partnerships play in your disaster planning and response? (*Who do you currently work with, and who else would strengthen your capability?*)
9. In what ways is recovery planning considered or integrated into your response approach? (*Is recovery activated early, Are animal welfare and livelihoods considered long-term?*)
10. Looking ahead, what strengths can your country contribute to others, and what specific challenges are you hoping this workshop will help you address?

Thank you

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