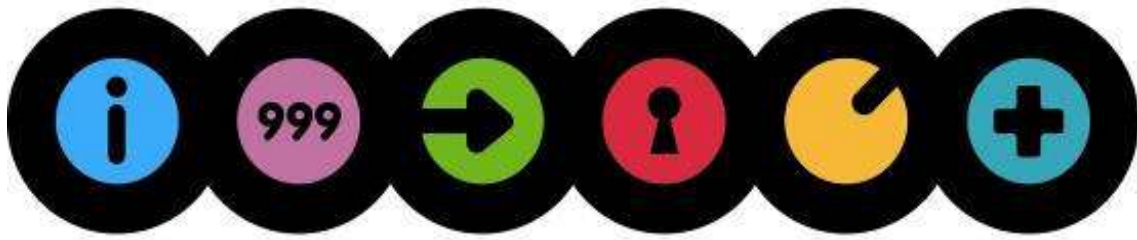


Kent Resilience Forum



_PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES IN KENT AND MEDWAY

Kent & Medway Animal Evacuation and Shelter Plan

The latest version of this document may be found at Resilience Direct

All organisations should ensure that if printed copies of this document are being used, the latest version is obtained from this source.

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Evacuation and Shelter Task and
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Executive Group

Date: February 2015

Distribution List

Name	Role / Organisation
Single Points of Contact / Resilience Officers	All KRF Agencies and Voluntary Sector Partners

This guidance is prepared with the advice and support of:-

- RSPCA
- NFU
- Kent Wildlife Trust
- Kent County Council Trading Standards
- Kent County Council Gypsy and Traveller Unit
- Kent Country Council Resilience and Emergencies Unit
- Kent Resilience Team
- Ashford Borough Council
- Kent & Medway Animal Welfare Forum

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1. Introduction

This Plan has been produced in recognition of the welfare and economic importance of operating effective evacuation and shelter contingencies for livestock and other domestic animals. There is evidence that wider evacuation plans may be compromised when there is insufficient regard to the welfare of animals.

This guidance brings together voluntary and statutory agencies working in partnership to enable a comprehensive and integrated approach to animal welfare. Arrangements are in place to assist the owners of livestock, equines and pets. There is also some reliance from the agencies for owners to take greater responsibility themselves for animals in their care. Work will continue to further develop the capability to offer a range of solutions across Kent and Medway

This guidance dovetails with the Kent Resilience Forum's KRF Kent and Medway Evacuation and Shelter Plan (2014) and strategic plans within the Kent Resilience Team. It offers a useful tool to assist any evacuation scenario within Kent and Medway.

2. Aims, Objectives

2.1 Aim of the Plan

The aim of this plan is to recognise the needs of animals in Kent and Medway during an evacuation whether it to be small scale or large scale.

2.2 Objectives of the Plan

- To identify steps that can be taken by animal owners and agencies to mitigate the effects of an emergency
- To provide a framework for the welfare of animals in an evacuation scenario
- To outline organisations roles and responsibilities in support of animal welfare in evacuation and shelter
- To identify considerations for the welfare of animals to support the evacuation process
- To provide a process to enable appropriate information to be shared with all responding agencies and animal owners
- Enable a framework to assist the warning, rescue and recovery effort for animals
- To assist owners of livestock with making arrangements to evacuate their animals to an area of safety.
- To assist owners with setting up a welfare regime for animals left in situ
- To assist owners that are evacuated to Rest Centre by making arrangements to accommodate their animal

3. Animal Welfare and the Law

Key legislation is the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Prior to legislation, people had a duty to ensure that an animal didn't suffer unnecessarily. This Act broadens the duty of care on anyone responsible for animals to "take reasonable steps to ensure that the animal's needs are met". This applies to the owner or anyone in charge of an animal, even on a temporary basis.

Other relevant Legislation: - This list isn't exhaustive

- The Zoo Licensing Act 1981
- The Agricultural (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968
- The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976
- The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Slaughter and Killing) regulations 1995
- The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2000
- The Animal By -Products (Enforcement) Regulations 2013
- Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006
- Disease Control (England) Order 2003
- Specific Identification & movement laws
- Cattle Identification Regulations 2007
- Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) (England) Order 2009
- Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2007
- Animal Act 1971 Sect 4/7

There are various licenses required for livestock farms and animal establishments such as zoos, aviaries, dog breeding establishments, riding establishments, pet shops, cat and dog boarding kennels. Each Local Authority will issue the licence and hold a list within their own district of these facilities. They carry out checks on the premises they licence and they will ensure animals have suitable accommodation, food, exercise and are protected from disease and fire.

4. Key Principles of The Plan

Definitions for the purpose of this guidance:-

Livestock are identified as cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry

Equines include horses, ponies and donkeys

Pets may be known as companion animals and include dogs, cats, rabbits and other small furry animals.

Exotics defines animals kept in the community, some of whom are subject to regulations including ostrich, emu, rhea, caged birds, buffalo, llama and alpaca, Bengal cat, reptiles and invertebrates.

In an evacuation scenario, human needs take precedence. However this planning recognises that animal and human needs may be intertwined. Key to any evacuation is the premise that evacuation is a last resort and only implemented when all the risks have been assessed and there is no alternative to evacuation for the population involved.

This guidance promotes an integrated response to emergency situations involving animals by:-

- Promoting working relationships with key statutory agencies and animal welfare charities
- Ensuring an awareness of exotic animals within the community and how this might impact rescue and response
- Defined roles and responsibilities recognising the expertise of statutory and voluntary agencies working in partnership
- Each Local Authority within Kent will hold their own list of local animal establishments in terms of pet shops, breeding establishments, pet stockists, and in some cases large farms, small to large scale zoos and any fly-grazed known areas.

5. Evacuation Planning In Kent

Small Scale Animal Evacuations, when evacuation is required Local Authorities will set up rest centres within their district dependent on where the emergency situation is with support from county wide organisations, Kent Country Council and the Kent Resilience Team.

Rest Centres will be expected to provide for companion animals staying with their owners in this accommodation such as pets, including or in some cases small exotics. Animals that are normally caged or are kept in tanks should, where possible be left in situ and a monitoring and feeding regime set up under RSPCA guidance and the animals' owner.

The activation of more than one Rest Centre might easily challenge the ability of the Local Authority to provide this resource, dependant on the number of animals involved. Whilst the RSPCA would be involved, this guidance will allow for additional assistance to be available if required through the voluntary agencies.

Large Scale Animal Evacuation, in the situation of Evacuation there would be Multi agency coordination at a Strategic Coordinating Group or Tactical Coordinating Group. Large Scale could be dependent on the types of animals involved for example livestock and equines as well as the number i.e. 50-200 cows. It would involve a number of different agencies; the agencies would also be determined by the scale and the type of incident. They would be encouraged to work closely with the animal owners as part of the planning. Care and feeding of livestock affected by an emergency should be referred to DEFRA and the RSPCA.

Please refer to the Roles and Responsibilities section 8.

6. Other Considerations

6.1 Exotic Animals

It is important to recognise that many people will have 'exotic' animals as pets that will need particular types of care. An exotic pet is a rare or unusual animal. Some of these will be a scheduled 'Dangerous Wild Animal' and require a licence from the Local Authority. Providing the correct environment and diet for these pets in an evacuation scenario can be challenging. Equally some exotic animals may not have been domesticated and remain wild as such it may be dangerous to move them. Consideration must therefore be given to them remaining in their own enclosures.

6.2 Zoos and Wildlife Parks

Within Kent we have two main zoos Howletts near Canterbury and Port Lympne near Ashford. Zoos are required to have an evacuation plan including the identification of animals that can easily be evacuated, those animals which are difficult to evacuate and those animals which cannot be evacuated. They are also required to have arrangements in place for evacuation including transport arrangements. There are recognised holding points that can be used within an evacuation procedure, such as Heathrow Airport.

6.3 Farms

Livestock are integral to many farms business so any losses can be devastating personally and financially. Some farms and horse owners have their own livestock transport capability and can move their stock in an emergency situation. In some cases they may be able to move livestock onto neighbouring land, depending on the nature of the emergency. However this may not always be appropriate or possible if the owner has no transport and there should be contingency measures in place. The National Farmers Union holds details of potential holding sites for livestock and other locations i.e. farms. These could be identified during the response stage.

6.4 Fly-Graze Horses

Horses being grazed on land without the landowner's permission are a problem across various parts of the UK. Rarely are these horses passported and micro chipped (as required by Law and regulated by Trading Standards AHO). There are literally thousands of surplus horses, most of little financial value, being grazed in this way. Certain areas of Kent are affected significantly by this, including Denton Marshes near Gravesend, fields near Brands Hatch and Ash village, unfenced land in Stone, near Greenhithe, Romney Marsh and other land not currently under crop.

If and when such horses escape onto roads, especially fast-flowing busy roads, then there are real risks to the welfare and safety of horses and road-users. With no way to contact their owners, issues surrounding their health and well-being are a constant headache for welfare charities, police and Local Authorities

Landowners are responsible for the care and welfare of these animals under The Animal Act 1971 Sect 4/7 and landowners should be encouraged to deal with these animals (provide care until eviction and sale) Local Authorities should in known flood plains be encourage to put in force restrictions on grazing on authorised sites during flood season (Nov- Apr)

The issues that need to be addressed are:

1. Fencing or other containment of horses on unfenced land.
2. Arrangements for the seizure, impounding and care of horses, where necessary.
3. Locating owners.
4. Arrangements for the transport of horses from areas which have, or will likely have, flooding etc., to safer, more suitable, and secure places.
5. Recovery of costs from horse owners, and how to finance the above measures

6.5 Marine Wildlife

Welfare of Oiled Wildlife following a pollution incident

The Secretary of State places the responsibility of oiled wildlife onto Natural England, the Nature Conservancy Council for England. Natural England co-ordinate the collation and provision of the best available information on wildlife interests and threats to them, and coordinate the response of non-governmental organisations.

The specific role of dealing with oiled wildlife is placed onto the RSPCA and RSPB by Natural England. Detailed roles and responsibilities for each agency can be found in the Marine and Coastguard Agency National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations.

In the event of a major incident, the RSPCA will establish a system for the collection, triage and transfer of oiled wildlife to their wildlife centres. A facility for the rehabilitation and recovery of oiled wildlife (including seals) is provided at the Mallydams Wood Wildlife Centre near Hastings. Oiled Wildlife would be sent to Mallydams for initial assessment and treatment.

KRT / KCC have produced a useful Guidance Note for Dealing with Stranded Whales, Dolphins and other large Marine Wildlife on the Kent Coast

The Kent Resilience Forum and RSPCA do not encourage members of the public to rescue oiled seabirds and other wildlife. Instead, members of the public should report the location and number of affected animals directly to the RSPCA using their 24 hour help line. There are many welfare and health and safety issues to consider:

- Experience and Training - RSPCA staff are experienced and specially trained in the capture of wildlife, thus minimising potential further trauma to the animal;
- Triage - RSPCA staff can provide triage at the beach (and potentially euthanasia) and have local facilities which are geared-up to provide care to affected wildlife;
- PPE - Some pollutants can cause irritation or burning to the skin and fumes may be noxious. RSPCA staff are issued with PPE to protect them from such hazards.

- Insurance - Although some local wildlife groups may have suitable PPE, they may not have appropriate insurance to cover their volunteers.
- Tides - Volunteers may not be aware of the tide table for the area and may become stranded attempting a rescue. A volunteer may also unknowingly pursue an animal into an area that is hazardous to the animal and themselves.
- Bites – Many bird species, including grey heron, larger gulls, geese and swans are strong animals with powerful beaks and must not be handled by inexperienced personnel. Further, marine mammals such as common and grey seals are large, powerful animals capable of inflicting serious injury.

The Kent Resilience and KCC have produced a useful Guidance Note for Dealing with Stranded Whales, Dolphins and other large Marine Wildlife on the Kent Coast which is held by all Kent coastal districts and other relevant partners.

6.6 Animal Rescue

Kent Fire and Rescue Service have a dedicated animal rescue unit based at Faversham Fire Station. The unit has specially trained personnel and dedicated equipment such as a crane and cradle with lifting capacity to move trapped livestock.

6.7 Costs

Costs arising from animal evacuation and welfare interventions during an incident will fall in the first instance to the responding agency. However, retrieval of costs through grant aid or from businesses involved will be assessed on a case by case basis.

7. Transportation

It is key to recognise there will need to be a different approach and transportation required when it comes to small scale and large scale evacuation and then how resources are utilised.

Small scale

Will be determined in the form of animals from domestic dwellings and residential homes, which could cover any form of pets and small exotics as mentioned in section 4. Each owner will be encouraged to bring their own transportation where they can to the rest centre or holding location they have been evacuated too. In some situations Local Authorities may have a list of transportation cases they can supply or borrow from a neighbouring authority to help assist the owners.

Large scale

Will be as determined as livestock from farmland, equines and occasionally exotics. Farmers and equines owners will be encouraged where possible to evacuate their own animals by making use of their own transportation.

Zoos and wildlife parks will be responsible for their own evacuation, and using their own contingency plans. Exotics unless it is with the resident then the advice would be to leave the animal in situ. Once the owner or trained person has made the animal as comfortable as possible further advice should be sought. A multi-agency approach at Strategic Coordination Group or Tactical Coordination Group will assist coordination of such a response.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

There are defined roles and responsibilities for statutory and voluntary agencies involved in the response to the needs of animals in an Emergency situation

AGENCY	DESCRIPTION
RSPCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive initial alert (usually via Kent County Council) Invoke National Crisis Response including the National Control Centre (as required) Provide rescue services as required including the involvement of RSPCA Water Rescue Teams. Assist with the reunification of lost animals with their owners via Pets Located Website. Coordinate information and advice to owners at Evacuee Transit Points (and shelters accommodating evacuees with pets) Assist with feeding large domestic animals in flood water where possible
RSPB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive initial alert (usually via Kent County Council) Be represented at strategic and tactical commands to assist decision making The RSPB is a non-statutory body incorporated by Royal Charter.
KCC Trading Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be represented at strategic and tactical coordination centres to assist decision making Identify farm premises where animals are located Identify with local Veterinary practises regarding the needs of animals including specialist equine veterinarians. Identify hauliers to assist as required Identify and consult with market operators for the emergency housing of animals Advise regarding legislative matters regarding the movement of livestock and their care and welfare needs Liaise with APHA regarding the above and throughout the evacuation process
Gypsy & Traveller Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be represented at strategic and tactical coordination centres to assist decision making. In the event of Gypsy and Traveller Sites being definitely or likely involved.
Resilience & Emergencies Unit/Kent Resilience Team Emergency Planning Duty Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial assessment of potential threat to livestock arising from incident, and subsequent early mobilisation and coordination of multi- agency response (including alerting of voluntary sector)
APHA (DEFRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be represented at strategic and tactical coordination centres to assist decision making Give operational advice and support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On scene ➤ Evacuee Transit Points ➤ Rest Centres ➤ Through advice/support lines to Farmers and others regarding The welfare of Livestock and Other animal welfare matters

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the British Horse Society in support of equine welfare • Advise regarding legislation relevant to animal welfare • Liaise with Local Authority Animal Welfare throughout the process • Give advice regarding movement of livestock and other animals as required
National Farmers Union (NFU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be represented at strategic and tactical coordination centres during an emergency and to assist with decision making • Disseminate important information to NFU members as required • Provide expertise around the requirements and needs of farmers in an emergency
Kent Fire & Rescue Service (KFRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be represented at strategic and tactical coordination centres to assist decision making • May, at its discretion, attend incidents for the purposes of animal rescue/release on request • Use its knowledge and equipment to assist in the safe evacuation of animals in liaison with other agencies • represent at strategic and tactical level during an emergency
Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To receive initial alert (usually via Kent County Council) • Be represented at strategic and tactical coordination centres to assist decision making • Assist with feeding and shelter during an incident, is possible • Penning and the security of livestock
Local Authorities Borough and District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Borough and District councils will keep records of licensed animal establishments e.g. pet shops, catteries, kennels, dog breeding establishments, riding stables etc. within their area as well as unlicensed premises e.g. animal rescues and others • Rest Centre Guidelines are held within each Borough and District Council with reference to pet guidelines • Call upon assistance of voluntary agencies listed above when a situation of evacuation may occur. • Document decisions made and lessons learnt • Each authority will have an Animal Control Officer /Dog Warden within their District to help respond to small scale incidents • Pets will be registered on arrival at a rest centre by using the 'Pet Documentation form' • Residents with pets at a rest centre will usually be offered 1-2 nights' accommodation for their pet if they are not permitted to return to their home. Dependent on the type of animal and the nature of the incident.
Kent Fire & Rescue Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal rescue unit based at Faversham Fire Station maintains specialist equipment for rescue of large animals

9. Training and Exercises

Training should reflect the need to respond to animal welfare issues in emergency situations. It is essential that animal welfare issues are integrated into the exercising regime for all emergency response and recovery exercises.

Training/Exercise	Where/When	Aim/Objectives relevant
Exercise WADE	9 th December 2014 Tonbridge and Malling Council	Flooding
DEFRA Workshop	29 th January 2015 Gravesham Borough Council – The Woodville	East Coast Flooding
Rest Centre 1 & 2 Training run by the Kent Resilience Forum	TBC	Covering Animal welfare issues as well as Pet Documentation
Rest Centre Care Supervisors	TBC	

10. Other Known Documents

RSPCA Contingency Planning and Animal Welfare: A Guide to Good Practice
RSPCA Footprints awards
Kent Fire and Rescue Strategic and Tactical Plans
KRF Documentation form for Pets in an Evacuation
KRF/KCC Guidance Note for Dealing with Stranded Whales, Dolphins and other Large Marine
Wildlife on Kent Coast
KCC Rest Centre Guidelines
List of Hauliers in Kent and Farmers with mobile landing facilities