



# ABVMA REPORT

ON VETERINARY  
PROFESSION  
RESPONSE TO THE  
FORT MCMURRAY  
ANIMAL EVACUATION





# ABVMA REPORT ON VETERINARY PROFESSION RESPONSE TO THE FORT MCMURRAY ANIMAL EVACUATION

## INCLUDING

- ABVMA coordination and publication of veterinary practice entities providing care and boarding for evacuated animals
- ABVMA coordination of volunteers to support the City of Edmonton reception centre
- ABVMA planning and coordination of volunteer veterinarians and veterinary technologists at the People and Animal Reunification Centre (PARC)



# OVERVIEW

A wildfire caused the evacuation of 80,000 residents from Fort McMurray, AB, on May 4, 2016. Residents required to leave may have had the opportunity to bring their pets with them. In some cases, pets were left behind and, given the extended duration of the evacuation, this required a coordinated rescue effort where residents applied to have their animals removed from their residence, peace officers worked with animal handlers and, if necessary, locksmiths entered houses to retrieve animals. The animals were examined by a veterinarian and staged in Fort McMurray. Animals were then evacuated to the PARC in Edmonton, AB, where they were triaged, received veterinary care and housed until reunited with owners, or transferred to veterinary practices for further diagnostics and treatment or placed in temporary partner housing until reunited with owners or re-homed.

**Despite having no documented plan, the response of veterinary practices, veterinary technologists and veterinarians in response to the Fort McMurray wildfires was an unqualified success because of the volunteerism and unselfish response of Alberta's veterinary professionals.**

**The coordination and hard work of the people of the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ABSPCA), Edmonton Humane Society (EHS), Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force (ASNTF), Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA), Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF), Fort McMurray Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (FMSPCA) and area veterinary practices overcame unforeseen deficiencies in planning and execution to result in the successful evacuation, medical care and reunification of 1,192 animals with their owners.**

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AAF</b>	Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
<b>AARCS</b>	Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society
<b>ABSPCA</b>	Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
<b>ABVMA</b>	Alberta Veterinary Medical Association
<b>ACCC</b>	Animal Care and Control Centre (City of Edmonton)
<b>AEMA</b>	Alberta Emergency Management Agency
<b>APA</b>	<i>Animal Protection Act</i>
<b>CHS</b>	Calgary Humane Society
<b>EHS</b>	Edmonton Humane Society
<b>EOC</b>	Emergency Operations Centre
<b>FMSPCA</b>	Fort McMurray Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
<b>IC</b>	Incident Command
<b>ICS</b>	Incident Command System
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>PARC</b>	People and Animal Reunification Centre
<b>RMWB</b>	Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
<b>WDDC</b>	Western Drug Distribution Center Ltd.
<b>VPE</b>	Veterinary Practice Entity

## ANIMALS EVACUATED WITH OWNERS

Fort McMurray residents who evacuated with their animals were challenged with finding veterinary care and/or temporary housing for their animals. Providing appropriate veterinary care was complicated because medical records of the primary care veterinarians were not immediately available due to the evacuation.

On May 3, 2016, the ABVMA sent out a special email to all members to create a list of Alberta veterinary practice entities (VPEs) that were able to provide veterinary care and/or temporary housing for evacuated animals (Appendix A).

Over 170 VPEs responded to this email. The list of veterinary practices was published on the ABVMA public website [www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca](http://www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca) (Appendix B). The location of veterinary practices ranged from Athabasca, Boyle and Westlock, which were on the evacuation routes out of Fort McMurray, but also extended to Rimbey, Cochrane and Calgary and as far south as Lethbridge.

The City of Edmonton established the Edmonton Expo evacuation centre at Northlands for Fort McMurray evacuees. The city's Animal Care and Control Centre (ACCC) operates an ABVMA certified and inspected VPE. Prior to the Fort McMurray fire, the ACCC

had been collaborating with stakeholders on the development of an Animal Care Emergency Response Plan (ACERP) for the City of Edmonton. The ACERP plan had not been formally deployed, however the ACCC implemented some elements of the plan and established an onsite animal reception and care centre at the Expo Centre to receive and provide care for animals evacuated with their owners. The ACCC required additional volunteer support from veterinary professionals and the ABVMA put a call out for veterinary technologists to work at the Edmonton Expo evacuation centre (Appendix A).

Evacuated Fort McMurray residents had connections to family and friends located across the province and veterinary practices in all areas contributed resources to caring for animals that were evacuated with their owners.

Veterinary practices provided examinations, pet food, prescription medications and necessary medical care. In many cases the professional services were provided free of charge or at a reduced cost to the client.

The value of donated professional services and products has not been determined.





# EVACUATION AND REUNIFICATION OF COMPANION ANIMALS REMAINING IN RESIDENCES IN FORT MCMURRAY

## EVACUATION

The wildfire was being monitored by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry on May 3. With an overnight shift of wind, the fire encroached on the city rapidly and, in a matter of hours, the entire city of 80,000+ people had to be evacuated. Many people were either at work or encountered travel restrictions, and were not able to return to their residence when the evacuation order was made.

Given the unexpected and short notice of the evacuation, many people fleeing the wildfires could not take their animals with them when leaving Fort McMurray.

## ONLINE REQUESTS FOR ANIMAL RETRIEVAL

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) set up a website and online submission system for receiving requests from residents of Fort McMurray to attend to their animals left behind. Information collected from residents included address, description and number of animal(s) in the residence, and how best to gain access into the residence. The request included consent for peace officers to enter the residences.

There were several other online social media sites where animal owners were given the opportunity to report animals left behind and request assistance in retrieval of their animal(s). These sites were initiated by rescue organizations that presumably had the best of intentions to offer assistance and rescue animals not evacuated with their owners.

The existence of multiple avenues for owners to report animals left behind, and the lack of coordination and reconciliation of the information between groups, contributed to confusion, and the delayed or repeated entry and search of some residences. The additional effort required and delay in collating the owner-submitted information from multiple sources, significantly delayed initiating contact with owners once animals were evacuated to the PARC in Edmonton.

## RECOMMENDATION #1 – COORDINATION OF ONLINE RESOURCES

**That there be a coordinated and preferably single online resource for the submission of requests for animal assistance. This will maximize efficiency of retrieval of animals from residences and reunification.**

## ENTRY OF RESIDENCES AND RETRIEVAL OF ANIMALS

Once safe to do so, and with permission of home owners, teams of peace officers and animal handlers entered houses and retrieved animals. Peace officers took animals into their custody in accordance with the Alberta *Animal Protection Act* (APA). Animals that were removed from homes were staged at a RMWB facility until transportation out of Fort McMurray could be arranged.





## **VETERINARY CARE IN FORT MCMURRAY**

Animals were examined on site and treated as necessary at the FMSPCA VPE.

Emergency responder veterinary professionals (veterinarians and veterinary technologists) returned to Fort McMurray to provide veterinary care. The ABVMA was asked by the RMWB to coordinate volunteer veterinarians and veterinary technologists to provide medical care to animals at the staging facility.

A group of veterinarians and veterinary technologists rotated in and out of Fort McMurray to provide veterinary care to animals remaining in Fort McMurray. Veterinary professionals worked in less than ideal conditions to provide care on site. On May 16, all animals and veterinary professionals were evacuated to Edmonton as a result of the threat of fire.

## **TRANSPORT**

The FMSPCA owns and operates an ABVMA certified and inspected VPE for the purposes of treating animals under their custody and control. The facility was used by veterinarians and veterinary technologists working as part of the emergency response in the city. Animals that were deemed not medically stable for transport to Edmonton were held and treated at the FMSPCA VPE. The animals were treated at the facility until such time appropriate transport out of Fort McMurray could be arranged. Some animals were transferred to veterinary practices in the region, including Cold Lake and Bonnyville, while other critically ill animals were transferred directly to an emergency facility in Edmonton. The majority of the animals removed from residences were eventually transported to the evacuation centre in Edmonton.

## **PEOPLE AND ANIMAL REUNIFICATION CENTRE**

The People and Animal Reunification Centre (PARC) in Edmonton was established and used as an emergency facility to receive, triage, treat, house and reunite animals evacuated from Fort McMurray with their owners.

# EVACUATION AND REUNIFICATION PLANNING

## May 6, 2016:

On Friday, May 6, at approximately 4:15 p.m., a call was received at the ABVMA office from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF). AAF was tasked with planning and setting up a facility to receive animals being evacuated from homes in Fort McMurray.

The information available at that time was that an evacuation was to start that weekend, perhaps as early as on May 7 (Saturday). It was expected that there would be approximately 700 dogs, and the evacuation would be complete within 96 hours. The goal was to reunite the animals with their owners as soon as possible. It is unknown how the estimate of 700 dogs was determined.

ABVMA representative Dr. Phil Buote, Deputy Registrar, attended at a meeting at the office of the ABSPCA at 6 p.m.

Also present at the meeting were: Michelle Follinsbee (AAF), Doug Forge (AAF), Rick Fredrickson (AAF), Terra Johnston (ABSPCA), Ken Dean (ABSPCA), Jocelyn Brulotte (ABSPCA), Leanne Metz (ABSPCA) and Roland Lines (ABSPCA).

A call was made to Dr. Cary Hashizume who was travelling to an Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force (ASNTF) clinic near Bonnyville. The Kehewin clinic had been originally planned for May 6-8, inclusive. On arrival in Bonnyville, Dr. Hashizume met with the president of the ASNTF to discuss their involvement in animal evacuation ongoing in Fort McMurray, and also to gauge the interest of the ASNTF in participating with an evacuation centre in Edmonton. The ASNTF had knowledge of the evacuation as ASNTF animal handler personnel were in Fort McMurray. The ASNTF also sent additional handling and veterinary technologist personnel to Fort McMurray that evening.

## May 7, 2016:

Drs. Buote and Hashizume attended at a planning meeting (with personnel from the ASPCA and AAF) at the ABSPCA office all day.

The initial plan was:

- for an operation to receive animals evacuated from Fort McMurray residences and reunite with owners
- all animals would be recovered within a 96-hour window
- all animals would be owned animals
- animals would be retrieved from residences only with owner's permission
- residences would not be forcefully entered

Animals would be seized by peace officers in accordance with the APA and therefore under control of the ABSPCA.

The estimate that 700 dogs would be evacuated was not revised throughout the day.

The focus of the planning meeting on Saturday was:

1. The ABVMA accepted responsibility for:
  - a. developing intake, triage and treatment protocols, including the forms and paperwork; and
  - b. recruiting volunteer registered veterinary professionals to triage, perform initial examinations and provide veterinary medical care on site as required.
2. Locating and securing use of an appropriate site.
3. Engaging the ASNTF to assist with personnel, equipment and expertise.

Coordinating veterinary professional and auxiliary personnel volunteer shift times and volunteer numbers. Preliminary estimates for approximately 250 volunteer personnel per 24 hours were generated.

The ABVMA plan for animal intake and care was developed Saturday, May 7, 2016, and submitted on Sunday morning, May 8, 2016, to the ABSPCA (Appendix C).

The morning of May 7, 2016, the ASNTF board of directors elected to cancel the remainder of the Kehewin spay and neuter clinic. ASNTF volunteers (and ASNTF supplies/equipment) travelled to Edmonton to assist with the organization and operation of the evacuation centre.

## **PLANNING RELATIVE TO INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS)**

There was an Incident Commander (IC) on site in Fort McMurray, and the City of Edmonton Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated to oversee the City of Edmonton Expo Evacuation centre.

The province activated the Provincial Operations Centre (POC), though the degree of integration with the IC in Fort McMurray remains unclear.

The planning (and operation) of the PARC was undertaken independently of any ICS structure responding to the emergency in Fort McMurray or at the provincial level.

There was a very brief mention of the ICS structure during the May 7 planning session. With most people involved in planning and operations, there was a lack of understanding of even basic knowledge of ICS (ICS 100).

Individuals planning for the PARC were not aware of the appropriate communication channels to request resources from the City of Edmonton. This lack of understanding of the appropriate channels to request resources, specifically a site to accommodate the operation, resulted in confusion, frustration and delays.

## **KNOWLEDGE GAPS**

In retrospect, there was important information that was not available that impacted planning and operation of the PARC. This included:

- appropriate ICS training,
- communication from the province on the scope of responsibility expected of the ABSPCA in operating the PARC, including financial responsibilities,
- understanding of the role of the province, role of the POC, and
- understanding of the integration of the operations at the PARC, in Fort McMurray and at the provincial level.

At the writing of this report, there is still not a clear understanding of the appropriate channel through which this operation could have accessed a City of Edmonton-owned facility. The planners were advised by the City of Edmonton EOC that a request would need to come from the province.

## **RECOMMENDATION #2 – ICS TRAINING**

**That all levels of government make available ICS training for members of any organization that may become involved in animal care emergency response.**

## **RECOMMENDATION #3 – PLANS FOR ANIMAL CARE EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**Municipal and provincial governments must plan for animal care emergency response and assure funding of the same. Animal care is a critical component of emergency response and recovery.**

# NEXUS

BUSINESS PARK







## SITE SELECTION

Initial planning was to receive and temporarily house 700 dogs. Given the anticipated kennel numbers, volume/space required for an average kennel and needs for storage and work areas, it was determined that the site should meet an approximate need of 80,000 square feet.

A request was made to the City of Edmonton EOC for a soccer centre or a hockey rink facility. The EOC advised that a request for a facility would need to come from the province, through the POC. The EOC was informed that simultaneously the ABSPCA was undertaking efforts to locate a vacant building, and as a result the City of Edmonton stood down acting on the request for a facility.

A commercial realtor was engaged by the ABSPCA on May 7, 2016, to find a suitable location available immediately.

The Nexus Centre at 14315 118 Ave NW in Edmonton was available and was viewed the afternoon of May 7, 2016. A second site was viewed the same afternoon but was determined to be unsuitable due to loud noises from lights, open pits in the floor and poor lighting.

# NEXUS CENTRE

## 14315 118 AVE NW EDMONTON

Attributes of the Nexus Centre

### PROS:

- permanent structure (not a tent)
- running water
- electricity
- available immediately
- spacious
- front administration area for reception of animal owners and reunification
- a sufficiently sized, climate controlled, secure room (drywall ceiling) for cats
- a sufficiently sized, climate controlled, secure room (drywall ceiling) for a treatment area
- multiple small rooms for small mammals, birds and reptiles
- good lighting
- loading ramps for trucks
- ample parking for volunteers

### CONS:

- floor in the central area of the main floor had damaged concrete, irregular surfaces and dust
- lack of running water in the majority of animal housing and treatment areas
- lighting in the central area of the main floor could not be turned off at night



## GENERAL

The floor in the central area of the main floor previously had document storage racking which had been removed. The concrete floor was damaged with loose concrete fragments and was dusty. In an attempt to minimize the dust, plastic tarps were purchased to cover the floor in the dog housing area. In addition, tarps were secured along walkways adjacent to the dog housing area. In an attempt to restrict access to the central dog housing area (and minimize the flight range of a dog that may evade a handler or kennel), the ABSPCA repurposed large animal assembly panels to define and barricade the dog housing area.

Though the initial planning was to receive 700 dogs, from May 9 onwards it became evident that the majority of evacuated animals were species other than dogs (cats, birds, small mammals, rabbits, reptiles and amphibians). In addition to the main housing area, a number of small separate rooms were fortunately available in the Nexus Centre.

The facility had washrooms near the reception area as well as another washroom upstairs near a kitchen area. Though the washrooms and kitchen area had hand-washing facilities, they were insufficient in number and lacked proximity to where animals were handled. As such, infection prevention and control, sanitation and biosecurity were significant concerns.

The Nexus Centre was referred to as such, as well as the "evacuation centre," and eventually became known as the People and Animal Reunification Centre, PARC.

AAF, ABSPCA, ABVMA and ASNTF worked together on May 8 to configure the PARC to receive, house and treat evacuated animals.

## RECOMMENDATION #4 – FACILITY

**Housing and care for evacuated pets should be provided in a permanent structure.**

- **It is understood that other emergency responses have used temporary shelters including tents to receive and house animals. Given the volume and species variation of animals presented to the PARC, an appropriate facility should have multiple rooms to accommodate species specific housing, and climate control is ideal.**

**Multiple handwashing stations must be available and located in proximity to animal intake, triage and treatment areas.**

# ARE YOUR CATS GETTING THE CARE THEY DESERVE?

	Kitten	Junior	Prime	Senior
Life Stage	Birth to 1 year	1 year to 5 years	5 years to 10 years	10 years to 15 years
Life Stage	0-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23, 24-25, 26-27, 28-29, 30-31, 32-33, 34-35, 36-37, 38-39, 40-41, 42-43, 44-45, 46-47, 48-49, 50-51, 52-53, 54-55, 56-57, 58-59, 60-61, 62-63, 64-65, 66-67, 68-69, 70-71, 72-73, 74-75, 76-77, 78-79, 80-81, 82-83, 84-85, 86-87, 88-89, 90-91, 92-93, 94-95, 96-97, 98-99, 100-101, 102-103, 104-105, 106-107, 108-109, 110-111, 112-113, 114-115, 116-117, 118-119, 120-121, 122-123, 124-125, 126-127, 128-129, 130-131, 132-133, 134-135, 136-137, 138-139, 140-141, 142-143, 144-145, 146-147, 148-149, 150-151, 152-153, 154-155, 156-157, 158-159, 160-161, 162-163, 164-165, 166-167, 168-169, 170-171, 172-173, 174-175, 176-177, 178-179, 180-181, 182-183, 184-185, 186-187, 188-189, 190-191, 192-193, 194-195, 196-197, 198-199, 200-201, 202-203, 204-205, 206-207, 208-209, 210-211, 212-213, 214-215, 216-217, 218-219, 220-221, 222-223, 224-225, 226-227, 228-229, 230-231, 232-233, 234-235, 236-237, 238-239, 240-241, 242-243, 244-245, 246-247, 248-249, 250-251, 252-253, 254-255, 256-257, 258-259, 260-261, 262-263, 264-265, 266-267, 268-269, 270-271, 272-273, 274-275, 276-277, 278-279, 280-281, 282-283, 284-285, 286-287, 288-289, 290-291, 292-293, 294-295, 296-297, 298-299, 300-301, 302-303, 304-305, 306-307, 308-309, 310-311, 312-313, 314-315, 316-317, 318-319, 320-321, 322-323, 324-325, 326-327, 328-329, 330-331, 332-333, 334-335, 336-337, 338-339, 340-341, 342-343, 344-345, 346-347, 348-349, 350-351, 352-353, 354-355, 356-357, 358-359, 360-361, 362-363, 364-365, 366-367, 368-369, 370-371, 372-373, 374-375, 376-377, 378-379, 380-381, 382-383, 384-385, 386-387, 388-389, 390-391, 392-393, 394-395, 396-397, 398-399, 400-401, 402-403, 404-405, 406-407, 408-409, 410-411, 412-413, 414-415, 416-417, 418-419, 420-421, 422-423, 424-425, 426-427, 428-429, 430-431, 432-433, 434-435, 436-437, 438-439, 440-441, 442-443, 444-445, 446-447, 448-449, 450-451, 452-453, 454-455, 456-457, 458-459, 460-461, 462-463, 464-465, 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1108-1109, 1110-1111, 1112-1113, 1114-1115, 1116-1117, 1118-1119, 1120-1121, 1122-1123, 1124-1125, 1126-1127, 1128-1129, 1130-1131, 1132-1133, 1134-1135, 1136-1137, 1138-1139, 1140-1141, 1142-1143, 1144-1145, 1146-1147, 1148-1149, 1150-1151, 1152-1153, 1154-1155, 1156-1157, 1158-1159, 1160-1161, 1162-1163, 1164-1165, 1166-1167, 1168-1169, 1170-1171, 1172-1173, 1174-1175, 1176-1177, 1178-1179, 1180-1181, 1182-1183, 1184-1185, 1186-1187, 1188-1189, 1190-1191, 1192-1193, 1194-1195, 1196-1197, 1198-1199, 1200-1201, 1202-1203, 1204-1205, 1206-1207, 1208-1209, 1210-1211, 1212-1213, 1214-1215, 1216-1217, 1218-1219, 1220-1221, 1222-1223, 1224-1225, 1226-1227, 1228-1229, 1230-1231, 1232-1233, 1234-1235, 1236-1237, 1238-1239, 1240-1241, 1242-1243, 1244-1245, 1246-1247, 1248-1249, 1250-1251, 1252-1253, 1254-1255, 1256-1257, 1258-1259, 1260-1261, 1262-1263, 1264-1265, 1266-1267, 1268-1269, 1270-1271, 1272-1273, 1274-1275, 1276-1277, 1278-1279, 1280-1281, 1282-1283, 1284-1285, 1286-1287, 1288-1289, 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# INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS) STRUCTURE

A rudimentary description of ICS was provided to the planning group on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

There was an attempt to establish operations, planning and logistics sections for operation of the PARC. The role of the ABVMA representatives was clearly defined as a part of operations, though there were no regularly scheduled briefing sessions.

The vast majority of the volunteers engaged at all levels at the PARC did not have awareness or knowledge of ICS.

At the outset of the operation, there was no consideration or direction given as to how the PARC was to be operated or funded as part of the greater emergency response to the wildfires underway. It was confirmed that the ABSPCA Executive Director was under the impression that the operation of the PARC was to be funded from existing ABSPCA operations budget and donations.

Given the lack of internet access and telephone access at the PARC, the incident command post for the PARC was located at the ABSPCA office (17904 118 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB). On-site ICS support at the PARC was limited until representatives of AAF attended at the site on May 10.

Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) personnel attended at the PARC May 11 to assess and offer support.

Initial planning was for an operational period of 96 hours. As the emergency response proceeded, it became apparent that additional support (personnel and resources) were required.

The attendance by AAF personnel and AEMA resulted in the establishment of a 24-hour site manager (AAF employees) and other resources, including handwashing stations, supply chain management, oversight of volunteers and building security.

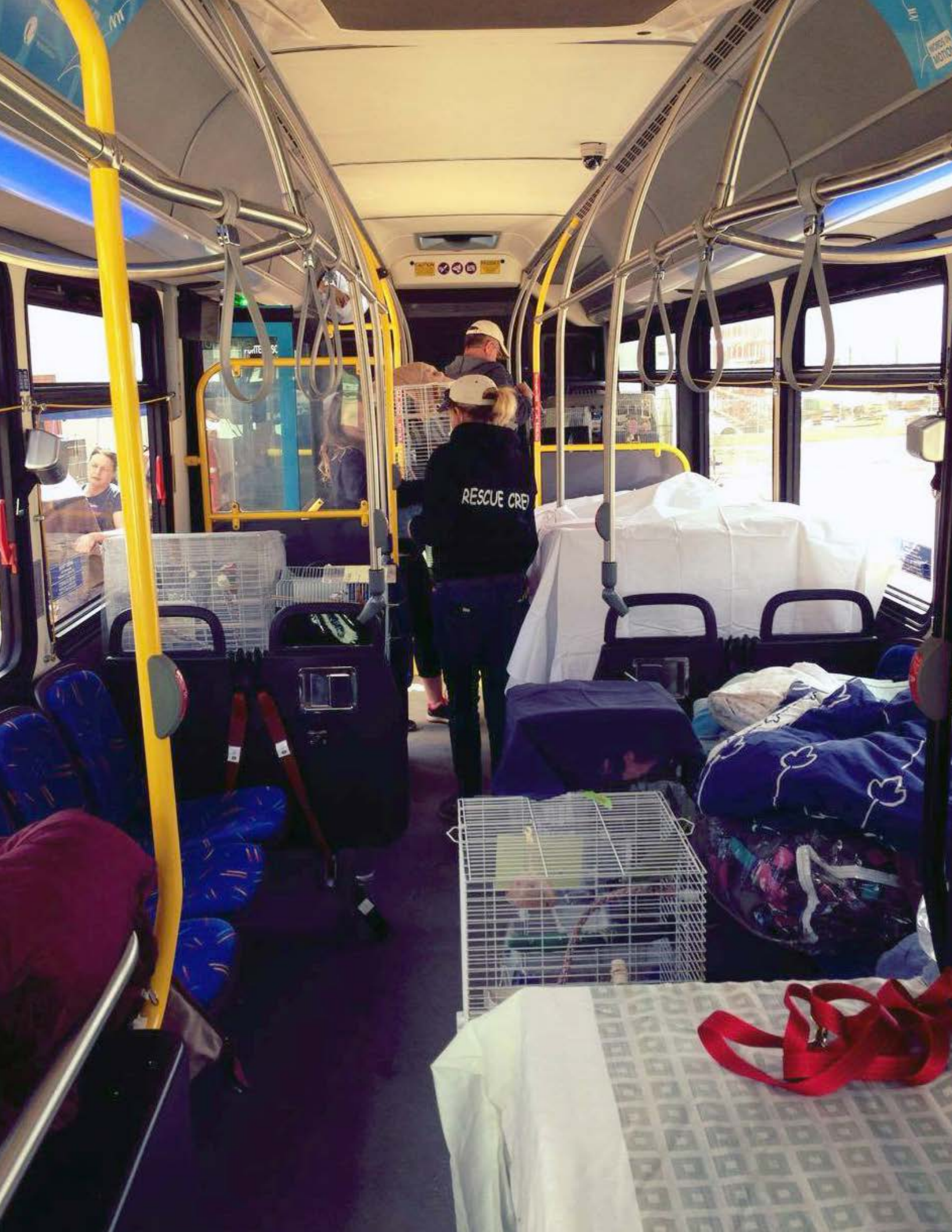
## RECOMMENDATION #5 – INCIDENT COMMAND STRUCTURE (ICS)

**Veterinary health professionals and animal rescue agency/organization personnel that may be engaged in animal emergency incidents should be provided access to ICS training.**

**ICS should be employed to manage any animal emergency response. Particularly the appropriate level of oversight and limiting the duration of work shifts of personnel.**

**Incident Command should be located at the site of animal reception, care, housing and reunification.**





# ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION

Those involved in planning the facility had been anticipating the arrival of animals as early as the evening of Saturday, May 7.

A decision was made by RMWB officials in Fort McMurray to accumulate animals removed from residences until there were sufficient numbers to fill a cattle liner that had been sourced to transport the animals to Edmonton.

There was reportedly some delay in the preparation and sanitation of the cattle liner to make it suitable for transportation of cats and dogs.

The liner was a tri-axle cattle liner with multiple levels equipped with a winter kit, which sealed off the exterior openings in the trailer walls.

Animals for transportation from Fort McMurray to Edmonton were placed in travel kennels to which appropriate identification and documents were attached.

Animals were loaded into the cattle liner during the evening of May 8, and the first shipment of animals occurred overnight. The temperature overnight was approximately 7° C, and travel time from Fort McMurray to Edmonton was approximately five hours. The cattle liner arrived at the PARC in Edmonton at approximately 3 a.m. on May 9, 2016.

There was only a single shipment of animals transported in the cattle liner. From May 9 onwards, it became evident that majority of evacuated animals were species other than dogs (cats, birds, rabbits, small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles). Subsequent shipments were made in RMWB city buses, private vehicles and three-ton delivery vans.

## RECOMMENDATION #6 – ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION

**City buses are an ideal means of transportation for mass evacuation of companion animals.**

- **These vehicles are generally available, are climate-controlled, have capacity and provide the ability to secure travel kennels to seats and room to place heavier items (such as large terrariums) on the floor.**

The rate of extraction of animals was variable and slow due to conditions in Fort McMurray and risk to personnel.

Animal shipment departure times were not consistent and presented challenges to scheduling veterinary professional staff and other volunteers at the PARC.

There was ad hoc communication on personal cell phones that provided information about number and species of animals in shipments. In most cases, notification of a shipment occurred only once the transport vehicle left Fort McMurray.

In a seven-day period, May 9-16, there were fifteen shipments of animals from Fort McMurray to the PARC. Between 2:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. on May 9, there were six shipments that totalled over 450 animals. Further details of shipments of animals including numbers and species appear in Table 1.

Date	Time	Number of animals	Animals by type
Monday, May 9, 2016	02:00	264	48 canine 216 feline
	11:30	4	4 canine
	14:00	47	5 amphibian 1 crustacean 12 fish 29 reptile
	18:00	76	15 feline 35 rabbit 4 reptile 22 small mammal
	22:00	14	5 rabbit 9 reptile
	23:30	73	73 feline
	<b>Total May 9 = 478</b>		
Tuesday, May 10, 2016	10:30	3	3 feline
	22:00	287	14 amphibian 92 avian 3 canine 5 crustacean 71 feline 36 fish 6 rabbit 27 reptile 33 small mammal
			<b>Total May 10 = 290</b>
Wednesday, May 11, 2016	14:30	49	4 amphibian 38 feline 7 rabbit
	17:00	59	2 arachnid 15 avian 5 feline 1 fish 21 reptile 15 small mammal
			<b>Total May 11 = 108</b>



Table 1. Shipments of animals from Fort McMurray

Date	Time	Number of animals	Animals by type
Thursday, May 12, 2016	15:00	83	2 amphibian 3 arachnid 29 avian 2 canine 29 feline 3 fish 1 rabbit 8 reptile 6 small mammal
	18:00	6	1 canine 5 feline
			<b>Total May 12 = 89</b>
Friday, May 13, 2016	14:00	49	12 avian 17 feline 5 fish 8 rabbit 4 reptile 3 small mammal
			<b>Total May 13 = 49</b>
Friday, May 14, 2016	20:45	48	5 avian 9 canine 29 feline 1 fish 4 rabbit
			<b>Total May 14 = 48</b>
Saturday, May 15, 2016		no animals received	<b>Total May 15 = 0</b>

Table 1. Shipments of animals from Fort McMurray continued

Sunday, May 16, 2016	23:45	57	2 amphibian 14 canine 36 feline 1 reptile 4 small mammal
			Total May 16 = 57
Monday, May 17, 2016, to Wednesday, May 19, 2016	no animals received		
			Total May 17-19 = 0

Total number as per ABSPCA

**1,192**

38 amphibian | 5 arachnid | 161 avian | 81 canine  
6 crustacean | 548 feline | 64 fish | 66 rabbit  
140 reptile | 83 small mammal

## RECOMMENDATION #7 – COMMUNICATION

Animal rescuers in the hot zone should provide personnel at the evacuation centre with sufficient advance notice regarding the number, type and expected arrival time of animals to the evacuation centre. This advance notice facilitates allocation of volunteers and resources for intake and triage.



## VETERINARY PERSONNEL AT THE PARC

In response to the progress of the fire on May 3 and 4, the ABVMA sent out a call for volunteers. A list of veterinary technologists willing to volunteer at the City of Edmonton Expo Centre Evacuation Facility had been compiled. A list of veterinarians and veterinary technologists willing to travel to Fort McMurray to assist in receiving and triaging evacuated animals was also compiled.

On May 7 and 8, the personal contacts of Dr. Cary Hashizume were used to staff the initial triage teams for the first arrival of evacuated animals (May 9).

ABVMA staff was called in on Sunday, May 8, 2016, to recruit veterinarians and veterinary technologists for shifts for the initial 96-hour operational period.

Well over 40 hours over the course of eight days was required by ABVMA staff to coordinate the volunteer veterinarians and veterinary technologists for triage and care of animals received.

Veterinary care shift times (for both veterinarians and technologists) were as follows:

- 08:00 a.m. to 16:30 p.m.
- 16:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
- 12:00 a.m. to 08:30 a.m.

While attendance at the centre for the duration of the shift was encouraged, personnel also contributed time to part-shifts and attendance for the intake and triage of animals.

The scheduling of regular volunteer shifts was difficult given that the arrival times of shipments of animals and the number and species of animals in each shipment were unknown until such time that the transport was en route. This short notice provided approximately five hours to access the required volunteers for animal intake and triage.

With the exception of animals received the evening of May 16, 2016, upwards of 14 veterinary health professionals were at the PARC to receive animals arriving from Fort McMurray. At all times, a minimum of one veterinarian and one registered veterinary technologist provided care to animals housed at the PARC, along with other animal care volunteers.

Eighty veterinarians (1,653 hours) and 77 veterinary technologists (1,346.5 hours) contributed nearly 3000 hours of volunteer professional services in Fort McMurray and the PARC from May 9 to 19, 2016 (Appendix D).

## TEAM LEAD

Dr. Hashizume was designated as the veterinary team lead. Responsibilities of this position included the orientation of veterinary professional volunteers; oversight of on-site treatment of ill or injured animals; coordination of movement of animals requiring additional veterinary care at nearby veterinary practices; communication with owners whose animals required on-site and/or off-site veterinary care; daily communication with community veterinary practices caring for evacuated animals; and oversight of the care of all animals housed at the PARC.

The need for 24-hour oversight, the irregular arrival times of animals and the extension of the operational period beyond 96 hours led to the recruitment of another veterinarian (Dr. Winnie Lam) to assist with team lead responsibilities. The lead veterinarians contributed a total of 220 volunteer hours (Dr. Hashizume - 160, Dr. Lam - 60) to the care and treatment of animals at the PARC.

## CONFIGURATION OF PARC

The PARC was configured to receive, house and treat evacuated animals. The configuration of the main floor appears in Figure 1. The configuration of the mezzanine level of the PARC appears in Figure 2.

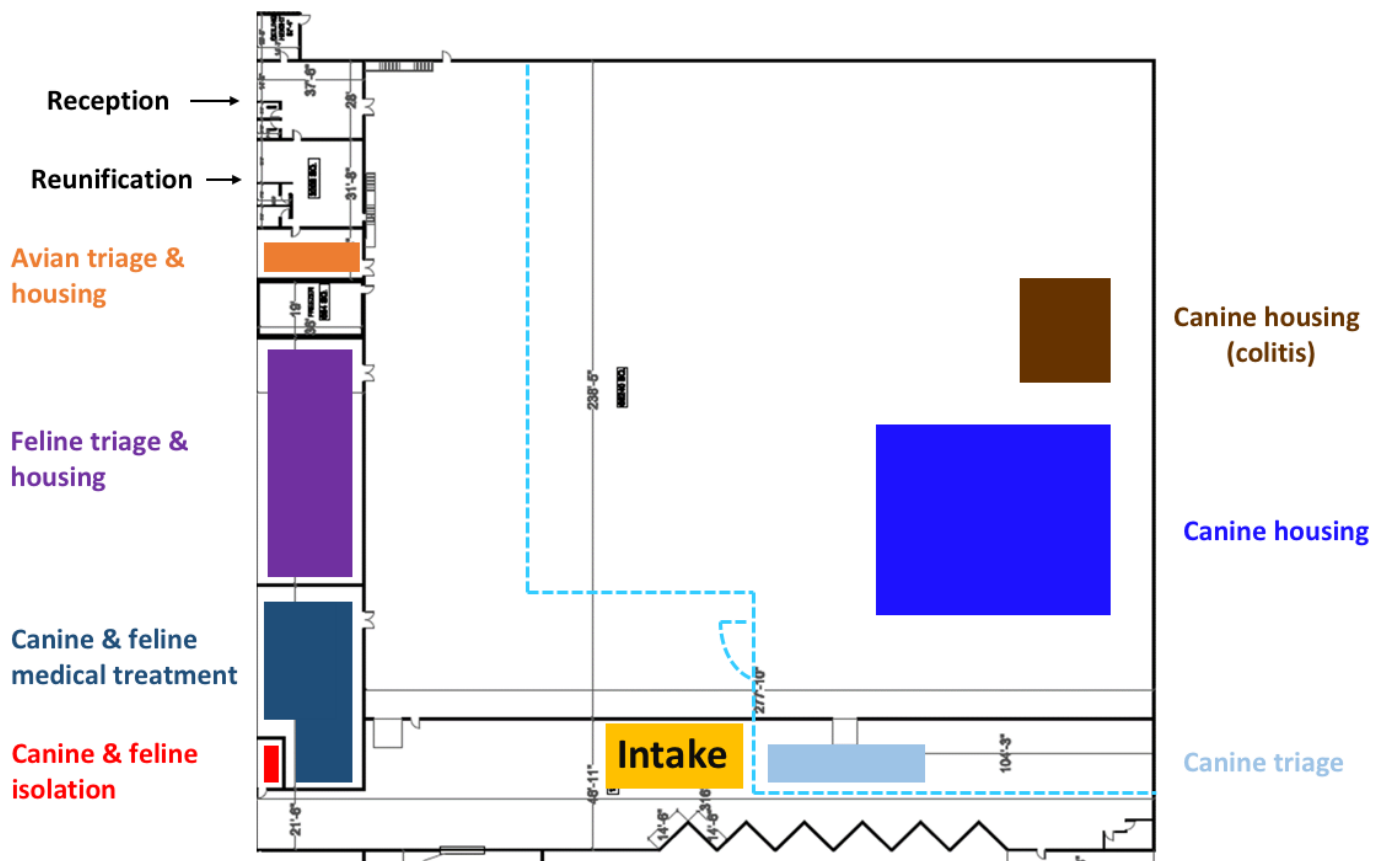


Figure 1. Main floor of the PARC



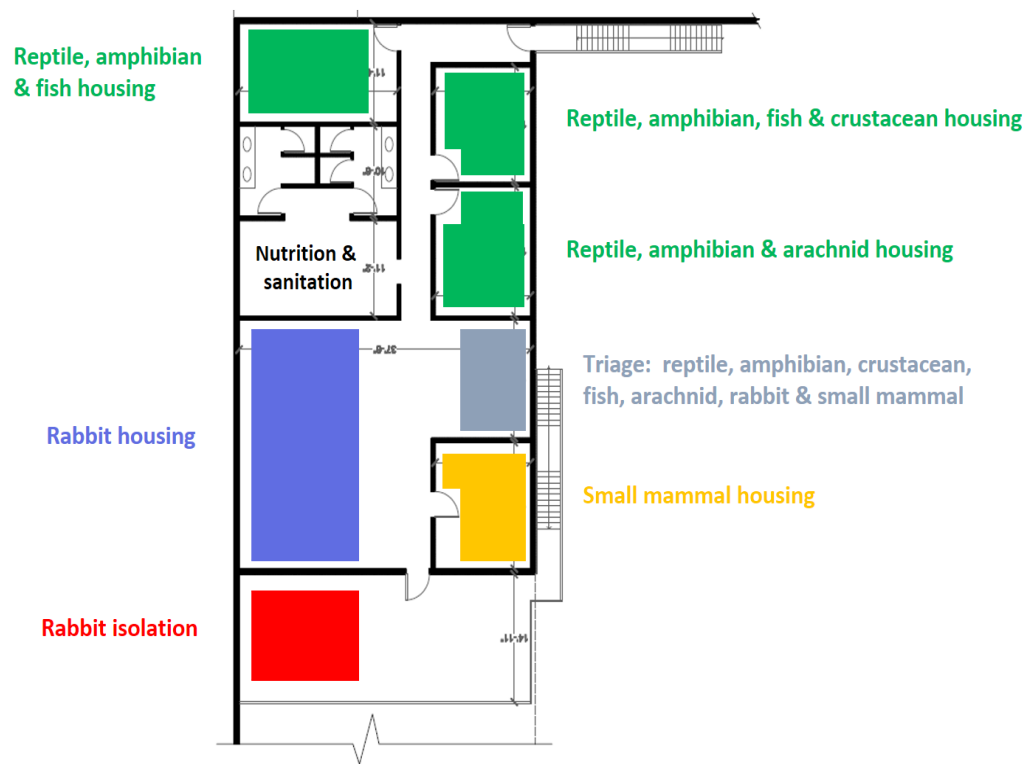
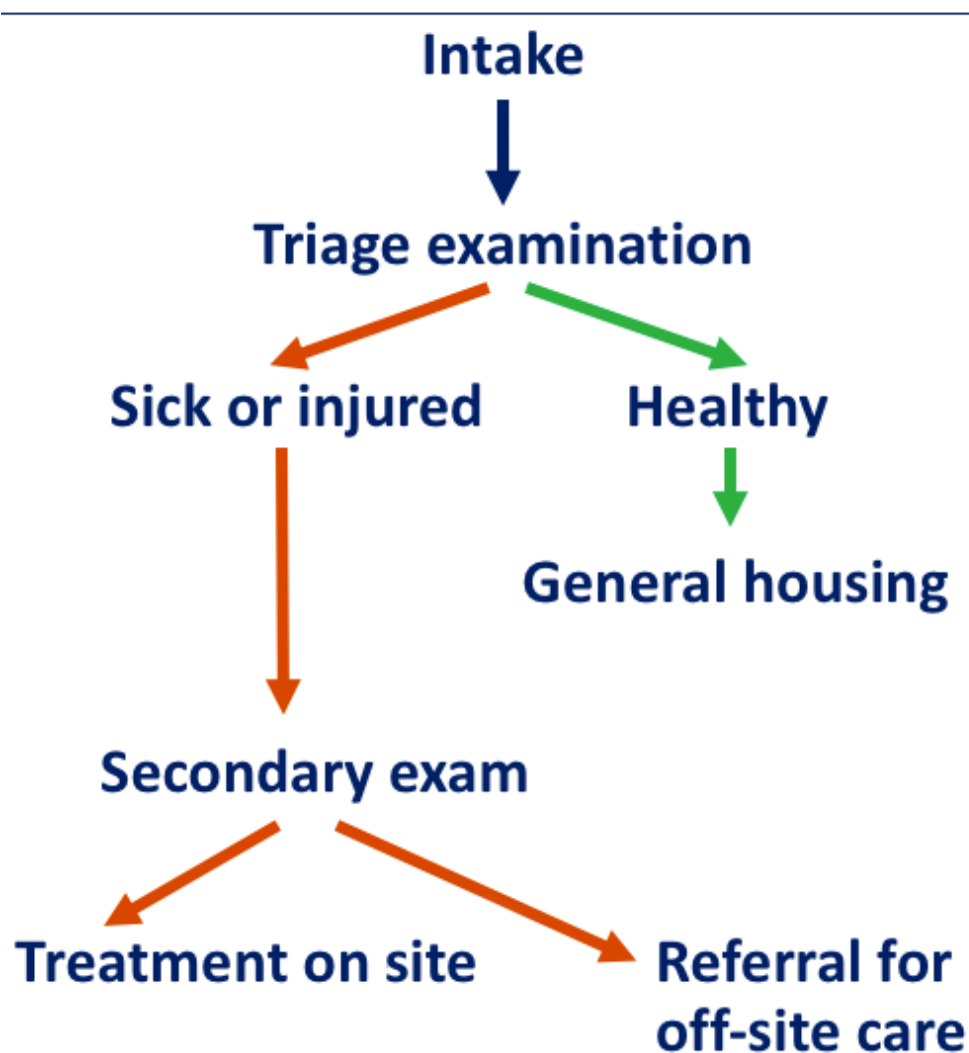


Figure 2. Mezzanine of the PARC

## ROLE OF VETERINARY PERSONNEL AT THE PARC

The movement of animals through the PARC and off site for additional veterinary care is represented in Figure 3.



*Figure 3. Flow diagram of veterinary oversight and animal care at the PARC*

## ANIMAL INTAKE

The intake procedure took place in the area immediately inside the rear of the building at the loading bay doors (Figure 1). All animals remained in their kennel, cage or travel container throughout the intake process.

At the time of animal removal from the transport vehicle, a veterinarian conducted a distant examination of each animal in the travel kennel or enclosure. Animals deemed to require immediate examination were expedited through the intake process and moved to triage as soon as possible.

No animals escaped during the intake process.

With the exception of a few animals that were collected from humane traps in Fort McMurray or collected running at large in Fort McMurray, most animals arrived in Edmonton with owner and owner address information provided on a form completed by the RMWB.

Information from the RMWB form was transcribed to the PARC intake form (Appendix C).

A sequential alphanumerical identification was assigned to each animal entering the facility using:

C – xxx for cats (i.e. C001)

D – xxx for dogs

E – xxx for exotic animals (including birds, small mammals and reptiles)

The PARC identification was marked on the kennel, cage or travel container.

An identification neck band, triage form (Appendix C), animal feeding and husbandry form (Appendix C), and treatment form (Appendix C) were attached to the kennel in a plastic sleeve and accompanied the animal to the triage area. All forms were marked with the animal's alphanumerical identification number. These forms constituted the medical record and remained with the animal until reunification. Upon the decommission of the PARC (at 17:00 p.m., May 19, 2016), the medical records were retained by the ABSPCA.

Once animals were processed through the intake procedure, the kennel, cage or travel container was moved to the triage location appropriate for the animal species.

## ANIMAL TRIAGE

Animals were triaged in areas within the building that were adjacent to the location of housing for that animal species (i.e. canine, feline, avian, exotics). Please refer to Figure 1 and Figure 2.

In the case of dogs, the triage area was located immediately adjacent to the animal intake area. Livestock handling panels with snow fencing were erected to separate the intake area — where doors were open to the outside — from the dog triage area. As such, once dogs were removed from the kennels for triage, the risk of escape could be limited.

A volunteer was positioned at a gate in the fence to ensure it was only open to allow passage of people and animals in kennels between the dog triage area and the animal intake area.

Triage teams consisted of a veterinarian, a veterinary technologist and an animal handler/scribe. Animals were removed from the kennel and weighed. Each animal (with their alphanumerical identification number) was photographed as a control measure. Photographs were not intended to be used for reunification. A physical examination was conducted, and a record of this examination completed.

Under caution that many animals were found to have flea infestations at the time of examination in Fort McMurray, all dogs and cats (unless contraindicated by examination findings), received a treatment with Advantage Multi at the time of intake examination.

Dogs and cats deemed to require care (treatment or observation) were moved to the treatment area. Animals determined to not require treatment were moved to an animal-type-specific general housing area. Avian and exotic species requiring veterinary care were either transported to receive such care at local veterinary clinics, or remained at the PARC (in their species-appropriate general housing area) to receive care.

With regards to cats, the general housing area was a large room with solid walls and ceiling. There were doors on either end of the long rectangular-shaped room. The room had been used as a climate-controlled environment for secure/sensitive document storage. There was a dehumidifier/heater unit on one end of the room that maintained the environment at a suitable temperature and humidity throughout the week.

The cat housing room was set up on May 8 with 150 large kennels, each of which had a clean linen and cat litter tray. There were substantially more cats in the first shipment than was anticipated. In response to this volume of cats, additional tables were added to the cat room for triage. Eventually five triage teams were set up inside the room for triage of cats received in the first shipment.

The majority of the animals received were owned animals (not strays). As such, mass vaccination of cats and dogs on entry to the PARC was determined to be unnecessary.

Ferrets were kept in the room with the cats. Amphibians, birds, crustaceans, fish, reptiles and other exotic species were housed in smaller individual rooms. The mezzanine had four small rooms that were set up to house reptiles (3) and small mammals (1). Tables were set up with terrariums and heat lamps. Securing heat lamps and the electrical cords and power bars necessary to supply electricity for the heat lamps was a challenge.

One reptile required a quarantine as there was a concern with a potentially contagious skin condition.

Birds were initially triaged to a room on the mezzanine. This room was a “pass through” that had increased traffic moving through to access the small mammals and reptiles. When later shipments of animals arrived that contained more birds, bird triage and housing was relocated to a secure room on the main floor. A central feature of that room was that it had a door that could be secured so there was a single entrance in use. The ceiling was a drop ceiling with panels, with several missing. Panels were replaced to create a secure area should any bird escape.

A separate room was available for small mammals and rodents. Several rats were rescued from Fort McMurray. The species of rats was not identified.

The number of exotic animals evacuated, especially reptiles and birds, was unexpected. Veterinary medical expertise in exotics was fortunately available, as well as people with experience in providing husbandry.

## GENERAL HOUSING

In general housing, animal husbandry and enrichment were provided by volunteers from rescue organizations and the EHS. Concerns related to changes in demeanour, activity, appetite, elimination and other aspects of health were relayed by volunteers to veterinary health professionals.

Animals in general housing were examined by veterinary personnel once daily, and in conjunction with the veterinary team leads, further observation, care and treatment were carried out as needed. Examples of general housing concerns included dehydration, inappetence beyond 24 hours duration, absence of recorded urination or defecation in a 24-hour period, vomiting, diarrhea, anxiety and lameness.

## TREATMENT

The PARC was equipped with a very limited scope of diagnostic and therapeutic resources. There was no on-site ability to perform bloodwork, urinalysis, fecal analysis, cytology, ELISA tests for canine parvovirus or diagnostic imaging. There were no on-site intravenous fluid pumps or controlled drugs. Given these diagnostic and therapeutic limitations, on-site care of animals was limited to monitoring of elimination (urination, defecation, vomiting, diarrhea), treatment with subcutaneous fluids and treatment with topical and oral medications. Use of injectable veterinary therapeutics (such as systemic antibiotics and calcium gluconate) on site was restricted to exotic species.

Dogs and cats that received care in the treatment room were under the immediate supervision of a veterinarian and technologist at all times. Veterinarians and technologists were responsible for the care and treatment of up to 37 animals in the treatment room at any given time.

Birds, rabbits, small mammals and reptiles received a similar level of medical care when necessary in their respective housing areas.

Examples of cases maintained at the PARC included animals with mild dehydration, mild to moderate large bowel diarrhea in the absence of vomiting and anorexia, inappetence of less than 48 hours duration, otitis externa and pyoderma.

## ISOLATION

A small room (approximately 10' by 12') on the main floor of the PARC was reserved for canine and feline cases of suspected infectious disease. Veterinary professionals provided medical treatment and all aspects of animal care for animals housed in the isolation room; auxiliary volunteers were not permitted in the isolation room. Isolation protocols for the room included a boot dip, gowns and nitrile gloves.

For the first 48 hours of operation, the isolation room housed several dogs with large bowel diarrhea. Symptomatic treatment of large bowel diarrhea included withholding food for 12 hours followed by gastrointestinal diet, probiotic therapy, and/or metronidazole per os. A total of eight canine patients with large volume diarrhea accompanied by lethargy, vomiting, anorexia, pyrexia or other clinical signs of illness were transported to local veterinary practices for diagnostic testing and medical care. Infectious causes diarrhea (including parvoviral enteritis) were not detected in any canine patients at the PARC.

From May 11 onwards, the isolation room was reserved for the use of cats with clinical signs of feline upper respiratory tract disease. Given the high intensity housing conditions (over 500 cats in a single room) and resultant risk of rapid spread of respiratory disease, any cat with sneezing, ocular discharge, blepharospasm or nasal discharge was removed from general housing and examined without delay. Treatment was tailored to each patient; examples of symptomatic treatment included oral lysine, topical ophthalmic ointment, oral mirtazipine, subcutaneous fluids and systemic antibiotics. Fifteen feline patients required on-site treatment in the isolation room; no feline patients from the isolation room required transport to local veterinary practices for diagnostic testing and treatment.

Subsequent to the use of the isolation room for cats with upper respiratory tract disease, dogs with large bowel diarrhea were housed and received treatment in a small section of the canine general housing area (Figure 1).

## LOCAL VETERINARY PRACTICES

Animals deemed to require diagnostics and treatment beyond what could be provided at the PARC were transported (by veterinarians, veterinary technologists or ABSPCA peace officers) to local veterinary practices for testing and treatment. Prior to the transfer of the animals, the veterinary team lead contacted the local veterinary practice to inquire as to whether the practice could accept the transfer and to review the details of the animal's health concerns. The lead veterinarian also contacted the animal owner by telephone to advise of the animal's health status and recommendation for transfer. Once owner contact was established, the owner was asked to contact the local veterinary practice directly to discuss the attending veterinarians' findings, the suggested diagnostic and treatment plan for their animal, and to accept financial responsibility for their animal.

In the event where the veterinary team lead was not able to contact the owner directly, the local veterinary practice was advised that the PARC veterinary team leaders would be the primary contacts for questions and concerns regarding the transferred animal, and that the ABSPCA would accept financial responsibility for the animal's medical care.

Examples of cases transferred to local veterinary practices included canine and feline vomiting, severe diarrhea, marked dehydration and weakness, suspected feline urethral obstruction, profound anemia and cardiac arrhythmia.

Local veterinary practices were in contact with the veterinary team lead on a daily basis. Animals that were deemed suitable to be discharged from the local veterinary practices were:

- transported back to the PARC and reunited with their owner shortly following their return, or
- discharged from the local veterinary practice directly into the care of their owner, or
- transported back to the PARC, returned to the treatment room for ongoing medical observation and treatment, and ongoing efforts to reunite the animal with their owner made by both veterinary team leaders and ABSPCA reunification team members.

A total of 65 animals in need of diagnostic or treatment beyond minor medical care were transported to six Edmonton-area veterinary hospitals (Calgary Trail Pet Hospital, Capital City Animal Hospital, Guardian Veterinary Centre, Hastings Lake Animal Hospital, Park Veterinary Centre and VetEmerg Emergency and Referral Hospital).

Additional details regarding morbidity and mortality of evacuated animals can be found in Appendix E.





Adopt  
Foster  
Donate  
Volunteer  
Luvale

VARI KENNEL

Petmate

## ANIMAL RESCUE AGENCY VOLUNTEERS

### ASNTF PERSONNEL

The Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force (ASNTF) is a registered charity that brings together volunteers to provide spay, neuter and wellness services to remote and first nations communities. The clinics are approved by the ABVMA as temporary veterinary facilities. The host VPE is the Olds College Veterinary Practice.

The volunteers are from many different rescue organizations, including Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society (AARCS), and also includes registered veterinarians and veterinary technologists.

ASNTF personnel provided supplies and equipment for use at the PARC, adapted spay neuter clinic intake processes for use at the PARC and took a leadership role in orientation and supervision of non-veterinary professional volunteers on site.

ASNTF provided access to a purchasing account at Western Drug Distribution Center (WDDC).

The engagement of the ASNTF and key personnel was instrumental to the success of the animal care and housing at PARC. Animal intake and care on May 9 would not have been possible without ASNTF personnel, equipment and supplies.

### RECOMMENDATION #8 – ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS

**Municipalities should establish relationships and MOUs with animal rescue organizations as a critical component of animal care emergency response planning.**

Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ABSPCA) Personnel

ABSPCA staff took on leadership roles in:

- overall coordination of the operation at the PARC
- coordinating the database of animal owner information
- making phone calls to owners for reunification
- facilitating the reunification process
- overseeing non-veterinary professional volunteers
- coordinating sourcing of supplies

Volunteers from EHS:

- provided animal husbandry support, fed and walked animals
- cleaned of kennels and the facility, and
- assisted with the reunification process.

Animal rescue organizations that provided support and interim housing pending reunification:

- Meika's Birdhouse
- Alberta Animal Rescue Crew Society (AARCS)
- Calgary Humane Society (CHS)  
Edmonton Humane Society (EHS)
- Red Deer and District SPCA (now known as Central Alberta Humane Society)
- Edmonton Reptile and Amphibian Society

Animal rescue organizations recognized for providing support:

- Second Chance Animal Rescue Society
- Hope Lives Here Animal Rescue Society
- CaliCan Rescue
- Barrhead Animal Rescue Society
- Zoe's Animal Rescue Society
- Saving Grace Animal Sanctuary Canada
- Humane Animal Rescue Team

## **RECOMMENDATION #9 – VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

**Animal rescue organizations that provide volunteers for animal emergency response should ensure appropriate training.**

**Volunteers must work within the ICS structure implemented on site.**

## DATABASE

ABSPCA established an Excel database to record and track information regarding the animals brought to the PARC.

The database was established over the course of the first 72 hours (May 7-9), and the first calls to reunite evacuated animals with their owners was made on Tuesday, May 10.

The initial database was built using information from the database that was set up by the FMSPCA; there was a challenge with reconciling the information with what was received from several internet and social media sites that had been set up.

User access to the PARC database was not restricted.

## RECOMMENDATION #10 – DATABASE

**Municipalities should develop a database template that is readily available to allow for timely data entry and optimize reunification.**







## EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

The ASNTF travels to remote spay and neuter clinics with a 30-foot enclosed trailer that carries supplies and equipment necessary to conduct their clinic operations. The trailer contents include:

- approximately 200 kennels
- blankets and linens
- pee pads
- identification collars
- cat litter pans
- cat litter
- dog leashes
- cat and dog bowls
- cat food
- dog food
- anesthesia machines
- oxygen
- monitoring equipment, including thermometers, stethoscopes, pulse oximeters
- cat and dog weigh scales
- intravenous fluids
- a variety of oral and topical medications for dogs and cats

Given the rapid development of the evacuation centre and limited access to traditional channels to access equipment and supplies May 7-9, the ASNTF equipment and supplies were essential to the success of the PARC.

Fencing for the dog housing area was provided by the ABSPCA. Tarps were purchased to control dust in the animal housing and walkways.

Approximately 30 tables were rented for the purposes of: canine triage examinations (2), feline triage examinations (4), cat room supplies (2), treatment room examination (4), treatment room supplies (2), exotics triage (2) and exotics housing (remainder).

## WESTERN DRUG DISTRIBUTION CENTER (WDDC)

A list of anticipated supplies was generated on May 7, 2016 (Appendix F).

In the hopes of obtaining supplies on the weekend (May 7-8, 2016), the director of customer service at WDDC was contacted on May 7, 2016. Given constraints with respect to accounting, invoicing and access to the warehouse outside of business hours, supplies could not be obtained from WDDC until May 9, 2016.

For the operational period, May 9-19, WDDC supplies were ordered through the existing account of the ASNTF.

Medical supplies and therapeutics diets were accessed from WDDC. Supplies included but were not limited to gastrointestinal canned and dry diets, Advantage Multi (canine and feline), lysine, flomazine, FortiFlora, mirtazipine, metronidazole and amoxicillin-clavulanic acid. Also required were injectable calcium gluconate, dextrose and enrofloxacin for exotic patients.

## LITTER AND FOOD

A convoy of private vehicles delivering food (canine and feline) began arriving at the PARC on the afternoon of Sunday, May 8, 2016. The logistics behind the arrival of these shipments of food is unknown. The bulk of the donated food, leashes and toys were not used during the operational period of the PARC.

Food and supplies (leashes, toys and bowls) were offered to animal owners at the time of reunification.

## EXOTIC ANIMAL CARE ESSENTIALS

Animals were evacuated from houses in Fort McMurray in whatever appropriate cages or containers were available. Some reptiles were transported to Edmonton in Tupperware or Rubbermaid containers.

At the PARC, species-appropriate terrariums were sourced prior to or shortly following animal arrival; in many cases, these terrariums were donated to the evacuation centre.

Also required and purchased as necessary:

- species-specific bird food
- pelleted diet for rabbits and guinea pigs
- heat lamps for reptiles
- rabbit cages
- sipper water bottles for small mammals
- species specific substrates for animal enclosures
- temperature and humidity gauges for reptile rooms
- fresh foods for reptiles, birds and small mammals (including include calcium dusted crickets, meal worms, baby mice, fresh vegetables and Timothy hay)

## RECOMMENDATION #11 – LOGISTICS

**Coordination of donated materials at the evacuation centre is important.**

**Logistics section (ICS) is required on site.**

**A standing account (held by the ABSPCA) at a drug distribution facility could facilitate the procurement of veterinary equipment and supplies.**

## COMMUNICATION

The ABVMA undertook communication with members and veterinary practices through the ABVMA E-News and emails to members, beginning May 4 and continuing through to June 16, 2016 (Appendix A).

Initial communication was to create a listing of veterinary practices willing to provide veterinary medical care and/or boarding. The intent was to identify practices along the evacuation route from Fort McMurray to Edmonton. Veterinary practices from across Alberta volunteered and provided care and boarding for evacuated animals.

The City of Edmonton established an evacuation centre that included a facility for the reception and

housing of animals. Additional veterinary professionals were required to provide care at this facility. A call for veterinary technologists willing to volunteer at the City of Edmonton Evacuation Centre at the Expo Centre in Edmonton was sent out in the E-News.

The ABVMA also put out a call for volunteers willing to travel to Fort McMurray to provide assistance if the need arose.

May 9, 11 and 13: ongoing email call for veterinarians and veterinary technologists to volunteer at the PARC (Appendix A).

The ABVMA respected the ABSPCA request for limited media exposure of the PARC until such time that the



reunification process was underway. A CBC request for an interview with Dr. Richard Starke (veterinarian and MLA) was declined by the ABVMA because of the ABSPCA request for limited media exposure. Dr. Starke volunteered at the PARC on May 10. Dr. Richard Starke made a members' statement regarding the veterinary response to the Fort McMurray wildfire in the Alberta Legislative Assembly on May 11, 2016:

<https://youtube/3qXXEEI94-k>

The ABVMA published two feature articles on the Alberta Animal Health Source website (<http://www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca/>):

1. Alberta Veterinary Practices Offering Assistance to Fort McMurray Evacuees (May 10, 2016)

<https://www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca/content/alberta-veterinary-practices-offering-assistance-fort-mcmurray-evacuees> (Appendix B)

2. An Outpouring of Compassion from Alberta Veterinarians and Technologists in Wake of Fort McMurray Fire (May 17, 2016)

<https://www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca/content/outpouring-compassion-alberta-veterinarians-and-technologists-wake-fort-mcmurray-fire> (Appendix G)

Having completed the first calls to owners to initiate reunification, the ABSPCA began media exposure on May 12, 2016.

The ABVMA issued a press release (Appendix H) and provided media availability at the PARC. CTV, CBC and Global News ran television pieces on the activities of the PARC; links to the television interviews can be found within the Alberta Animal Health Source article <https://www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca/content/outpouring-compassion-alberta-veterinarians-and-technologists-wake-fort-mcmurray-fire> (Appendix G).

On behalf of the ABVMA, Dr. Hashizume presented abstracts reviewing the emergent planning and implementation of the PARC and veterinary oversight of the PARC at the World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine Congress in April 2017. The abstracts appear in Appendix I.

An overview of the abstract presentations and a review of the PARC morbidity and mortality was presented in the ABVMA *Members' Magazine* July-August 2017 edition (Appendix E).

## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF) requested/ tasked the ABSPCA to execute the operation to receive, house and reunite animals evacuated from Fort McMurray.

AAF support consisted of personnel engaged in the planning May 6 and 7, set up on site and initial management of logistics and supply.

The attendance by AAF personnel (Executive Director of Animal Health and Assurance Branch and the Chief Provincial Veterinarian) on site May 10 and by representatives of the Alberta Emergency

Management Agency (AEMA) on May 11, resulted in the establishment of a 24-hour site manager and other resources, including handwashing stations, supply chain management, oversight of volunteers and overnight security.

Two AAF employees were responsible for providing 24-hour on site oversight May 12-19, 2016.

Veterinarians employed with AAF also volunteered their time alongside other members of the ABVMA to provide medical care to animals at the PARC.

# LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

## RECOMMENDATION #1 – COORDINATION OF ONLINE RESOURCES

That there be a coordinated and preferably single online resource for the submission of requests for animal assistance. This will maximize efficiency of retrieval of animals from residences and reunification.

## RECOMMENDATION #2 – ICS TRAINING

That all levels of government make available ICS training for members of any organization that may become involved in animal care emergency response.

## RECOMMENDATION #3 – PLANS FOR ANIMAL CARE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Municipal and provincial governments must plan for animal care emergency response and assure funding of the same. Animal care is a critical component of emergency response and recovery.

## RECOMMENDATION #4 – FACILITY

Housing and care for evacuated pets should be provided in a permanent structure.

- It is understood that other emergency responses have used temporary shelters including tents to receive and house animals. Given the volume and species variation of animals presented to the PARC, an appropriate facility should have multiple rooms to accommodate species specific housing, and climate control is ideal.

Multiple handwashing stations must be available and located in proximity to animal intake, triage and treatment areas

## RECOMMENDATION #5 – INCIDENT COMMAND STRUCTURE (ICS)

Veterinary health professionals and animal rescue agency/organization personnel that may be engaged in animal emergency incidents should be provided access to ICS training.

ICS should be employed to manage any animal emergency response. Particularly the appropriate level of oversight and limiting the duration of work shifts of personnel.

Incident Command should be located at the site of animal reception, care, housing and reunification.



## **RECOMMENDATION #6 – ANIMAL TRANSPORTATION**

City buses are an ideal means of transportation for mass evacuation of companion animals.

- These vehicles are generally available, are climate controlled, have capacity and provide the ability to secure travel kennels to seats and room to place heavier items (such as large terrariums) on the floor.

## **RECOMMENDATION #7 – COMMUNICATION**

Animal rescuers in the hot zone should provide personnel at the evacuation centre with sufficient advance notice regarding the number, type and expected arrival time of animals to the evacuation centre. This advance notice facilitates allocation of volunteers and resources for intake and triage.

## **RECOMMENDATION #8 – ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS**

Municipalities should establish relationships and MOUs with animal rescue organizations as a critical component of animal care emergency response planning.

## **RECOMMENDATION #9 – VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

Animal rescue organizations that provide volunteers for animal emergency response should ensure appropriate training.

Volunteers must work within the ICS structure implemented on site.

## **RECOMMENDATION #10 – DATABASE**

Municipalities should develop a database template that is readily available to allow for timely data entry and optimize reunification.

## **RECOMMENDATION #11 – LOGISTICS**

Coordination of donated materials at the evacuation centre is important.

Logistics section (ICS) is required on site.

A standing account (held by the ABSPCA) at a drug distribution facility could facilitate the procurement of veterinary equipment and supplies.



# APPENDICES

The following appendices have been reprinted as found in the original source of publication.

## APPENDIX A

ABVMA E-News and email communications to members (May 4 to June 6, 2016)

## APPENDIX B

List of veterinary practices providing veterinary medical care and boarding (<https://www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca/content/alberta-veterinary-practices-offering-assistance-fort-mcmurray-evacuees>)

## APPENDIX C

Animal Intake and Care Plan (May 8, 2016)

Including:

- Intake Form
- Medical Record
- Treatment Sheet
- Animal Housing

## APPENDIX D

List of ABVMA veterinary professional volunteers

## APPENDIX E

Fort McMurray Wildfires – One Year Later - ABVMA *Members' Magazine* article July-August 2017

## APPENDIX F

List of anticipated supplies required (May 7, 2016)

## APPENDIX G

An Outpouring of Compassion from Alberta Veterinarians and Technologists in Wake of Fort McMurray Fire  
(<https://www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca/content/outpouring-compassion-alberta-veterinarians-and-technologists-wake-fort-mcmurray-fire>)

## APPENDIX H

May 13, 2016, ABVMA press release and media availability

## APPENDIX I

Abstracts prepared for World Association for Disaster and Emergency Management Congress, Toronto 2017

- Emergent planning for the veterinary care and short-term housing of companion animals evacuated due to a wildfire in Alberta, Canada
- Veterinary oversight of a short-term housing and veterinary care facility for companion animals evacuated due to a wildfire in Alberta, Canada

## APPENDIX A

ABVMA E-News and email communications to members (May 4 to June 6, 2016)

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### FROM MAY 4 E-NEWS:

#### COORDINATION OF RELIEF EFFORTS - FORT MCMURRAY WILDFIRES

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) released a notice this morning to all ABVMA members and practices regarding the Fort McMurray wildfires. [Click here to read the full notice.](#) [See Stand-Alone E-Blast May 4 on this page.]

To assist in the coordination of relief services for injured or displaced animals, the ABVMA is compiling a list of Alberta veterinary practices willing to offer medical care and/or boarding services that will be provided to the public, evacuation centres and other agencies.

If you are interested in providing aid please contact the office: Sandra Ward, 780-784-5224 or toll-free: 1-800-404-2862, ext. 224  
E-mail: [sandra.ward@abvma.ca](mailto:sandra.ward@abvma.ca).

The ABVMA sends our thoughts to all residents and evacuees affected by the fires.

### STAND-ALONE E-BLAST MAY 4:

#### ASSISTANCE FOR EVACUEES OF FORT MCMURRAY WILDFIRES

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association expresses concern and empathy for the residents of Fort McMurray being affected by devastating wildfires.

To assist in the coordination of relief services for injured or displaced animals, the ABVMA is compiling a list of Alberta veterinary practices willing to provide medical care and/or boarding services.

If you are interested in providing aid please contact the ABVMA office. The ABVMA will provide this list to the public, evacuations centres and other agencies.

Specifically we ask practices to contact the ABVMA and indicate which of the following services you are willing to provide:

- medical care for animals of evacuated residents and/or
- boarding for displaced animals

Please contact Sandra Ward at: 780-784-5224 or toll-free: 1-800-404-2862, ext. 224  
or by email: [sandra.ward@abvma.ca](mailto:sandra.ward@abvma.ca).

The Expo Centre, Northlands in Edmonton is designated as an evacuation centre. Pets are welcome there.

All monetary donations to assist evacuees, please contact the Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.ca/> or at: 1-800-418-1111.

The ABVMA sends our thoughts to all residents and evacuees affected by the fires.

## **STAND-ALONE E-BLAST MAY 5:**

### **VOLUNTEER ABVMA REGISTERED VETERINARY MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED**

#### **Immediate Need - City of Edmonton:**

There is a need for ABVMA registered veterinary technologists (Active General) to work shift work in a volunteer capacity at the Edmonton Expo Evacuation Centre.

The City of Edmonton Animal Care and Control Centre is coordinating the care of animals owned by evacuees registering and lodging at the Expo Evacuation Centre.

Operations will run 24 hours for an initial five-day period and will be extended if required.

Active General veterinary technologists will conduct initial assessments and provide oversight of the care of animals under the supervision of the responsible veterinarian of the Animal Care and Control Centre Veterinary Clinic.

Shifts are expected to start immediately. Members willing and available to commit for shifts over the five-day operational period, please contact: Sandra Ward, 780-784-5224, or toll-free: 1-800-404-2862, ext. 224 or by email: [sandra.ward@abvma.ca](mailto:sandra.ward@abvma.ca).

#### **Possible Future Need - Fort McMurray:**

The Edmonton Humane Society, at the request of the Regional Municipality Wood Buffalo Bylaw Services Animal Control, will travel to Fort McMurray to collect and provide care for stray animals when safe to do so.

The ABVMA is creating a list of veterinarians and veterinary technologists (Active General) that are

willing and available to commit considerable time in and around Fort McMurray over the coming days or weeks. This list will be provided to the Edmonton Humane Society. Volunteer requirements will be determined by the Edmonton Humane Society and not all volunteers will be contacted. The Edmonton Humane Society will contact volunteers directly if required.

Members willing and available to commit, please contact Sandra Ward, 780-784-5224, or toll-free: 1-800-404-2862, ext. 224 or by email: [sandra.ward@abvma.ca](mailto:sandra.ward@abvma.ca).

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## **STAND-ALONE E-BLAST MAY 6:**

### **ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORD INFORMATION OF FORT MCMURRAY EVACUEES**

Wood Buffalo Small Animal Hospital client medical record information is available to Alberta veterinary practices that may see or treat pets of evacuees. For information please call 780-742-3776.

Information from the practice software will be provided however complete medical records will not be available.

This contact information is intended for use by veterinary practices only. Please refrain from providing the telephone number to the public.

The staff at Aurora Veterinary Clinic is working to access medical record information as soon as possible.

Questions may be directed to Dr. Phil Buote at the ABVMA office: 780-784-5223.



## STAND-ALONE E-BLAST MAY 9:

### URGENT CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR FORT MCMURRAY ANIMAL RECEPTION CENTRE IN EDMONTON

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) is working with the Alberta SPCA, Edmonton Humane Society and the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force to coordinate an Edmonton based Reception Centre for animals being evacuated from Fort McMurray.

The ABVMA requires **nine registered veterinarians and nine registered veterinary technologists to volunteer for overnight shifts** Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Veterinarian and veterinary technologist teams will triage and provide treatment for animals as they arrive. Shift times will be eight hours and will commence sometime between 10:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. as determined by transport arrival times.

**To volunteer please contact Lisa Barry at the ABVMA office: 780-784-5225 or by email: [lisa.barry@abvma.ca](mailto:lisa.barry@abvma.ca).**

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## STAND-ALONE E-BLAST MAY 11:

### ONGOING CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR FORT MCMURRAY ANIMAL RECEPTION CENTRE IN EDMONTON

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) is working with the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force, Alberta SPCA and the Edmonton Humane Society to coordinate an Edmonton based Reception Centre for animals being evacuated from Fort McMurray.

The ABVMA requires **registered veterinarians and registered veterinary technologists to volunteer for shifts Wednesday through Friday**. Veterinarian and veterinary technologist teams will triage and provide treatment for animals as they arrive and provide continuing oversight of animals on-site.

Veterinary care is provided 24-hours/day. Shifts will be eight hours running: 4:00 p.m. to 12 midnight, 12 midnight to 8:00 a.m., and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Two veterinarians and two veterinary technologists are required on-site at 2:00 p.m. today.

**To volunteer please contact Lisa Barry at the ABVMA office: 780-784-5225 or by email: [lisa.barry@abvma.ca](mailto:lisa.barry@abvma.ca).**

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## STAND-ALONE E-BLAST MAY 13:

### CALL FOR WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS FOR FORT MCMURRAY ANIMAL RECEPTION CENTRE IN EDMONTON

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) is working with the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force, Alberta SPCA and the Edmonton Humane Society to operate the Edmonton based Reception Centre for animals being evacuated from Fort McMurray.

The response from ABVMA members to volunteer throughout the week has been staggering and highlights the dedicated and selfless nature of veterinary professionals in Alberta. The ABVMA expresses sincere thanks to all veterinarians and technologists for their ongoing support and volunteerism.

The ABVMA requires **registered veterinarians and registered veterinary technologists to volunteer for shifts Friday through Sunday**. Veterinarian and veterinary technologist teams will triage and provide treatment for animals as they arrive and provide continuing oversight of animals on-site.

Veterinary care is provided 24-hours/day. Shifts will be eight hours running: 4:00 p.m. to 12 midnight, 12 midnight to 8:00 a.m., and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Veterinarians willing and available to act as Lead Veterinarian and veterinarians with experience in exotics and birds are required.**

**To volunteer please contact Lisa Barry at the ABVMA office: 780-784-5225 or by email: [lisa.barry@abvma.ca](mailto:lisa.barry@abvma.ca).**

## **STAND-ALONE E-BLAST MAY 13:**

### **ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORD INFORMATION OF FORT MCMURRAY EVACUEES**

Wood Buffalo Small Animal Hospital client medical record information is available to Alberta veterinary practices that may see or treat pets of evacuees. Please note the new phone number to call is 780-799-9560.

Information from the practice software will be provided however complete medical records will not be available.

This contact information is intended for use by veterinary practices only. Please refrain from providing the telephone number to the public.

The staff at Aurora Veterinary Clinic continues to work to access medical record information as soon as possible.

Questions may be directed to Dr. Phil Buote at the ABVMA office: 780-784-5223.

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## **STAND-ALONE E-BLAST MAY 16:**

### **UPDATE - FORT MCMURRAY ANIMAL RECEPTION CENTRE IN EDMONTON**

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) has been working with the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force, Alberta SPCA and the Edmonton Humane Society over the past week to operate the Edmonton based Reception Centre for animals being evacuated from Fort McMurray.

The Emergency Reception Centre at the Nexus Building is winding down and all animals are being relocated to partner agencies for temporary care until reunited with their owners. Veterinarians and veterinary technologists will attend the Nexus

Building periodically to monitor animals throughout the transition. All animals are expected to be removed from the site by Tuesday, May 17, at 5:00 p.m. Alberta SPCA will continue reunion efforts for animals housed at the temporary care locations.

Over the course of the past week, 1,107 animals were checked in and examined by a veterinarian. Approximately 10% of the animals required some form of veterinary care, either provided on site or at veterinary practices in the Edmonton area. 633 animals have been reunited with their owners and 217 animals are scheduled for reunion in the next 24 hours. The remainder will be housed in temporary care until reunited with their owners.

#### **Thank you to ABVMA Volunteers!**

On May 4, the ABVMA put out a call to practices willing to provide veterinary medical care and/or boarding to residents evacuating the Fort McMurray wildfires. Nearly 175 practices stepped forward to provide medical care and/or boarding for pets of displaced owners. In addition, more than 100 technologists came forward to volunteer at the Edmonton Expo Centre, one of the initial evacuation centres in Edmonton. Additionally, nearly 80 veterinarians and technologists volunteered to assist on site in Fort McMurray if called upon to do so.

On May 9, volunteer efforts were required once again to work with partner organizations at the Edmonton based Reception Centre for evacuated pets. Over the following week, close to 150 veterinarians and RVTs contributed well over 1000 hours of volunteer time at the centre alone.

The ABVMA would like to take this opportunity to recognize the overwhelming response from the entire ABVMA community throughout this crisis. Thank you to all practices, veterinarians and technologists that volunteered or provided resources during this disaster response. This truly highlights the selfless and dedicated members of the veterinary profession in Alberta.

## STAND-ALONE E-BLAST MAY 16:

### ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORD INFORMATION OF FORT MCMURRAY EVACUEES

Complete medical records for animal patients of the Aurora Veterinary Clinic are now available. Electronic medical records may be emailed to Alberta veterinary practices that may see or treat pets of evacuees. Please contact 780-715-1127.

Practices that require medical record information for animal patients from Wood Buffalo Small Animal Hospital may call 780-799-9560. Information from the practice software will be provided; however, complete medical records are not available at this time.

This contact information is intended for use by veterinary practices only. Please refrain from providing the telephone number to the public.

Questions may be directed to Dr. Phil Buote at the ABVMA office: 780-784-5223.

## FROM E-NEWS MAY 26:

### MEDIA COVERAGE OF VOLUNTEER VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS

The thousands of hours of volunteer veterinary care for animals evacuated from Fort McMurray has been recognized by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) and on social media.

On May 13, the ABVMA issued a [press release](#) regarding a media availability at the Nexus Centre on May 14. Global News, CBC and CTV sent cameras and reporters to conduct interviews. The resulting coverage can be seen here:

[Global](#) (skip to 5:50)

[CTV](#) (skip to 11:40)

[CBC](#) (skip to 3:30)

ABVMA maintains the [www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca](http://www.albertaanimalhealthsource.ca) website where the article "[An Outpouring of Compassion from Alberta Veterinarians and Technologists in Wake of Fort McMurray Fire](#)" was published. This article has been shared widely on social media, including Twitter and Facebook.

## FROM E-NEWS JUNE 1:

### TAILS OF HELP SPECIAL FUNDING FOR FORT MCMURRAY RESIDENTS

Tails of Help has committed \$25,000 of special funding to assist Fort McMurray residents who have pets in need of essential health care and are experiencing financial hardship. This is temporary additional funding available to Fort McMurray residents who meet Tails of Help eligibility criteria, regardless of where in the province they are presently located—i.e. returning Fort McMurray residents or displaced residents on longer-term evacuation outside Fort McMurray can qualify for this funding.

**Any Alberta veterinary practices that are providing services to displaced Fort McMurray residents are able to submit applications** on behalf of

Fort McMurray pet owners for these allocated funds. The usual Tails of Help program limits per veterinary practice do not apply for this special funding, and any use of this special funding does not affect veterinary practice eligibility to apply for Tails of Help standard program aid for other pet owners in need. This special funding program will end on June 30, 2016, or when the funds are fully disbursed, whichever occurs first.

**Further details can be found on the Tails of Help website:** [www.tailsofhelp.ca/fort-mcmurray-aid](http://www.tailsofhelp.ca/fort-mcmurray-aid)

Tails of Help is dedicated to helping fund essential veterinary care for qualified Alberta pet owners in need when their pets are ill or injured. **All applications for Tails of Help aid are made by Alberta veterinary clinics on behalf of eligible pet owners**, and rely on veterinarian recommendation of the animal and the owner for the program.

## STAND-ALONE E-BLAST JUNE 6:

### WOOD BUFFALO SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL – ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORD INFORMATION

Wood Buffalo Small Animal Hospital client medical record information is available to Alberta veterinary practices that may see or treat pets of evacuees.

Staff are currently back in the practice in preparation of opening on Wednesday, June 8, 2016. Medical records are available.

Please note that practices may now call the regular number 780-715-9369 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. this week and next.

## APPENDIX B

#	Clinic Name	Location	Phone Number	Medical Care	Boarding
1	Airdrie Animal Clinic	Airdrie	403-948-3619	Yes	Minimal - Cats
2	Airdrie Animal Health Centre	Airdrie	403-948-2733	Yes	Minimal
3	Happy Paws Veterinary Clinic	Airdrie	403-299-0336	Yes	No
4	Heartland Veterinary Clinic	Airdrie	403-912-8882	Yes	Minimal
5	Ardrossan Veterinary Clinic	Ardrossan	780-922-3700	Yes	Yes - Cats
6	Athabasca Veterinary Services	Athabasca	780-675-2194	Yes	No
7	Barr-North Vet Services	Barrhead	780-674-2100	Yes	No
8	Beaumont Animal Clinic	Beaumont	780-929-6107	Yes	No
9	Eastern Slopes Vet Services	Black Diamond	403-933-3532	Yes	Yes
10	Bonnyville Vet Clinic	Bonnyville	780-826-2188	Yes	Minimal
11	Boyle Veterinary Services	Boyle	780-689-3800	Yes	Yes
12	17th Avenue Animal Hospital	Calgary	403-228-4165	Yes	Minimal
13	9th Ave Animal Clinic	Calgary	403-262-3237	Yes	Minimal
14	Alpine Pet Hospital	Calgary	403-212-4008	Yes	Minimal
15	Calgary Animal Referral & Emergency Centre	Calgary	403-520-8387	Yes	Minimal
16	Calgary Cat Clinic	Calgary	403-289-9999	Yes - Cats	Minimal - Cats
17	Calgary Holistic Veterinary Clinic	Calgary	403-289-1616	Yes	Minimal
18	Calgary North Veterinary Hospital & Emergency	Calgary	403-277-0135	Yes	Minimal
19	Canine Companion Clinic	Calgary	403-265-8387	Yes	No
20	Castleridge Vet Clinic	Calgary	403-280-1585	Yes	No
21	Chasin Tails Vet Services	Calgary	403-293-3261	Yes	Yes
22	Coach Hill Veterinary Hospital	Calgary	403-246-8361	Yes	Minimal
23	Country Hills Veterinary Clinic	Calgary	403-241-2550	Yes	Minimal
24	Cranston Vet Hospital	Calgary	403-288-7299	Yes	Minimal - Cats
25	Crowfoot Veterinary Hospital	Calgary	403-241-8944	Yes	Minimal
26	Dalhousie Station Veterinary Clinic	Calgary	403-284-2265	Yes	Minimal
27	Douglas Square Pet Clinic	Calgary	403-203-0775	Yes	Minimal
28	Due South Animal Hospital	Calgary	403-257-8899	Yes	Minimal
29	Fish Creek 24 Hr Pet Hospital	Calgary	403-873-1700	Yes	Minimal
30	Forest Lawn Veterinary Hospital	Calgary	403-272-0115	Yes	Minimal



#	Clinic Name	Location	Phone Number	Medical Care	Boarding
31	Glamorgan Animal Clinic	Calgary	403-246-1774	Yes	Yes - Cats
32	Harvest Hills Veterinary Clinic	Calgary	403-226-5522	Yes	Minimal
33	Hunterhorn Veterinary Clinic	Calgary	403-295-8592	Yes	Minimal
34	Killareny Cat Hospital	Calgary	403-246-1115	Yes - Cats	Yes - Cats
35	Little Creek Veterinary Clinic	Calgary	403-452-2060	Yes	Minimal
36	MacEwan Veterinary Clinic	Calgary	403-295-1929	Yes	Minimal
37	Marlborough Veterinary Hospital	Calgary	403-273-4664	Yes	Minimal
38	McKenzie Towne Animal Clinic	Calgary	403-257-6105	Yes	Minimal
39	McKnight 24 Hr Vet Hospital	Calgary	403-457-0911	Yes	Minimal
40	Nolan Hill Vet Hospital	Calgary	403-475-6484	Yes	Yes
41	Riverbend Animal Clinic	Calgary	403-279-8747	Yes	Minimal
42	Royal Oak Veterinary Clinic	Calgary	403-208-0847	Yes	Yes
43	Royal Oak Veterinary Clinic	Calgary	403-208-0847	Yes	Minimal
44	Shawnessy South Pet Hospital	Calgary	403-254-5900	Yes	Minimal
45	South Trail Pet Hospital	Calgary	403-257-3393	Yes	Minimal
46	Springbank Pet Hospital	Calgary	403-727-9751	Yes	Minimal
47	Sundance Animal Hospital	Calgary	403-254-9698	Yes	Yes - Cats
48	University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary	Calgary	403-220-4570	Yes	Yes
49	Varsity Veterinary Clinic	Calgary	403-247-3617	Yes	Minimal
50	Western Veterinary Centre	Calgary	403-770-1340	Yes	Yes
51	Western Veterinary Specialist & Emergency	Calgary	403-770-1340	Yes	Minimal
52	International Animal Lounge	Calgary Airport	587-582-1385	No	Yes
53	Canmore Vet Hospital	Canmore	403-678-4425	Yes	Minimal
54	Arrowhead Vet Center	Cochrane	403-932-2370	Yes	Minimal
55	Centre Animal Hospital	Cold Lake	780-594-1255	Yes	No
56	Barrett Veterinary Practice	Dalemead	403-806-5763	Yes	Yes
57	Devonian Vet Clinic	Devon	780-987-5780	Yes	Yes
58	Riverview Vet Clinic	Devon	780-987-4838	Yes	Yes
59	Dewinton Pet Hospital	Dewinton	403-256-7297	Yes - Exotics	Yes - Exotics
60	Rocky Rapids Veterinary Clinic	Drayton Valley	780-542-2144	Yes	No

## APPENDIX B (CONTINUED)

#	Clinic Name	Location	Phone Number	Medical Care	Boarding
61	Valley Vet Clinic	Drumheller	403-823-5400	Yes	Yes
62	Animal Medical Centre South	Dunmore	403-527-4888	Yes	Yes
63	Animal Medical Centre Edmonton	Edmonton	780-465-9494	Yes	Yes
64	Beck Veterinary Clinic	Edmonton	780-432-7402	Yes	Minimal
65	Blue Cross Animal Hospital	Edmonton	780-434-0025	Yes	No
66	Calgary Trail Pet Hospital	Edmonton	780-431-0140	Yes	Food Drive
67	Capilano Animal Clinic	Edmonton	780-469-0657	Yes	No
68	Capital City Animal Hospital	Edmonton	780-433-9505	Yes	Yes
69	Castledowns Animal Hospital	Edmonton	780-456-3616	Yes	Minimal
70	Companion Veterinary Clinic	Edmonton	780-439-4353	Yes	No But Food Drive
71	Crestwood Veterinary Centre	Edmonton	780-444-7550	Yes	Yes
72	Currents Vet Centre	Edmonton	780-439-0126	Yes	Yes
73	Delton Veterinary Hospital	Edmonton	780-475-9225	Yes	Yes
74	Edmonton South Animal Hospital	Edmonton	780-989-5595	Yes	Yes
75	Edmonton West Animal Hospital	Edmonton	780-488-0124	Yes	Yes
76	Ellerslie Pet Hospital	Edmonton	780-702-7738	Yes	Yes
77	General Veterinary Hospital	Edmonton	780-454-8691	Yes	Yes
78	Glenora Cat Clinic	Edmonton	780-453-6666	Yes - Cats	Minimal - Cats
79	Greenbank Vet Services	Edmonton	780-466-5655	Yes	No
80	Guardian Veterinary Centre	Edmonton	780-436-5880	Yes	Yes
81	Hermitage Vet Hospital	Edmonton	780-476-7558	Yes	Yes
82	Lakeview Animal Hospital	Edmonton	587-463-9002	Yes	Yes
83	Lessard-Callingwood Vet Hospital	Edmonton	780-481-5678	Yes	Yes - Cats
84	MacTaggart Vet Clinic	Edmonton	780-756-8555	No	Board for 4 Cats
85	Mayfield Veterinary Hospital	Edmonton	780-451-3465	Yes	No
86	Meadowbrook Animal Clinic	Edmonton	780-463-7772	Yes	Minimal
87	Mercy Animal Hospital	Edmonton	780-406-1400	Yes	Yes
88	Millwoods East Vet Clinic	Edmonton	780-461-0629	Yes	Minimal
89	NAIT	Edmonton	587-338-4439	No	Yes



#	Clinic Name	Location	Phone Number	Medical Care	Boarding
90	Northgate Veterinary Hospital	Edmonton	780-474-0427	Yes	Yes - Cats
91	Ottewell Animal Clinic	Edmonton	780-466-1826	Yes	No
92	Oxford Animal Hospital	Edmonton	780-705-2131	Yes	Minimal
93	River Valley Vet Wellness Clinic	Edmonton	780-484-6672	Yes	Minimal
94	Riverbend Veterinary Clinic	Edmonton	780-437-0039	Yes	Yes
95	Rosslyn Vet Clinic	Edmonton	780-475-9912	Yes	Minimal
96	Rutherford Veterinary Clinic	Edmonton	780-761-0350	Yes	No
97	Sandy Lane Pet Clinic	Edmonton	780-705-3725	Yes	Minimal
98	Sifton Park Vet Clinic	Edmonton	780-476-1875	Yes	Yes
99	Southside Animal Hospital	Edmonton	780-434-6462	Yes	Yes
100	Sunrise Animal Hospital	Edmonton	780-377-1122	Yes	No
101	Terra Losa Animal Clinic	Edmonton	780-484-1178	Yes	Yes
102	Town Centre Vet Hospital	Edmonton	780-496-9065	Yes	No
103	Vet-Emerg-North Edmonton	Edmonton	780-423-9111	Yes	Yes
104	West Edmonton Animal Hospital	Edmonton	780-489-3203	Yes	Yes
105	Westbrook Veterinary Clinic	Edmonton	780-436-5073	Yes	Yes
106	Westside Animal Clinic	Edmonton	780-481-4393	Yes	Minimal
107	Windemere Vet Hospital	Edmonton	780-757-5554	Yes	Yes
108	Edson Veterinary Clinic	Edson	780-723-3354	Yes	Yes
109	GRPRC Fairview Campus	Fairview	780-835-6630	No	Yes
110	Forestburg Vet Clinic	Forestburg	780-582-3970	Yes	Yes
111	Fort Saskatchewan Vet Clinic	Fort Saskatchewan	780-998-3755	Yes	No
112	Wildrose Animal Clinic	Fort Saskatchewan	780-998-1755	Yes	Minimal
113	Bear Creek Animal Clinic	Grande Prairie	780-532-2902	Yes	Yes
114	Valley Vet Clinic	Hanna	403-854-3463	Yes	Yes
115	High Prairie Vet Clinic	High Prairie	780-523-3826	Yes	Yes
116	Lakeland Animal Care Group	Lac La Biche	780-623-8387	Yes	Yes
117	Lacombe Vet Centre	Lacombe	403-782-3688	Yes	Yes
118	Stone Willow Vet Services	Lacombe	403-786-9979	No	Yes - Horses
119	Leduc Animal Clinic	Leduc	780-986-3913	Yes	No

## APPENDIX B (CONTINUED)

#	Clinic Name	Location	Phone Number	Medical Care	Boarding
120	The Pet Hospital	Leduc	780-986-3297	Yes	Yes
121	Green Acres Animal Hospital	Lethbridge	403-327-8660	Yes	Yes
122	Manning Veterinary Clinic	Manning	780-836-3770	Yes	Yes
123	Cypress View Vet Clinic	Medicine Hat	403-527-1825	Yes	Yes
124	Morinville Vet Clinic	Morinville	780-939-3133	Yes	Yes
125	Nanton Vet Clinic	Nanton	403-646-2060	Yes	Yes
126	Chinook Country Vet Clinic	Olds	403-556-6414 or 403-507-3537	Yes	Yes - Cats
127	Olds Pet Clinic	Olds	403-556-1151	Yes	Minimal
128	Peace River Vet Clinic	Peace River	780-624-1606	Yes	Yes
129	Central Veterinary Clinic	Ponoka	403-783-5200	Yes	No
130	Animal Emergency Hospital	Red Deer	403-347-3277	Yes	Minimal
131	Cedarwood Vet Hospital	Red Deer	403-347-2676	Yes	Minimal
132	Clearview Dog & Cat Hospital	Red Deer	403-343-8883	Yes	Yes
133	Deer Park Pet Hospital	Red Deer	403-342-5200	Yes	Minimal
134	East Hill Dog & Cat Hospital	Red Deer	403-343-7387	Yes	Yes
135	Heide Vet Services	Red Deer	403-896-4630	Yes - Horses	Yes - Horses
136	Lomsnes Vet Hospital	Red Deer	403-342-6040	Yes	No
137	Red Deer Veterinary Clinic	Red Deer	403-346-3937	Yes	Minimal
138	Taylor Veterinary Clinic	Red Deer	403-343-0888	Yes	Yes
139	Rimbey Vet Clinic	Rimbey	403-843-2234	Yes	Yes
140	Sangudo Veterinary Clinic	Sangudo	780-785-2200	Yes	Yes
141	Iron Creek Vet Hospital	Sedgewick	780-384-0003	Yes	Minimal
142	Hastings Lake Animal Hospital	Sherwood Park	780-662-2227	Yes	Yes
143	Lakeside Vet Clinic	Sherwood Park	780-467-6223	Yes	No
144	Park Veterinary Centre	Sherwood Park	780-417-1119	Yes	No
145	Sherwood Veterinary Clinic	Sherwood Park	587-269-4000	Yes	No
146	WestWind Vet Clinic	Sherwood Park	780-662-0112	Yes	Yes
147	Slave Lake Veterinary Services	Slave Lake	780-849-2382	Yes	No
148	Best Friend's Animal Hospital	Spruce Grove	780-962-1281	Yes	Yes - Cats & Caged

#	Clinic Name	Location	Phone Number	Medical Care	Boarding
149	Parkland Vet Clinic	Spruce Grove	780-962-6300	Yes	Yes
150	Spruce Grove Vet Clinic	Spruce Grove	780-962-3233	Yes	Yes
151	Tri-Municipal Vet Clinic	Spruce Grove	780-571-3200	Yes	Yes
152	La Maison Des Chats Cat Clinic	St. Albert	780-459-7387	Yes - Cats	Minimal - Cats
153	Mission Ridge Animal Hospital	St. Albert	780-458-3833	Yes	Minimal - Cats
154	St. Albert Pet Clinic	St. Albert	780-459-3600	Yes	Yes - Cats
155	Sturgeon Animal Hospital	St. Albert	780-419-2800	Yes	Yes
156	Tudor Glen Vet Hospital	St. Albert	780-458-6051	Yes	Minimal
157	St. Paul Veterinary Clinic	St. Paul	780-645-3921	Yes	Yes
158	Stettler Veterinary Clinic	Stettler	403-742-3338	Yes	Yes
159	Meridian Vet Clinic	Stony Plain	780-968-0700	Yes	Yes
160	Stony Plain Vet Clinic	Stony Plain	780-963-2258	Yes	Yes
161	Animal Care Centre of Strathmore	Strathmore	403-901-1800	Yes	Yes
162	Pathways Animal Clinic	Sylvan Lake	403-887-5700	Yes	Yes SmMedDogs
163	Santa Fe Vet Services	Sylvan Lake	403-887-3650	Yes - Horses	No
164	Sylvan Lake Veterinary Clinic	Sylvan Lake	403-887-4240	Yes	No
165	Valley Vet Clinic	Three Hills	403-443-5600	Yes	Yes
166	Valley Vet Clinic	Trochu	403-442-3048	Yes	Yes
167	Greenvew Vet Clinic	Valleyview	780-524-4616	Yes	Yes
168	Lakeland College	Vermilion	780-853-8626	No	Yes
169	Vermilion Veterinary Clinic	Vermilion	780-853-5904	Yes	Yes
170	Wainwright Veterinary Services	Wainwright	780-842-2223	Yes	Yes
171	Westlock Veterinary Center	Westlock	780-349-3663	Yes	Yes
172	Wetaskiwin Animal Clinic	Wetaskiwin	780-352-7006	Yes	Yes
173	Wetaskiwin Vet Hospital	Wetaskiwin	780-352-6036	Yes	Minimal
174	Whitecourt Veterinary Clinic	Whitecourt	780-778-5767	Yes	Yes







## APPENDIX C

### ABVMA PLAN FOR ANIMAL INTAKE AND CARE

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## ANIMAL CARE – GENERAL

### PRINCIPLES

Animals are under the care and custody of a Peace Officer (no single officer is specified) acting under the authority of the *Animal Protection Act* and the declared state of emergency.

The SPCA has been delegated the operation that we have gathered here to carry out.

Veterinarians and veterinary technologists will practice to the acceptable professional standards of veterinary medicine.

The Operations Section Chief in Fort McMurray said he does not want to lose any animals due to transport, we have the same on this end.

We collectively have an obligation to the group, but also the individual animals.

This is a reunification effort. There are many veterinary practices in Edmonton and surrounding areas that have offered help. For individual animals that cannot be appropriately treated on site, transfers can and will be arranged.

## BIOSECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

### VACCINATION

The majority of the animals are not strays but are owned animals.

Mass vaccination on entry has been determined to not be necessary.

### PARASITE TREATMENT

The majority of the animals are not strays but are owned animals.

We have received word that some of the animals captured as strays (not shipped) have fleas and that fleas may be a problem.

All animals will receive a treatment with Advantage at Triage.

Sanitation plans will be implemented by animal care attendants in consultation with veterinarians on site.



# ANIMAL INTAKE

## PROPOSED AREA

West side of building near the loading dock

**\*\* AREAS FOR EACH WILL DEPEND ON CONSULTATION WITH TEAM SETTING UP ON SITE AT 11:00 AM**

## PERSONNEL

Two (2) Animal Care Attendants

## EQUIPMENT

Tables, Intake Forms, Pens, Paper collars, markers

## PROCEDURE

Animals are off loaded from trucks to a defined temporary holding in the Intake area

Animal Care attendant at the intake desk will assign an Identification number from sequentially numbered collars and that is written on the Intake Form

Date and time of Arrival is noted on the Intake Form

Transfer of information from the paperwork that accompanies the animal to the intake form

The animal is then available to move to a triage team

**\*\* PROCEDURE MAY EVOLVE TO INCLUDE HAVING A LAPTOP CAPTURING INFORMATION TO SPREADSHEET AT THIS STEP**

## ANIMAL MOVEMENT

Once Intake Form information is completed, animal may move to a Triage Team



# TRIAGE

## PROPOSED AREA

### DOGS

South side of the building in the Main Area

### CATS

Given the information that there may be larger number of cats than dogs, it may be that the “controlled room” be used as a cat triage and holding area.

**THE TRIAGE AREAS TO ACCOMMODATE FOR CATS MAY BE AMENDED ACCORDING TO INPUT FROM THE VETERINARY TEAM DURING SET UP AT 11:00 AM ON SUNDAY.**

## PERSONNEL

6-7 teams consisting of one (1) veterinarian, one (1) veterinary technologist and one (1) animal care attendant

**\*\* POSSIBLE THAT THE NUMBER OF TEAMS WILL VARY ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES ESPECIALLY FOR THE OVERNIGHT SUNDAY SHIFT**

**\*\* OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE FOR SUNDAY DAY IS TO FILL SHIFTS OF VOLUNTEER VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS FOR THE OVERNIGHT SHIFTS**

## PROCEDURE

Animal will only be removed from kennel when being attended to by the Triage Team

For each animal the Team will:

1. Complete the Intake Form
2. Take a picture, with a whiteboard upon which the identification number is written.
3. complete a Physical exam
4. treat with Advantage
5. Identify and refer cases that require additional medical care
6. Determine food and exercise requirements
7. Complete medical record
8. Color coded duct tape for animal temperament is applied to the kennel
  - a. Red duct tape for CAUTION
9. The completed Intake Form is copied and the animal is moved to either the general holding area or to the treatment area

## TRIAGE (CONTINUED)

**\*\* NEED TO DETERMINE HOW MANY CAMERAS ARE AVAILABLE AND HAVE FOR EACH TRIAGE TEAM OR ONE PHOTOGRAPHER AVAILABLE FOR DOGS AND ONE FOR CATS.**

### **\*\* FORMS**

Intake form, Medical Record and Animal Care Form will be provided for each animal

Animal treatment form

Animal care forms will be provided for each animal

### **ANIMAL MOVEMENT**

Animals will move from the Triage Area with completed paperwork to the general holding area or treatment area.

**\*\* CONSIDERATION WILL BE MADE FOR ESTABLISHING A QUARANTINE AREA WITH THE VETERINARY TEAM ON SITE SUNDAY AT 11:00 AM**

### **DOCUMENTATION**

The completed intake form must be provided to the intake desk for entering of the information into the spreadsheet.





## TREATMENT TEAM

### PROPOSED AREA

One of the offices on the north side of the building on the first floor.

### PERSONNEL: DOGS

One (1) team consisting of one (1) veterinarian, one (1) veterinary technologist and one (1) animal care attendant

**\*\* MAY NEED TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO A CAT TREATMENT TEAM.**

Will require a separate area and people that are not involved with triage.

Animals will remain in a separate treatment area under the responsibility of the Treatment Team.

The Treatment Team will:

1. Will determine the treatment required
2. Will initiate acceptable treatment on site, initially includes:
  - a. IV Fluids
  - b. Minor wound care
  - c. Symptomatic treatment of inappetence and diarrhea
3. Communicating and establishing treatment plan for ongoing care.
4. Will arrange for referral to a veterinary practice if medically required. (SEE PROCESS ON FOLLOWING PAGE)
5. Complete medical record.

## REFERRAL PROCESS

### PROCEDURE

Treatment Team will report to the medical branch supervisor any case where an animal requires care beyond what can be provided on site.

Review the indications for the proposed referral in consultation with the veterinarian.

Determine which veterinary practice will accept the referral. (List from ABVMA)

If owner is available for contact, the owner will be contacted for consent to be moved and treated.

Branch Supervisor will arrange for transport, communicate with the referral veterinary practice and the owner, if available.

## BATHING OR GROOMING TEAM

**WILL NEED TO DETERMINE AN AREA FOR BATHING AND GROOMING ON SITE SUNDAY AT 11:00 WITH THE TREATMENT TEAM.**



## BIOSECURITY – CLEANING AND SANITATION

### KENNEL CLEANING PROCEDURES

Work in teams of two, one person takes the dog for a walk/handler.

Second person on the team will clean the kennel and replace the water.

Should water be provided in kennels?

If dog upsets the water on a regular basis?

Feeding schedule – should align with the walking / cleaning schedule.

### SANITATION

1. Processing areas, high traffic areas
2. Between each animal
3. Entire area once a day
4. Feces
5. Removed daily (or twice daily) from runs and cages
6. Removed immediately from play areas
7. Broad spectrum disinfection
8. Use according to product label
9. New solutions daily or when visibly dirty
10. Clean and disinfect equipment after use
11. Separate equipment for isolation animals

## BIOSECURITY – QUARANTINE

### PROPOSED AREA

The south west corner of the building near the loading docks.

**\*\* THIS MAY ONLY BE SET UP IF DETERMINED AS NECESSARY. WILL CONSULT WITH THE VETERINARY TEAM ON SITE ON SUNDAY AT 11:00**

One of the triage teams will act as a quarantine team if necessary.

Will designate a quarantine area.



*Intake Form will be finalized and printed Sunday afternoon*

Identification number (collar):

Date of intake:                      Time of Intake:                      Animal Species: Canine                      Feline                      Other

Breed Type:

Color:

Coat Description:

Sex:    M            M/N    F            F/S

Patient name (if known):

Patient identification:    microchip                      tattoo (location)                      collar/tag                      none

YMM Identification:

CAUTION:    Yes    /    No

**\*\* if yes apply RED DUCT TAPE on the TOP of the kennel \*\***

Owner Name:

Owner Address:

Owner phone number (if available):

Owner email:

Location in Facility:

Animal Reunification

Date of release:

Time of release:

Name of Owner or designate:

ID provided:

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_







**MEDICAL RECORD**

Patient identification number:

Page number:

Date/time:

*Subjective –*

*Objective –*

Temperature:                      HR:                      RR:                      mm/CRT:                      hydration:

Pain score:

Mentation:

Body condition:

Skin/coat:

Paws:

Eyes:

Ears:

Nose/Throat:

Oral cavity:

Cardiovascular:

Respiratory:

Gastrointestinal:

Musculoskeletal:

Neurological:

Urogenital:

*Assessment:*

*Plan:*

**DVM name:**

**DVM signature:**

TREATMENT SHEET

Patient identification number:

Date:

Problem list:

	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Attitude																								
T																								
P																								
R																								
mm/CRT																								
weight																								
Fluids																								
Meds																								
Food																								
Offered																								
Ingested																								
Water																								
Offered																								
Ingested																								
Walk																								
Urine																								
BM																								
Vomit?																								
Diarrhea?																								

## ANIMAL HOUSING

Patient identification number:

Date:

	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Behaviour																								
Food																								
Type																								
Amount																								
Water																								
Amount																								
Walk																								
Urine																								
BM																								
Vomit?																								
Diarrhea?																								

Comments (please note the time & your name):

PLEASE BRING ANY CONCERNS YOU MAY HAVE WITH THIS PET TO THE ATTENTION OF YOUR SUPERVISOR.

## APPENDIX D

May 9 – 15, 2016 Veterinarian Volunteers – Fort McMurray Reunification Site

Name	Volunteer Hours	Location
Alana Shrubsole-Cockwill	8	Edmonton
Alisha Glasier	Not known	Not known
Alison Cox	15	Edmonton
Alison Jackson	17	Parkland County
Amanda Evans	12	Sherwood Park
Amber Johnanson	Not known	Not known
Becky Whittle	16	Calgary
Caitlyn McLagan	Not known	Not known
Candace Wenzel	8	Ponoka
Cary Hashizume	160	Edmonton
Charlene Knapp-Miller	32	Mayerthorpe
Charlene Steven	9	Edmonton
Chris Bowyer	52	Barrhead
Christie Gingras	13	Edmonton
Colleen Pratt	16	Edmonton
Colleen Begg	10	Edmonton
Crystal Makwana	20	Calgary
Dana Kelly	8	Edmonton
Dana Madsen	Not known	Not known
Dave Bjolin	36	Calgary
Elaine Degrandpre	8	Edmonton
Elaine Murphy	22	Calgary
Eryn Hanak	35	Edmonton
Gerald Hauer	8	Edmonton
Gina Thull	12	Stony Plain
Hannah Campbell	90	Fort McMurray
Heather Steele	Not known	Not known
Hussein Keshwani	9	Edmonton
Jackie Simmonds	40	Edmonton
Jagdish Patel	18	Edmonton

Name	Volunteer Hours	Location
Jasmine Hardy	8	Ponoka
Jayson Van Sluys	32	Calgary
Jenefer Stillion	8	Calgary
Jennifer McCarron	12	Beaumont
Jessie Wilkins	20	Calgary
Jim Marshall	20	Hinton
Jocelyn Forseille	7	Spruce Grove
Jody Barry	10	Spruce Grove
Kaitlyn Varga	Not known	Not known
Karen Allen	60	Sherwood Park
Kate Yates	20	Calgary
Kathy Chappell	Not known	Not known
Katie Van Sluys	20	Calgary
Kelly Burgess	Not known	Not known
Kelti Kachur	4	Edmonton
Ken Cockwill	8	Edmonton
Ken Keeler	10	Edmonton
Kevin MacAulay	10	Calgary
Kim Robinson	16	Sherwood Park
Kim Romanufa	40	Sherwood Park
Kristel Horvath	8	Edmonton
Laverne Nikiforuk	Not known	Not known
Leslie Powell	208	Fort McMurray
Louis Kwantes	6	Sherwood Park
Lucie Levy	12	Edmonton
Luning Zhou	Not known	Not known
Mahdu Ravi	9	Edmonton
Marg Wood	Not known	Not known
Margaret Fisher	5	Edmonton
Marissa Rodrigues	4	Sherwood Park



Name	Volunteer Hours	Location
Mary Machum	12	Edmonton
Melissa Gowenlock	27	Sherwood Park
Monica Bosnyak	20	Edmonton
Nour Hashish	15	Edmonton
Patti Sinclair	12	Edson
Richard Starke	4	Vermilion
Shelly Steinacher	21	Edson
Sherif Boctor	8	Edmonton
Sherry Von Boxel	8	Edmonton
Simon Otto	9	Edmonton
Stephanie Bodnarchuk	Not known	Not known
Susan Lapointe	11	Edmonton
Suzanne Misiaszek	24	Edmonton
Tanya Marrazzo	8	Sherwood Park
Tara Walters	8	Ardrossan
Ted Purcell	12	Edmonton
Teresa Bousquet	12	Edmonton
Wendy Drohan	36	Calgary
Winnie Lam	60	Edmonton
Yvonne Stepanov	115	Fort McMurray

Total Veterinarians	Total Hours
80	1,653

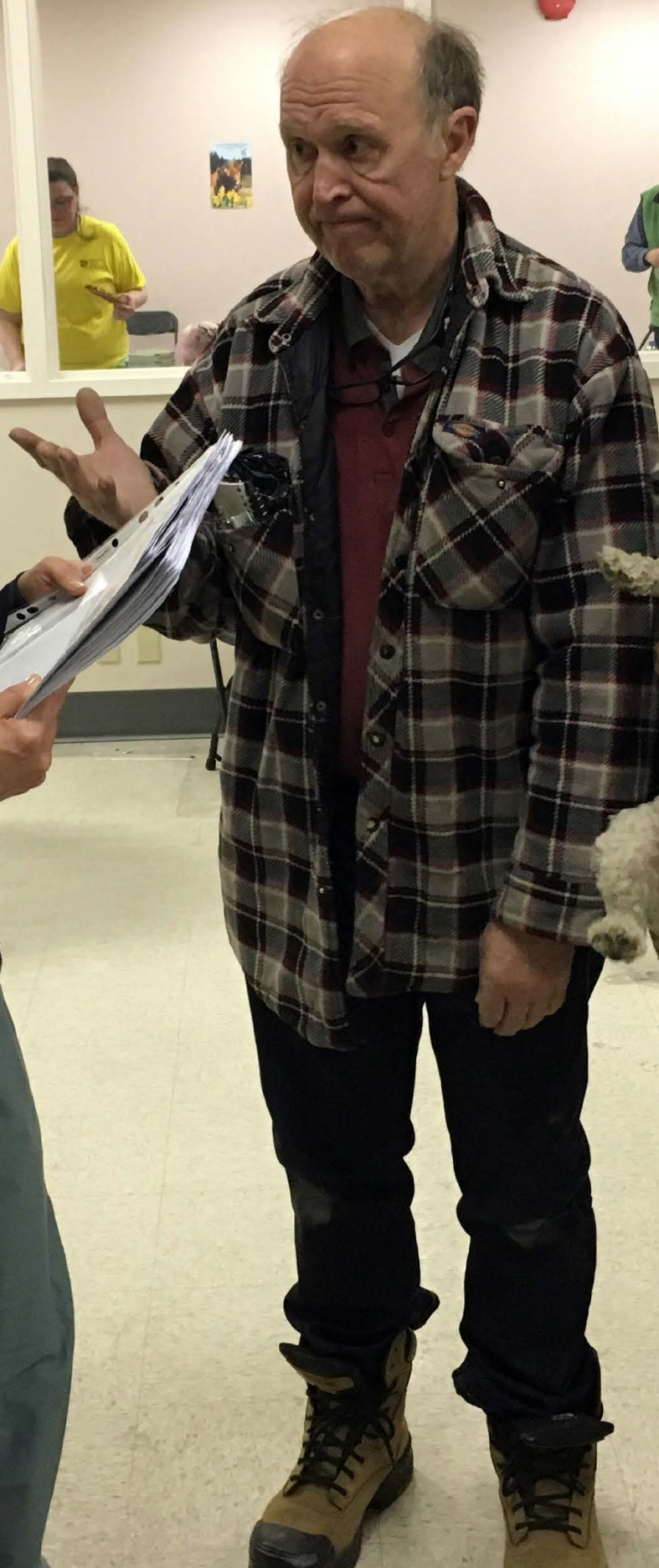
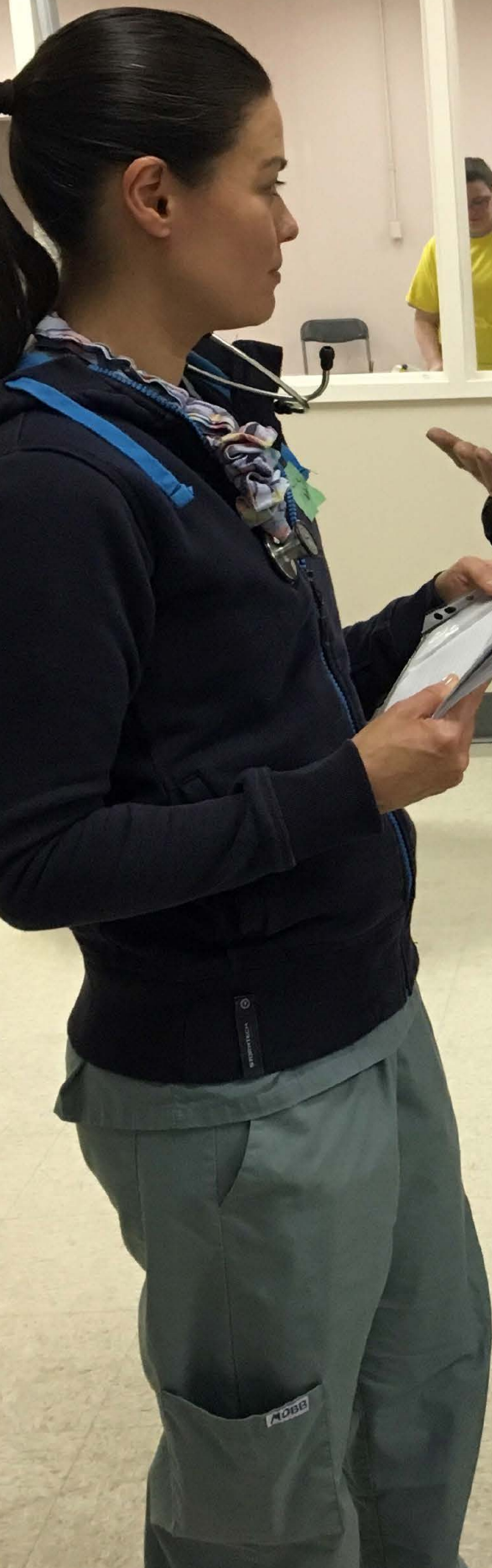
May 9 – May 15, 2016 Veterinary Technologist Volunteers – Fort McMurray Reunification Site

Name	Volunteer Hours	Location
Abigail Culleton	10	Whitecourt
Alexandra Galesloot	12	Rocky Mountain House
Alysha Visscher	30	Edmonton
Alysha Gagnon	44	Calgary
Amanda Kusch	18	Calgary
Amanda VanderHeide	38	Lethbridge
Andrea Edwards	14	Beaumont
Angela Ancelet	23	Calgary
Angela Denbow	Not known	Not known
Angela Hick-Ewing	50	Morinville
Anita Dumont	20	Devon
Ariana Lenz	120	Calgary
Ashley Kaban	4	Chipman
Brittany Mowat	Not known	Not known
Brittany Plettl	Not known	Not known
Carol Browne	8	Edmonton
Cayli Morcarski	32	Wetaskiwin
Chantell Neufeld	7	Edmonton
Chaya Rusaw	10	Red Deer
Chelsea Yukes	8	Fort Saskatchewan
Christine Skirrow	Not known	Not known
Clarissa Larson	90.5	Fort McMurray
Connie Varnhagen	60	Edmonton
Crystal Van Eaton	16	Red Deer
Dana McGowan	Not known	Not known
Dana Romijn	10	Sherwood Park
Danielle Bailey	Not known	Not known
Danielle Franson	20	Vegreville
Darcie Steffler	16	Onoway

Name	Volunteer Hours	Location
Daryna Prykhodko	60	Westlock
Doreen Tam	15	Beaumont
Elaine VanWaas	24	Vermilion
Fiona Kowalczyk	15	Onoway
Gina Kwok	12	Calgary
Hayley Mitchell	15	Edmonton
Jackie Lind	36	Sylvan Lake
Jamie Skish	Not known	Not known
Jana MacLeod	12	Fort McMurray
Jaycee Oleksyn	Not known	Not known
Jennifer Auclair	18	Edmonton
Jessie Misurko	12	Airdrie
Justine White	12	Calgary
Kacey Flett	24	Edmonton
Kara Zenner	24	Edmonton
Katherine Tutt	Not known	Not known
Katie Frost	Not known	Not known
Kay McCormack	12	Sherwood Park
Laura McGee	14	Edmonton
Laura Stack	10	Rocky Mountain House
Liz Espejo	3	Fort McMurray
Megan Sibley	10	Edmonton
Mel Robinson	20	Calgary
Melanie Morrison	8	St. Albert
Michelle Maginnis-Pehrson	Not known	Not known
Monica Clair	22	Edmonton
Nichole Boutilier	10	Barrhead
Nicole Hemminghay	16	Edmonton
Nicole MacPherson	8	Sherwood Park
Rachel MacLeod	13	Edmonton

Name	Volunteer Hours	Location
Raquel Lukye	20	Stony Plain
Rebecca King	40	Edmonton
Rhonda Danyluk	14	Whitecourt
Sandi Krucik-van Bommel	Not known	Not known
Sandra Wicks	Not known	Not known
Sara Burrows	6	Fort Saskatchewan
Sara Gouldson	Not known	Not known
Sarah Ryks	24	Edmonton
Sarah Wood	Not known	Not known
Shelly Hoyles	32	Barrhead
Sheridan Walters	12	Vermilion
Simone Barrus	4	Fort Saskatchewan
Smokey Walters	9	Edmonton
Steph Essex	Not known	Not known
Teryn Whitton	12	Edmonton
Tracy Gray	12	Calgary
Vanessa Christensen-George	16	Edmonton
Vanessa Jacula	60	Fort McMurray

Total Veterinary Technologists	Total Hours
77	1,346.5







## APPENDIX E

The World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) is an international professional association whose mission is the global improvement of emergency health care, public health, and disaster health and preparedness. To this end, WADEM promotes evidence-based best practices for disaster preparedness across multiple disciplines, including medicine, nursing, psychology, sociology, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

In April 2017 I attended the 20th WADEM Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine. The congress included plenary speakers, panel discussions, workshops, and a core scientific program presenting developments and guiding principles within disaster and emergency health. A full-day track dedicated to veterinary medicine and animal care featured presentations from Japan, Turkey, the US and Canada. Speakers shared a wide range of disaster planning and response experience, including flood-related injuries to horses, mental wellness of animal health disaster responders, and experiential, collaborative learning for veterinary students, veterinarians and other animal stakeholder groups engaged in disaster response.

Four presentations focused on animal evacuation and veterinary care in response to wildfires. On behalf of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA), I delivered two presentations regarding the ABVMA response to the Fort McMurray wildfire. One presentation provided an overview of the immediate response to the

need to retrieve, evacuate and reunite pets that were remaining in homes following the evacuation of Fort McMurray. This overview included the care of animals in Fort McMurray prior to transportation to Edmonton, including shelter in place, retrieval from homes and examination by a veterinary professional. I also reviewed how the Government of Alberta, Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the ABVMA worked to secure and establish a facility, supplies, protocols, records, volunteer veterinary professionals and auxiliary volunteers within 60 hours. The early engagement and active participation of stakeholder organizations, including but not limited to the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force and the Edmonton Humane Society, was essential to the planning and implementation of the People and Animal Reunification Centre (PARC), a short-term animal housing and veterinary care facility in Edmonton.

The second presentation elaborated on the 24-hour veterinary care provided to companion animals at PARC. Arriving in groups of ranging from two to 251 animals, a total of 1192 animals were transported from Fort McMurray to PARC between May 9 and May 19, 2016. On arrival at PARC, each animal was examined by a veterinarian, provided with species-appropriate food and shelter, and received veterinary medical care if necessary. PARC provided short-term housing for a wide variety of species; 81 dogs and 548 cats composed just over 52% of all animals (Figure 1).



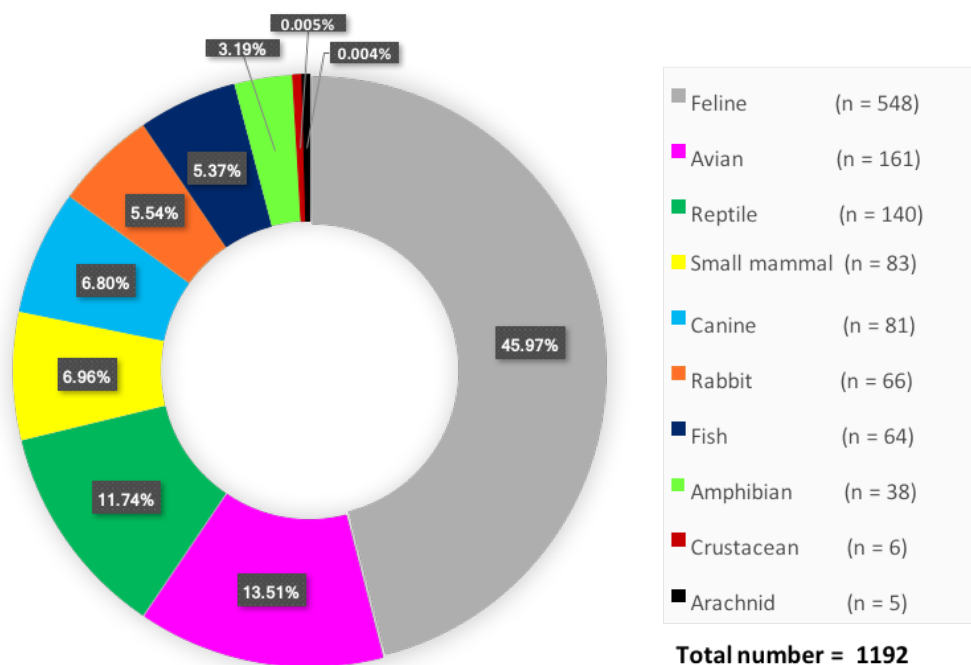


Figure 1. Evacuated animals – inventory by animal type

Seventy-eight veterinarians and 73 veterinary technologists contributed more than 2500 hours of volunteer professional service at the PARC. This service included physical examination, oversight of the health of all animals at PARC, and on-site medical care. The majority of animals received at PARC were in good health, due in large part to the care provided by veterinarians and technologists in Fort McMurray prior to transportation. As shown in Table 1, 297 of 1192 animals (24.92%) required veterinary medical care. Of these pets, 232 animals received care at PARC, and 65 animals in need of diagnostic or treatment beyond minor medical care were moved to six Edmonton-area veterinary hospitals (Table 1).

Spanning across all animal types, dehydration was the most common cause for requirement of medical treatment. While cats and rabbits were often treated for hyporexia and upper respiratory tract disease, gastrointestinal signs (vomiting and diarrhea) were prevalent among dogs. Engagement of veterinary professionals in the rescue, transportation, housing and veterinary care of evacuated animals was instrumental to the successful reunification of 86% of animals by May 20, and 97% of animals by June 30, 2016.






Table 1. Overview of animals requiring medical care

	Medical care		On-site care at PARC		Off-site care at local veterinary hospitals	
	# animals requiring medical care/ population	%	# animals	%	# animals	%
Feline	207/548	37.77	168	30.66	39	7.11
Canine	30/81	37.04	16	19.75	14	17.28
Rabbit	15/66	22.73	14	21.21	1	1.52
Reptile	27/140	19.29	23	16.43	4	2.86
Small mammal	10/83	12.05	8	9.64	2	2.41
Avian	8/161	4.96	3	1.86	5	3.10
Fish, arachnid, amphibian, crustacean	0/133	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>297/1192</b>	<b>24.92%</b>	<b>232/1192</b>	<b>19.46%</b>	<b>65/1192</b>	<b>5.45%</b>





I attended presentations from other professional fields; common themes across presentations included the critical need to recognize and take steps to mitigate psychosocial stress during and after a disaster, the link between disaster planning/preparation and community resilience (the ability of a community to respond, accommodate, transform and recover from a disaster), and the effects of climate change on the frequency and severity of natural disasters. Other principles arising from the congress included:

- the pivotal role of disaster planning. While you cannot plan exhaustively for every outcome, planning and training (via tabletop or simulation exercises) will result in more positive outcomes for the community and for those responding to a disaster.
- the importance of collaborating with other organizations, stakeholders and professions. Most disasters will encompass a scope beyond that which one organization can cope. In advance of a disaster, establishing strong working relationships between organizations can ease communication and enhance trust, mutual respect and efficient team work during response to a disaster.
- the essential need to include animals in emergency management plans and responses. Addressing the needs of animals during disasters is crucial, not only for the welfare of the animals but also the safety of the animal owner and those involved in disaster first response.

In closing, the WADEM congress was an excellent opportunity to learn about best practices in disaster preparedness, to exchange ideas about disaster medicine and to share the ABVMA response to the Fort McMurray wildfire with international colleagues. I would like to offer my heartfelt gratitude to the many veterinarians and veterinary technologists in Fort McMurray, Edmonton, and cities and towns across the province who provided essential veterinary care to animals following the evacuation of Fort McMurray. Thank you for your compassion, generosity of time and expertise, and dedication to the health and well-being of thousands of displaced animals and animal owners.

- Cary Hashizume

## APPENDIX F

Exam gloves - multiple sizes

Kling, soft roll, vetrap

Fortiflora - canine - 6 boxes

Fortiflora - feline - 6 boxes

Advantage multi - canine, 400 doses total, multiple sizes

Advantage multi - feline, 200 doses total, multiple sizes

Mirtazipine 15mg tablets - 30 tablets

Lysine - 30 tubes

Silver sulfadiazine - 30 tubes

IV plasmalyte - 1000 X 1L bags

IV catheters - 300 total, equal variety of sizes (22g, 20g, 18g)

E-collars - 100 total, variety of sizes (10, 12.5, 15, 20, 25, 30)

Clavamox - 62.5mg, 125mg, 250mg, and 375mg - eight sleeves of each size

Clavamox drops - 15 bottles

Lots of alcohol based sanitizer

Disinfectant

Muzzles - canine, 1 of each of the variety of sizes

Muzzles - feline, 1 of each of the variety of sizes

Leather gloves - 1 set

(Gastro canine food - 200 pounds dry, 10 cases of canned)

40 cases of canned a/d

Gastro feline food - 100 pounds dry, 20 cases canned

100 Litter boxes









## APPENDIX G

### AN OUTPOURING OF COMPASSION FROM ALBERTA VETERINARIANS AND TECHNOLOGISTS IN WAKE OF FORT MCMURRAY FIRE

May 17, 2016

The [Alberta Veterinary Medical Association](#) (ABVMA) has been working with the [Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force](#), [Alberta SPCA](#) and the [Edmonton Humane Society](#) over the past week to operate the Edmonton based Reception Centre for animals being evacuated from Fort McMurray.

Over the course of the past week, 1,124 animals were checked in and examined by a veterinarian. Approximately 10% of the animals required some form of veterinary care, either provided on site or at veterinary practices in the Edmonton area. 725 animals have been reunited with their owners and 169 animals are scheduled for reunion in the next 24 hours. The remainder will be housed in temporary care until reunited with their owners.

On May 4, the ABVMA put out a call to practices willing to provide veterinary medical care and/or boarding to residents evacuating the Fort McMurray wildfires. [Nearly 175 practices stepped forward](#) to provide medical care and/or boarding for pets of displaced owners. In addition, more than 100 technologists came forward to volunteer at the Edmonton Expo Centre, one of the initial evacuation centres in Edmonton. Additionally, nearly 80 veterinarians and technologists volunteered to assist on site in Fort McMurray if called upon to do so.

Meanwhile back in Fort McMurray the Fort McMurray veterinarians and veterinary technologists were back in their community as soon as they were given permission to do beginning May 6.

On May 9, volunteer efforts were required once again to work with partner organizations at the Edmonton based Reception Centre for evacuated pets. Over the following week, close to 150 veterinarians and RVTs contributed well over 1000 hours of volunteer time at the centre alone.

The ABVMA would like to take this opportunity to recognize the overwhelming response from the entire ABVMA community throughout this crisis. Thank you to all practices, veterinarians and technologists that volunteered or provided resources during this disaster response. This truly highlights the selfless and dedicated members of the veterinary profession in Alberta.

See the story on [CTV \(Skip to 11:39\)](#)

See the story on [CBC \(Skip to 3:28\)](#)

See the story on [Global \(Skip to 5:49\)](#)

## Thank you ABVMA Volunteers!







## THE NEED

The Fort McMurray fires devastated the community, but it's in times like these that Albertans, linked by our common heritage, show a profound sense of community. It isn't just local, it extends to people throughout the province. The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association's (ABVMA) members have stepped up in this time of need to provide essential services to Fort McMurray's animals, and pet owners. The ABVMA is moved by their members' commitment to the cause of animal welfare. In collaboration with the Alberta SPCA, the Edmonton Humane Society, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, the City of Edmonton, and the Alberta Spay and Neuter Task Force, the ABVMA and its members have been working tirelessly to treat and care for pets who have been separated from their families, as the effort to reunite them continues.







## THE PLAN

Since the Slave Lake fire, the ABVMA has worked closely with the City of Edmonton on refining emergency response plans, to ensure the safe evacuation of pets in times of crisis. These efforts informed the efficient and effective crisis response to the Fort McMurray fire. Ensuring the health and welfare of these animals was the ABVMA's first priority and its primary role in the collective effort. While the organizations we worked with focused on collecting animals and reuniting them with their families, ABVMA volunteers managed triage, intake, and veterinary care. Within days, this operation had saved nearly a thousand animal lives and reunited hundreds of pets with their families. Given the scope of the emergency response and the mere hours in which it

was coordinated, the situation would have been chaotic if not for the compassion and commitment of our team and other amazing organizations that contributed to the effort.

The plan included:

- Veterinary triage and care on site in Fort McMurray
- Veterinary technologists' oversight of animals at the Expo Centre Northlands Reception Centre
- Veterinary triage and care at the Edmonton Animal Reunification Centre



## THE PROCESS

Hundreds of cats, dogs, rabbits, reptiles, birds, and other species received veterinary examinations on arrival. Each animal was then moved to species-specific holding areas, where they received food and attention from staff and volunteers, and any additional treatment, if necessary. If the initial examination revealed concern, the animal would either receive treatment on-site or be transported to an ABVMA member's clinic for care. When the ABVMA put out the word to our members that Fort McMurray's animals were in need of help, the response was overwhelming. ABVMA members selflessly contributed their time and expertise, with no expectation of reward; this is a humbling testament to their dedication to animal welfare. ABVMA members knew that every animal in the facility was a beloved member of someone's family, and this reality inspired them to keep on giving.











## THE FACILITY

The facility's walls were lined with supplies and extra kennels. Volunteers cycled from supply areas to holding areas to the reception area to examination rooms day and night. Every animal had its own kennel, each with listed mealtimes and, in many cases, required treatments. Registered veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and volunteers doted over the animals, making sure they received the care they needed until their families arrived for heart-warming reunions.

## THE REASON

When an animal's owner arrived they were often brought to tears at the sight of their pet. Volunteers shared those tears as they watched a cat or dog leap into the arms of its owner, reunited at last. And then the volunteers returned to work, looking after all of the other animals awaiting their reunions.

## THE HEROES

Our members' professionalism, expertise, and compassion for animal welfare was an unquestionable asset to this emergency response. For that reason, we offer our humble gratitude to our members and all of the volunteers who have helped. One of our members, Dr. Richard Starke, expresses this sentiment beautifully and with touching honesty in the video below.

## COMMENTS FROM THE CAPITAL

Vermilion-Lloydminster MLA and ABVMA member Dr. Richard Starke acknowledges the outpouring of compassion by veterinarians and technologists in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=3&v=3qXXEEI94-k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=3qXXEEI94-k)

“

I was struck, but not surprised by, the selfless dedication of my Alberta Veterinary Medical Association colleagues, veterinarians and animal health technologists, some who have been there, on duty for days with only a few hours sleep... I've always been proud to be a veterinarian, but never more so than yesterday.

- Dr. Richard Starke, DVM

”





## APPENDIX H

### **OUTPOURING OF COMPASSION FROM ALBERTA VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS IN WAKE OF FORT MCMURRAY FIRE**

For immediate release...

(Edmonton, AB — May 13th, 2016) The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association is inviting media to the Nexus Centre where an overwhelming volunteer veterinary effort is currently underway to care for pets separated from their families following the wildfire that devastated Fort McMurray.

Since animal intake began at Edmonton's Nexus Centre on Monday, May 9th, nearly 150 veterinarians and registered veterinary technologists (RVTs) have contributed well over 1000 hours of volunteer time, fulfilling a vital role in the coordinated rescue effort to reunite Fort McMurray's animals with their owners.

"Our members have been working around the clock to provide triage and entrance examinations as animals arrive, as well as ongoing monitoring of animal health. There are also over 170 practices across the province that have offered assistance to help meet the needs of these animals," said Alberta Veterinary Association (ABVMA) spokesperson, Dr. Phil Buote. "It is inspiring to see our veterinary health teams volunteering their services without hesitation, to ensure these animals receive the medical attention they need during this stressful and temporary separation from their loving family members."

In times of crisis when animals are cared for in temporary facilities such as the Nexus Centre, the risk of disease outbreak and other potential animal health issues becomes a legitimate concern. Through their contributions, Alberta veterinarians and RVTs are helping to manage these risks so that pet owners are reunited with happy and healthy pets.

"Pet owners can help in this effort," says Dr. Buote, "by ensuring they reunite with their pets as soon as possible," adding that the safest place for any pet is in the loving care of his or her owner.

Media availability will be held on Saturday, May 14th, between 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Dr. Phil Buote and Dr. Karen Allen, registered veterinarians with the ABVMA, and Tracy Grey, registered veterinary technologist, will be available to speak with media and demonstrate the veterinary care being provided to animals who are temporarily sheltered at the centre.

For more information, please contact Travis Grant at 780-709-8994.

The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) is the professional regulatory organization governing the practice of veterinary medicine in Alberta under the authority of the Veterinary Profession Act. As a self-governing profession, the ABVMA performs its regulatory and professional enhancement functions in accordance with the law and in a manner responsible to the public of Alberta. Providing leadership in animal health and welfare is a core objective of the ABVMA.



## APPENDIX I

Emergent planning for the veterinary care and short-term housing of companion animals evacuated due to a wildfire in Alberta, Canada

*Cary Hashizume<sup>1</sup>, Phil Buote<sup>2</sup>*

1. Calgary Animal Referral and  
Emergency Centre Animal Hospital  
7140 – 12 Street SE,  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2H 2Y4
2. Alberta Veterinary Medical Association  
Building #3, Suite 104, 9452 – 51 Avenue NW,  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 5A6

This case study describes emergent planning for the veterinary care and short-term housing of companion animals evacuated due to a wildfire.

In response to a wildfire, 88,000 residents of Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada were evacuated from their homes. The short-notice evacuation and immediate threat of fire prevented many residents from retrieving companion animals before leaving the city. Measures for interim animal care, including shelter in place, retrieval from homes, examination by a veterinary professional, and staging at a local facility were instituted. Animals were then to be transported to the nearest metropolitan centre for temporary housing.

Representatives from the government of Alberta, the Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association were called upon to plan and implement solutions for veterinary care and short-term housing of animals in Edmonton, Alberta.

Over the course of one weekend, organizations worked collaboratively to secure and establish a facility, equipment, supplies, and veterinary professional and auxiliary volunteers. With the assistance of a commercial realtor, a vacant warehouse was chosen as a suitable facility. A local registered charity that offers animal wellness services to First Nations communities provided support with experienced personnel, equipment, and supplies. Protocols for animal intake, triage, housing, veterinary care, and treatment of sick and injured animals were created. Roles for veterinarians and veterinary technologists were defined. Medical records, including examination, treatment, and housing forms, were developed. In order to provide continuous oversight of all aspects of animal care, requests for volunteer veterinarians and veterinary technologists were disseminated.

Within 56 hours of request, and without a prior plan or secure source of supplies or equipment, the short-term housing facility was operational and received the first intake of animals. Over an 11 day period, 1192 animals were examined, provided with medical treatment as necessary, and housed.

Veterinary oversight of a short-term housing and veterinary care facility for companion animals evacuated due to a wildfire in Alberta, Canada

*Cary Hashizume<sup>1</sup>, Phil Buote<sup>2</sup>*

1. Calgary Animal Referral and Emergency Centre Animal Hospital  
7140 – 12 Street SE,  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2H 2Y4
2. Alberta Veterinary Medical Association  
Building #3, Suite 104, 9452 – 51 Avenue NW,  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 5A6

This case study describes veterinary oversight of a short-term housing and veterinary care facility for animals evacuated due to a wildfire.

Under significant threat of a wildfire, a short-notice mandatory evacuation order was issued for the city of Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada. Eighty-eight thousand residents fled the city. Given the unforeseen nature of the evacuation, many residents had to leave their companion animals behind. With owner permission, animals were retrieved from their homes, examined by a veterinary professional, and staged at a local facility. Stable animals were transported by ground to an 80,000 square foot facility in Edmonton, Alberta for short-term housing, veterinary care, and reunification.

Under the direction of representatives of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, 24 hour veterinary oversight was provided for all aspects of animal care, including intake, triage, housing, and medical treatment. Animals arrived in Edmonton in groups ranging between 16 and 251 animals. Pending anticipated intake volume, a minimum of 2 and maximum of 24 veterinary professionals were at the facility at any given time. Upon arrival, each animal underwent a physical examination by a veterinarian. Animals in good health were cared for in species-specific housing areas. Animals requiring minor medical care were treated by a veterinarian and housed in a medical treatment area. Given a limited scope of diagnostic and therapeutic resources, animals in need of testing or treatment beyond minor care were transferred to local veterinary practices for assessment and medical treatment.

Between 9 May and 19 May 2016, 1192 companion animals (feline, avian, small mammal, reptile, amphibian, canine, and arachnid) were received, examined, provided with veterinary care, and housed. Local veterinary practices contributed essential care to sick and injured animals. Veterinary oversight of the short-term housing facility would not have been possible without the compassion and expertise of 151 volunteer veterinary professionals.



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