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**Background**

Disasters around the world are increasing in frequency and magnitude, threatening our work to rescue and care for animals in need. Now is the time to prepare.

This evacuation plan template has been designed to assist wildlife rehabilitation groups to evacuate animals and occupants of the facility in the event of a disaster or other emergency. Activation of the plan should be at the direction of Emergency Services. We hope that you never have to evacuate your facility, but if you need to, this plan will help guide the process.

An evacuation plan is only one part of an Emergency Management Plan, which will ensure your organization is prepared to manage operations when faced with a variety of risks. We recommend every wildlife rehabilitation group continue to prepare for future emergencies by developing an Emergency Management Plan.

This template was designed by the International Fund for Animal Welfare and developed in collaboration with local wildlife rehabilitation professionals, including those experienced in evacuating their facility. We are grateful for the sharing of lessons learned to help make this a useful, practical tool.

For more information on how to develop this plan, please refer to the Emergency Evacuation Guidelines or contact Jennifer Gardner at jgardner@ifaw.org or Nicole Rojas Marin at nmarin@ifaw.org.

Disclaimer: These materials are intended to assist wildlife rehabilitation groups and individual wildlife carers. While we attempt to address specific topics, it is not possible to include everything necessary. Thus, this information must be understood as a tool rather than a complete presentation of all problems and issues regarding disaster management. It is also generic and may not be accurate for all circumstances. IFAW expressly disclaims responsibility, and shall have no liability for any damages, loss or injury whatsoever suffered as a result of your reliance on the information contained in these materials.

**Emergency Evacuation Plan**

**Carer Information** **Wildlife Group Information**

Name……………………………………………. Name……………………………………………….

Address……………………………………........ Phone number…………………………………….

Phone number………………………………….

License Number……………………………….. Date last updated………………………………….

**Step 1. Identify Emergency Support Network**

**Emergency Contacts**

List contact details such as website, phone number, and/or email of the nearest emergency services and wildlife establishments that could provide support during an emergency.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Local Agency | Contact Information |
| Rural Fire Service (RFS) | Insert Text |
| Police Force |  |
| Hospital |  |
| Government Council |  |
| Veterinary Hospital |  |
| Wildlife Zoo/Sanctuary |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**Temporary Placement**

List of facilities or carers with the capacity and skills to take in evacuated animals during an event.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Phone Number/ Email | Address | Holding Capacity | Estimated Traveling Time | Confirmed Date |
| Insert Text | Insert Text | Insert Text | Insert Text | Insert Text | Insert Text |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**Step 2. Animal Management**

**Animal list**

List animals of in care at the beginning of each disaster season or beginning of an emergency event.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **Total Number** | **Name ID** | **Medical/Behavior** **Priority** | **Temporary Facility/carer** |
| Insert Text | Insert Text | Insert Text | Insert Text | Insert Text |
|   |   |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |   |   |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |   |   |   |
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|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |   |   |   |
|  |   |   |   |   |

**Brief description of each category and estimated packing time**

 Category 1

 Category 2

**Step 3. Resources**

**Roles and Responsibilities**

Common activities that you may need help with and people who can assist in a disaster event and evacuation such as a driver, veterinarian and animal handler.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Role | Responsibilities | Name and Contact Details | Confirmed |
| Insert Text | Insert Text |  Insert Text |[x]
|  |   |  |[ ]
|  |  |  |[ ]
|  |  |  |[ ]
|  |  |  |[ ]
|  |  |  |[ ]
|  |  |  |[ ]
|  |  |  |[ ]
|  |  |  |[ ]
|  |  |  |[ ]

**Supplies and Equipment**

Common resources needed to evacuate and provide continuity of care of animals such as medications, supplements and food. As well as carriers and capture equipment (including sedation drugs, if needed)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Quantity****Needed** | **Quantity Available** | **Source of** **missing items** | **Acquired** |
| Insert Text | Insert Text | Insert Text | Insert Text |[ ]
|   |  |   |   |[ ]
|   |   |   |   |[ ]
|   |   |   |   |[ ]
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|   |   |   |   |[ ]
|   |   |   |   |[x]
|   |   |   |   |[ ]

**Step 4. General Evacuation Planning**

**Site Layout**

Include a site layout identifying key areas during an evacuation or an emergency such as emergency exits, transport pickup sites, animal enclosures, supplies storage and the emergency assembly area within the property.

**Evacuation Routes Map**

Include a map of your area, highlighting main and alternate evacuation routes.

**Other Important Items to Remove**

Consider additional items you need to pack and take with you during an emergency such as personal items and electronics.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  **Description** | **Location** | **Checklist** |
| Insert Text | Insert Text |[x]
|   |  |[ ]
|  |  |[ ]
|  |  |[ ]
|  |  |[ ]

**Last Walk-Through**

Use the checklist below to perform last walk-though check to ensure and key actions are done before leaving premises during an evacuation. Items listed are suggestions.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| Keys are secure and accounted for  |[x] [x]
| Safes/locked cupboard are secured  |[ ] [ ]
| Doors and windows that closed and locked  |[x] [ ]
| Power switches turned off   |[ ] [ ]
| Surveillance equipment is operating  |[ ] [ ]
| Alarms are armed or disarmed as required  |[ ] [ ]
| Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning Equipment on/off as required   |[ ] [ ]
| Refrigerators and freezers are unplugged/plugged as required  |[ ] [ ]
| Small appliances are unplugged/plugged  |[ ] [ ]
| Fire extinguishers are updated and operable  |[ ] [ ]
| Smoke and/or heat detectors are operable  |[ ] [ ]
| Water points are operable (and signaled)  |[ ] [ ]
| Sprinkler system is operable  |[ ] [ ]
| Halon or other fire suppression system is operable  |[ ] [ ]
| Fire alarms are operable  |[ ] [ ]
| Back-up systems have been checked |[ ] [ ]
| Copy of Admin docs in USB secured |[ ] [ ]
|  |[ ] [ ]
|  |[ ] [ ]
|  |[ ] [ ]
|  |[ ] [ ]
|  |[ ] [ ]

**\*Suggested actions**

**Re-Entry Walk-Through**

Use the checklist below to perform a re-entry walk-through to ensure the facility is secure and operational for animals to return.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Description\* | Yes | No |
| Water, operational and potable |[x] [x]
| Power |[ ] [ ]
| Structures are sound |[ ] [ ]
| Animal enclosures are secure and functional |[ ] [ ]
| Appliances are operable |[ ] [ ]
| Animal food is viable |[ ] [ ]
| Animal medications are viable |[ ] [ ]
|  |[ ] [ ]
|  |[ ] [ ]
|  |[ ] [ ]
|  |[ ] [ ]
|  |[ ] [ ]

**\*Suggested resources required**

**Step 5. Action Plan**

**Action Statements**

Procedures for evacuation in the event of an extreme weather event. Delegate roles and responsibilities as outlined in Step 1.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Trigger** |  **Action** |
| **Extreme weather****season starts**Bushfire, flood, cyclone, drought   | Monitor local weather services (ie BOM, RFS) for local conditions.  Based on your Evacuation plan and current number of animals in care, check availability of:  [ ]  Personnel - make sure contact information is up to date[ ]  Temporary placement facilities or carers[ ]  Equipment and supplies[ ]  TransportationNotes: |
| **Advice alert** **is issued**A weather event has started, there is noimmediate danger Icon  Description automatically generated | Monitor local weather and Emergency Services (ie BOM, RFS) for updates.**Prepare for evacuation**[ ]  Personnel: Activate Emergency Response Team. Share plan with personnel. Consider hazards and possible health and safety issues when assigning responsibilities.[ ]  Placement: Identify and confirm availability of temporary placement facilities or carers.[ ]  Animals: Update animal list and categories. Calculate average packing time. Prepare animal ID cards.[ ]  Equipment and supplies: Stage carriers with basic supplies. Ensure adequate supplies such as food and medications are available for the number of animals currently in care. [ ]  Transportation: Check transport resource availability and make sure fuel tank is full.Reach out to your Emergency Support Network to help fulfill any identified unmet needs.Report preparation status to appropriate Local Emergency Service agency. Notes: |
| **Watch and act** **alert is issued**A weather event is in the surrounding area. There is a heightened level of threat. You need to start taking action now to protect yourself and the animals.Icon  Description automatically generated | Consult available, real-time Emergency Service resources to set evacuation decision-making criteria and timeline. **Activate evacuation plan**[ ]  Coordinate with Emergency Response Team to confirm the plan and timeline for the evacuation. [ ]  Alert personnel and temporary placement facilities or carers of the plan and timeline. [ ]  Update website and social media of the facility status.[ ]  Evacuate animals according to categories. Ensure proper paperwork, including ID cards, and supplies accompany each animal.[ ]  Perform last walk-through.Maintain communication with Emergency Response Team, personnel and Emergency Services to provide updates on the status of the emergency event and the evacuation.Notes: |
| **Emergency** **warning**This is the highest level of alert. You are in imminent danger. Icon  Description automatically generated | Monitor local weather and Emergency Services (ie BOM, RFS) for updates. Take action to survive[ ]  Team members who have not left yet must leave immediately to a safer place if possible.[ ]  If they are unable to leave, they need to get ready to take shelter in the facility.[ ]  If there are animals left on the premises that were unable to be evacuated, open the gates or drop fences to allow them to escape.Notes: |
| **All clear**Issued when the threat has passed. | After consultation and direction from Emergency Services, perform a re-entry walk-through to ensure the facility is secure and operational. If the facility is damaged, arrange longer-term placements with back-up facilities or carers.**Initiate re-entry**[ ]  Communicate with personnel and temporary placement facilities and carers of the return plan and timeline[ ]  Check paperwork to confirm animal ID before returning to enclosure.[ ]  Perform animal health assessments.[ ]  Share update on website and social media.Notes: |

**Documents to be attached to this plan:**

[ ]  MOUs/Agreements with Temporary Placement Facilities

[ ]  Site Layout of Premises

[ ]  Evacuation Routes Map

[ ]  Copy of Rescue and Rehab permit or license

**Appendix**

**ID Card -** For identification purposes, clip or tape to the animal carrier once ready to evacuate. Waterproof if possible.

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**ID Card**

Originating Carer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Temporary Placement: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Animal ID#: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Species: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Photo of Animal:

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**Care card -** Include this care card in the animal's Evacuation Kit to provide the carer with clear instructions on how to care for this animal.

**Care Card**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_AGE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_SPECIES \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ID \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ORIGINATING CARER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pre-existent conditions

[ ]  Enclosure needs:

[ ]  Diet needs:

TYPE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_QUANTITY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_FREQUENCY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Preparation instructions:

 [ ]  Medications

TREATMENT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_DOSAGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_FREQUENCY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TREATMENT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_DOSAGE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_FREQUENCY \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_