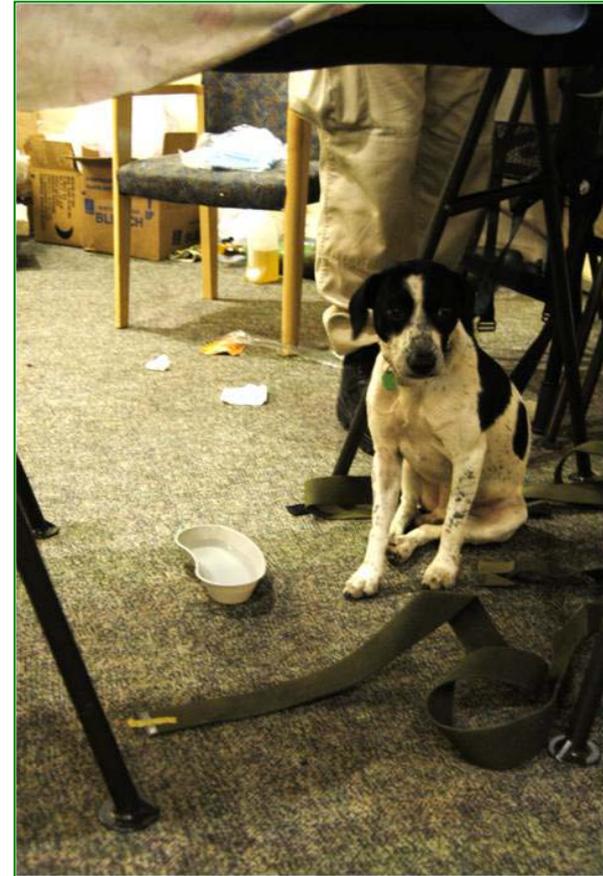


CERT Animal Response II



Module Purpose

The purpose of this module is to ensure that CERT members can respond safely and appropriately in emergency events involving animals.



Module Objectives

At the end of this module you will be able to:

- Describe the CERT role in emergency functions that involve animals
- Describe techniques and procedures for maintaining personal safety when dealing with animals during an emergency
- Demonstrate basic skills needed to perform CERT functions that may involve animals

Module Objectives, continued

- **Identify sources for additional training and information**



CERT Functions That May Involve Animals

As a CERT member, what emergency functions do you perform that *could* involve animals?



CERT Functions That May Involve Animals

- responding to unaccompanied or displaced animals
- helping to evacuate neighbors and community members who own animals
- assessing damage in your neighborhood
- assisting animal owners in rescuing their own animals
- assisting in an emergency animal shelter
- supporting the local animal response program

CERT Functions That May Involve Animals

For example:

Assisting in an
emergency
animal shelter
(lots more on this
topic coming up)



[F5 Tornado, Joplin, 2011]

CERT Responder Safety with Animals

This topic will cover:

- Personal Protective Equipment and Other Safety Gear
- Zoonotic Disease Transmission
- Responder Self-Care

CERT Responder Safety with Animals

In all cases of injury or work-related illness, report the specifics to your team leader, supervisor, or the medical officer on the scene, as soon as you can safely do so.

Safety with Animals: PPE

PPE = Personal Protective Equipment

Some examples you might use:

- safety goggles
- nitrile or latex gloves
- dust mask or surgical mask
- rigid-toed shoes or boots
- noise-proof ear plugs

Safety with Animals: PPE

Some more mundane examples of PPE:

- long sleeves
- heavy trousers
- leather or canvas gloves
- hand sanitizer
- sunscreen
- insect repellent

Safety with Animals: Zoonotic Disease

What is ZOONOSIS?

An infectious disease that can be transmitted to humans from other species

Safety with Animals: Zoonotic Disease

General Principles to Control Zoonoses

1. Wash your hands and forearms thoroughly AND use hand sanitizer after handling each animal.
2. If you are cleaning up feces and/or urine, wear gloves and change them between each animal.
3. Do not touch your face, hair, neck, etc. with used gloves or unwashed hands.
4. Do not eat, drink, smoke, or use the toilet until after you have washed.

Zoonotic Disease: Wound Infection (including Cat Scratch Fever)

What is it? A potentially life threatening infection caused by assorted bacteria

How is it transmitted? From the saliva or claws of an animal, into the bloodstream of the person, via a bite or scratch

What to look for: Pain, redness, and swelling, and/or development of pus or fluid at the wound site; Flu-like symptoms including fever and swollen lymph nodes

Zoonotic Disease: Wound Infection (including Cat Scratch Fever)

How to avoid it and what to do if you get it:

Avoid bite injury by using good judgment when handling fractious or unknown animals and by refraining from rough play with animals who might accidentally nip or scratch.

If you are bitten or scratched, immediately apply First Aid: clean the wound thoroughly, apply topical antibiotic, and bandage. Seek professional medical attention immediately for any puncture wounds.

Zoonotic Disease: Wound Infection (including Cat Scratch Fever)

Wound infection can develop rapidly, within hours in some cases, and can result in permanent damage or even death if left untreated.



Zoonotic Disease: “Ringworm”

What is it? A skin infection caused by a specific fungus – not a worm at all!

How is it transmitted? Ringworm moves easily by touch-contact amongst animals and humans. It is extremely easily spread and difficult to eradicate in animal housing.

What to look for: itchy, red “rings” or bumps on the skin, especially in body parts that come into contact with animals (e.g. hands and arms)

Zoonotic Disease: “Ringworm”

How to avoid it and what to do if you get it:

Respect isolation precautions set up by medical staff: if certain animals are under quarantine, don't go into the area in which they are housed.

Use good hygiene practices when working with unknown animals.

Cover any active lesions, should you have them, to avoid infecting others.

Zoonotic Disease: Rabies

What is it? An infection of the central nervous system caused by a virus

How is it transmitted? Rabies is (usually) transmitted to humans when the saliva of an affected animal gets into the bloodstream of the human via bite wound.

What to look for: Don't wait and see. If you are bitten by animal who is rabies-suspect, seek medical attention immediately. Rabies infection is 100% fatal in humans if not treated quickly.

Zoonotic Disease: Rabies

How to avoid it:

Avoid bite injury by using good judgment when handling fractious or unknown animals and by refraining from rough play with animals who might accidentally nip.

If you are bitten or scratched by a rabies-suspect animal, immediately clean the wound thoroughly, then seek professional medical attention.

Zoonotic Disease: Rabies

A special note on bats and rabies:

Avoid any and all contact with bats, the primary rabies vector in Berkeley. If you find a dead or injured bat, get professional for help. Bats' teeth are so tiny that they can puncture your skin without you even feeling it. If you are very concerned, discuss a rabies pre-exposure vaccine with you medical provider.

Zoonotic Disease: Leptospirosis

What is it? An infection caused by a specific bacterium

How is it transmitted? Leptospira is (usually) transmitted to humans when the urine of an infected animal gets in to mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth, genitals) or an open wound on a human

What to look for: Flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, achiness)

Zoonotic Disease: Leptospirosis

How to avoid it and what to do if you get it:

Use good hygiene practices when working with unknown animals. Stay away from cleaning water running off animal housing areas. Don't let your boots be fomites!

If you have flu-like symptoms, seek medical attention. Be sure to tell your provider about any kind of work you have been doing with animals.

Zoonotic Disease: Giardiasis

What is it? An infection of the small intestine system caused by single-celled organisms in the genus *Giardia*

How is it transmitted? Via the oral-fecal route: when contaminated feces from sick animals enters the digestive system of healthy animals (e.g. us!)

What to look for: GI distress (diarrhea alternating with constipation; cramps, bloating, nausea)

Zoonotic Disease: Giardiasis

How to avoid it and what to do if you get it:

Use good hygiene practices when working with unknown animals. Stay away from cleaning water running off animal housing areas. Don't let your boots be fomites!

If you have any symptoms of illness, seek medical attention. Be sure to tell your provider about any kind of work you have been doing with animals.

Responder Self-Care

Working with animals for extended periods in a disaster can be exhausting, stressful, and upsetting. Be sure you are protecting your physical and psychological health.

- Give yourself time to rest by getting enough sleep at night and by taking breaks throughout the day.
- Eat nutritious food throughout the day and stay hydrated. Remember, caffeine can be dehydrating.

Responder Self-Care

- Talk to other responders during downtime to help process the experiences you're having.
- Stay in touch with family and friends in “the outside world” as frequently as possible.
- Be wary of using alcohol or other substances to mask upsetting or uncomfortable emotions.
- Stay focused on the task at hand; don't get swallowed up by the “black hole of need.”
- Don't be afraid to seek help from a mental health professional. Don't let yourself become another victim of disaster.

CERT Responder Safety with Animals

**Any questions about PPE, zoonosis
or other safety topic we've just
covered?**

Up Next: Safe Animal Handling

Safe Animal Handling: Dogs

General principles:

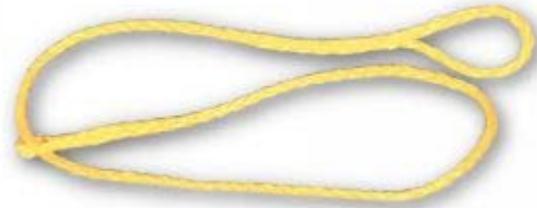
- Avoid prolonged direct eye contact
- Use a soft voice
- Approach dog with your body turned sideways
- Move toward the dog slowly
- Use a slip leash to control the dog
- Do not loom over dog
- Do not grab dog by collar

Safe Animal Handling: Dogs, cont.

- For shy/frightened dogs:
 - Seek assistance unless you are experienced
 - Move slowly and try to get dog to come to you
- For aggressive dogs: Walk away and document the location. Communicate the information to your leader.

Dog Restraint: Leashes

- Use only if dog is not aggressive
- Some dogs may panic when leashed but then calm down
- Keep dog calm as you slip on leash
- Slip leashes are best
- Improvise with rope or twine if you must



Role-play Demonstration



Dog Restraints: Holding & Carrying



Dog Restraints: Holding & Carrying

If a dog is possibly injured, consider using a blanket to carry the animal, use it like a stretcher...



Dog Restraint: Transport

Do not drive with dogs unrestrained in a vehicle.

Make sure each crate is of adequate size.

Allow only one dog per crate.

Clean and disinfect crates between animals.

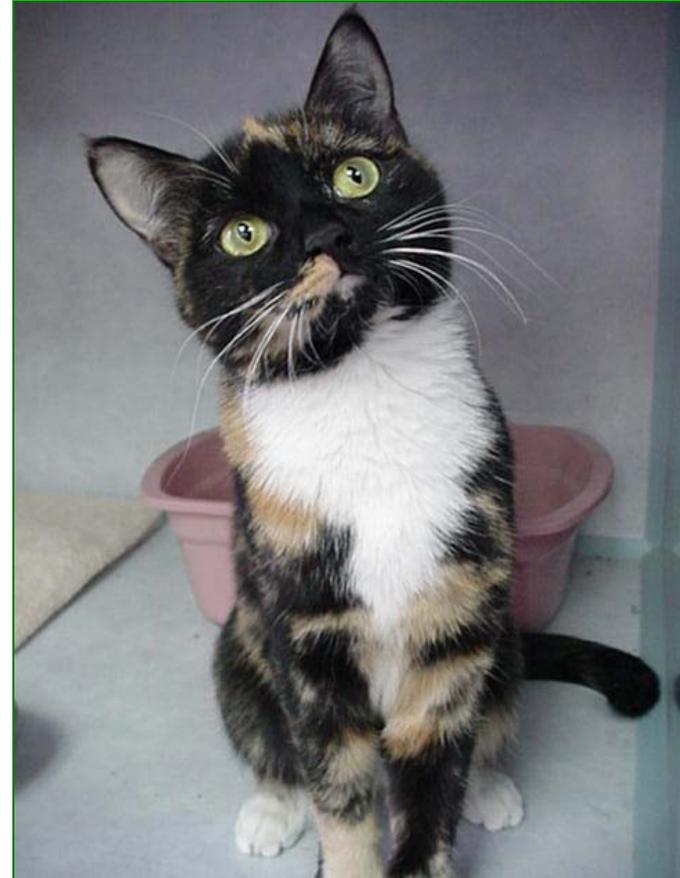
Control climate within the vehicle.

Keeping animals in a stationary or unventilated vehicle can result in death, even if the outside temperature is moderate.

Safe Animal Handling: Cats

General principles:

- Speak and move slowly and softly
- Let the cat approach you
- Work with a partner



Safe Animal Handling: Cats, cont.

Out-of-Control (aka Fractious) Cats:

- Back off and allow cat to calm down
- Use double thick or armored gloves and eye protection
- Attempt capture with fishing nets, blankets, or traps
- If possible, let professional animal handlers do the job

Cat Restraint: Holding & Carrying

- Have owner present if possible
- Use towels to lift and carry (“the kitty burrito”)
- Use as little restraint as needed
- Keep cats in carriers unless in a secure inside space with all escape routes blocked
- Never carry a cat in your arms from building to building; always use a carrier or crate to prevent escapes

Cat Restraint: Transport

Do not drive with cats unrestrained in a vehicle.

Make sure each carrier is of adequate size.

Clean and disinfect carriers between animals.

Control climate within the vehicle.

Be sure all cats inside a vehicle are secure before opening a door or window.

Keeping animals in a stationary or unventilated vehicle can result in death, even if the outside temperature is moderate.

Safe Animal Handling: Rabbits

Approaching Rabbits:

- Speak and move slowly and softly
- Approach from the side
- Rabbits may be frightened by unexpected stimuli
- Rabbits may scream when frightened



Rabbits: Holding, Carrying, Transport

- Grab by the scruff of the neck and immediately support the hind end; failure to properly support could result in spinal cord injury.
- Watch out for scissors-sharp teeth and cat-like claws. Rabbits can kick!
- Place rabbits in sturdy, non-cardboard carriers for transport. Otherwise, follow the same rules as for cats.

Safe Animal Handling: Exotic Pets

- Exotic animals are becoming increasingly common as pets
- They require professional handling
- Birds can be aggressive and cause serious injury

Safe Animal Handling: Injured Animals

Be especially careful: even generally friendly animals may bite, scratch, kick, or attack when injured.

Do not attempt first aid if you have not been trained to do so.

Transport the animal for professional help as soon as you can SAFELY do so.

Next Up...



We've talked about safe animal handling, restraint, and transport.

But what happens **BEFORE** you get your hands on those animals?

Scenario: Looking for Animals

Your community was evacuated due to a wildfire that passed through the area.

Your CERT is supporting disaster responders in assessing damage to the community.

You have been asked to assist animal control in searching the home of a woman who is rumored to breed large guard dogs.

As a trained CERT member, how will you approach this task?

Scenario: Looking for Animals

Size up the situation:

1. Look for presence of owner
2. Look for evidence of animals
3. Consider local environment
4. Be prepared for illegal animal activity
5. Perform damage assessment

1. Look for Presence of the Owner

Do you see evidence in this picture that an owner may be on the property?



1. Look for Presence of the Owner

- Car
- Open window



1. Look for Presence of the Owner

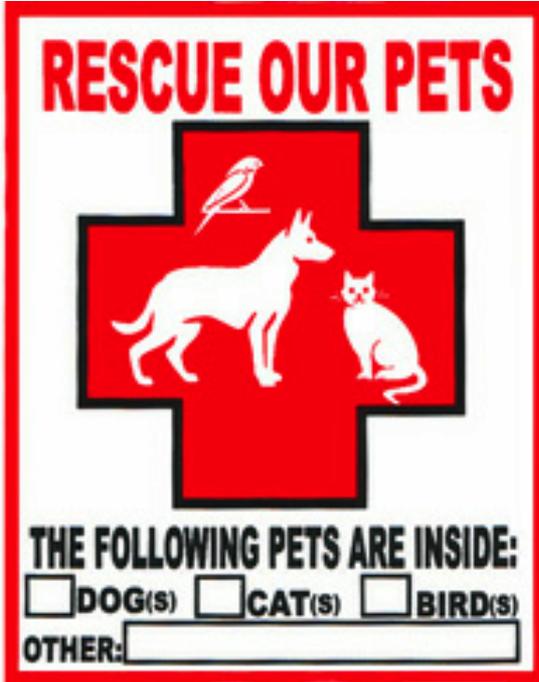
What else can you do to determine if an owner is present?



2. Look for Evidence of Animals



2. Look for Evidence of Animals



[Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, 2005]

3. Consider the Local Environment

Where can you go for help when you need it?



4. Be Prepared for Illegal Animal Activity

**What if you
look
through a
back
window
and see
this?**



5. Perform Damage Assessment

Ask yourself:
Is this a
situation I can
handle with
the tools,
experience,
and people I
have on
hand?



[Northridge Earthquake, LA County, 1994]

5. Perform Damage Assessment

Ask yourself:
Is this a
situation I can
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[Loma Prieta Earthquake, San Francisco, 1989]

5. Perform Damage Assessment

Ask yourself:
Is this a
situation I can
handle with
the tools,
experience,
and people I
have on
hand?



5. Perform Damage Assessment

Responder safety is the TOP priority!

Remember, there are other teams who have the different equipment and experience. If in doubt, wait for help when working in or near potentially-damaged buildings.

Don't be a hero!

Moving ahead in our scenario...

Remember, this is “the home of a woman who is rumored to breed large guard dogs.”

Now that we've sized up the situation, what should consider as we go onto the property?

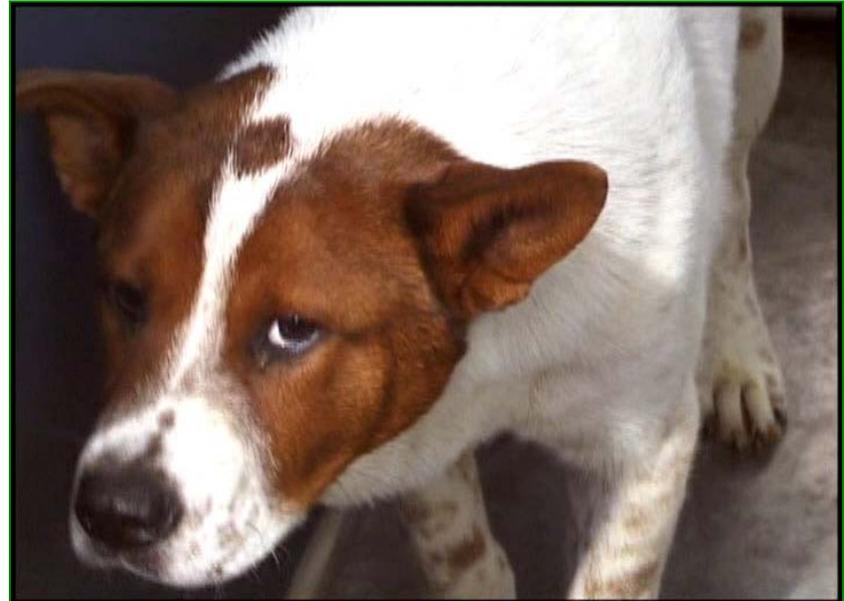


Approaching an Unknown Dog

- Expect the unexpected
- Do not let dog block your escape
- Do not show fear
- Maintain a relaxed posture
- Control the environment if possible
- Avoid direct eye contact
- Do not get near dog's face

Approaching an Unknown Dog (cont'd)

- Try gaining dog's confidence
- Try to contain the dog
- Consider size of your team
- Know your limitations



The “Sit” Command

- Say “Sit” firmly but not loudly
- Hold your hand in a “Stop” gesture



If a Dog Attacks

- Use basic commands to try to gain control
- Put objects or distance between yourself and dog, horizontally and/or vertically
- Back away; do not turn and run
- If you are cornered, “Be the tree.”
- If you fall, curl up and cover your head
- Do not scream or yell
- If dog latches on, protect your face and neck



Any questions about our scenario or about safe animal handling?

Next topic:
Emergency Animal Sheltering

Emergency Animal Sheltering

This topic will cover:

- Cleaning in Animal Housing
- General Animal Care
- Communicating with Animal Owners
- Animal Identification Systems

Emergency Animal Sheltering: Cleaning and Disinfection

- CERT members may help clean animal kennels and cages in emergency shelters.
- Debris and organic material (eg feces or vomitus) must be removed as soon as possible.
- Clean cages with soap and water or a dilute degreaser.
- Apply a suitable disinfectant, eg highly diluted bleach.



[F5 Tornado, Joplin, 2011]

Emergency Animal Sheltering: Food and Water

- Follow nutritional and environmental requirements carefully
- Not feeding an animal is better than feeding the wrong food
- All animals need clean and potable water
- Store feed where animals, including rodents and insects, can't access it

Emergency Animal Sheltering: Working with Pet Owners

Recognize the psychological strain on pet owners: don't be surprised if people act irrationally when they think their animals may be in jeopardy. If owners become hostile, remind them that we are animal lovers too, and that we're all on the same team.

Emergency Animal Sheltering: Pet Identification

Animals can be identified with:

- Tags
- Microchips
- Tattoos (inside ear or belly)
- Collars
- Bands on birds

All dogs in Berkeley should be wearing a red or green dog license tag with a traceable serial number.

Module Summary

In this module, we discussed:

- Your role as a CERT member in functions involving animals
- Protecting your safety when dealing with animals
- Knowledge and skills you will need for CERT functions involving animals

