



LEAST RESISTANCE TRAINING CONCEPTS

PROCEDURE GUIDE No. 20-51

“WELFARE” RESPONSES INVOLVING DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK

Issue Date: 1-13-2020



This Procedure Guide supersedes all previous guides in order to comply with the latest Lyon County and state training and operations standards.

Discussion:

Incidents involving neglect, abuse and/or abandonment of domestic livestock typically involve the authority of the Animal Control agency having jurisdiction, or in some instances, NDA Brand Inspectors. Our role in these incidents is to assist the agency(ies) having authority and to facilitate the safe removal and transportation of livestock if requested and safe to do so.

Responder Qualifications:

IS-100.c, IS-111.a, IS-700.b, TLAR Emergency Horse and Livestock Handling Module, TLAR Technical Large Animal Rescue Operational Level

1 Safety Policy:

- 1.1 Safety is the overarching priority in all responses. No procedure or protocol provided in this Procedure Guide shall supersede the use of sound judgment as may be appropriate to maximize incident safety.
- 1.2 All responders shall wear appropriate helmets at all times, and wear ANSI Class-II or Class-III vests or jackets whenever operating on or near any active traffic lanes.
- 1.3 A qualified Safety Officer shall be designated for all responses that may be complex or pose unusual risks.
- 1.4 In circumstances where responders cannot reliably communicate by direct voice, portable radios shall be utilized.

2 Response Matrix:

- 2.1 Numbers of transport trailers deployed shall be based on anticipated transport needs.
- 2.2 At least one trailer shall carry loading panels.
- 2.3 More units should be deployed than the number calculated for “max loads” as some animals may not be compatible with others while confined for transit.

3 Incident Organization / Chain of Command:

- 3.1 Each response shall have an Incident Commander (IC) who will direct the activities being undertaken. The IC may be from the Animal Control agency having jurisdiction, law enforcement or a Brand Inspector.
- 3.2 Officials in authority at-scene may opt to run the incident in an ICS Unified Command operation.

4 Incident Assessment:

- 4.1 Upon arrival a complete and comprehensive size-up shall be undertaken, risks and probable loading activities shall be determined, and an Incident Action Plan shall be created that identifies risks, best practices for containing and loading the animals, incident security and related issues.

5 Incident Security:

- 5.1 Welfare responses may involve criminal investigations. Care shall be taken to preserve any evidence, document pertinent findings, and provide such documentation to investigators having authority.
- 5.2 Photographs and details associated with welfare responses shall be kept confidential and shall not be posted, distributed or otherwise shared with anyone not having authority over the investigation.

6 Incident Briefing / Incident Action Plan:

- 6.1 Subsequent to securing the scene and before initiating definitive technical operations, an Incident briefing shall be conducted including all responders present.
- 6.2 The Incident Briefing shall include at minimum:
 - 6.2.1 The Incident Safety Plan, including identifying the Incident Safety Officer
 - 6.2.2 Identified hazards and risks (compliance with NRS 41.519)
 - 6.2.3 The Incident Action Plan (IAP)
 - 6.2.4 Functional assignments and designation of Functional Unit Leads
 - 6.2.5 Security and confidentiality issues
 - 6.2.6 Success measurements, including benchmarks warranting a change in the IAP
- 6.3 All members present shall indicate that they understand the IAP and are capable of Safely and effectively carrying out their assignments
- 6.4 All material changes to the IAP shall be conveyed to all responders before changes take place.

7 Post-incident Issues:

- 7.1 When transportation is requested, the directives of those persons having authority shall be followed.
- 7.2 When dropping off livestock at an approved location, the persons transporting shall determine that the owners or operators of the premises are aware of the incoming livestock, that facilities are suitable for containing the livestock, and that necessary resources are present to support the livestock.
- 7.3 In the event of the absence of any required conditions listed in 7.2, the persons transporting shall inform the person(s) having authority and request updated instructions.

8 Interference by Bystanders:

- 8.1 In most instances an Animal Control Officer, Law Enforcement Officer or Brand Inspector will be present during welfare removal operations. However, these officials may depart prior to the removal of equipment (such as panels) used in the removal operations. Interference by bystanders can create distractions that can impact the safety and performance of field operations. Furthermore, allowing bystanders to interfere can create liability and confidentiality issues.
- 8.2 If bystanders encroach into the operational area and refuse to step back or they otherwise create distractions, law enforcement should be called to remove them before continuing operations.

9 Documentation:

- 9.1 All activities involving welfare removals shall be properly documented and made available to the appropriate authorities.
- 9.2 Documentation produced during welfare removals shall be considered confidential and shall be kept secure.