Evacuation Preparedness for Pets and Livestock

As the Sherpa Fire continues to burn in areas west of Goleta, Santa Barbara County Animal Services is encouraging pet and livestock owners to create an evacuation plan and make arrangements should an evacuation warning or mandatory evacuation order be issued. Animals not evacuated during fires can become injured, fall ill or increase the potential for danger during rescue efforts by first responders.

In preparation for potential evacuations, owners are encouraged to:

- Assemble an animal disaster kit that includes food, water, medications, veterinary records, a leash and carrier, bedding, toys and care instructions. Pack at least a one-week supply of food, water and medications.
- Identify all animals with a tag and microchip so they can be more easily reunited if separated.
- Arrange for a safe, pet-friendly place with friends or relatives out of the fire evacuation zone.
- Contact a local veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities out of the fire evacuation zone.
- Make special preparations for large animals and livestock, such as llamas, cattle and horses.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets. Many are pet-friendly, and those that are not often make exceptions during disasters. Searchable databases of pet-friendly accommodations can be found online.

The American Red Cross will work with Animal Services to determine how large and small animals will be cared for in an evacuation. For public health reasons, most emergency shelters cannot accept pets inside the shelter, with the exception of assistance animals. However, areas outside of shelters may be set up with pet carriers or cages so that owners can continue to care for and monitor their pets while at the shelter.

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For information on evacuation preparation and assistance, including coordinating placement at an emergency animal shelter, contact the Animal Services hotline at (805) 681-4332.

County of Santa Barbara Fire, Sheriff, Office of Emergency Management and Public Health departments have posted information on their social media including Twitter, Facebook and Nixle.

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