

procedures in real time, thereby validating emergency preparedness plans in the veterinary diagnostic laboratory. Moreover, simulations provide an excellent occasion to interact with local animal health partners, thereby facilitating coordination during an actual emergency.

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### Establishment of Safer Animal Rescue Capacity in Turkey

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**Study/Objective:** The main objectives were to prevent flooding and its effects in the long-term through local institutional capacity building in the Southeastern Anatolian Region. Specific objectives were to improve the capacities of local governmental and non-governmental organizations in flood management, in the prevention of flood, in mitigating infrastructure, and economic and social losses caused by flood.

**Background:** Regarding the mitigating flood risk in flooded areas in the SAR Project open call, Sanliurfa Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate (DEMD) and SAR Culture, the Research and Development Association prepared a project titled "Capacity Building for Decreasing Animal Losses from Flood in Sanliurfa" and was accepted by the financing authority.

**Methods:** Activity 1: Establishment of a Project Team. Activity 2: Preparation of Training Materials: Training materials needed include first aid for small and large animals, rescuing animals in dramatic situations with appropriate methods, infectious diseases, proper techniques of animal handling, restraint and evacuation, hygiene, and post-flood animal care and nutrition. Activity 3: Training: The animal welfare training duration was 10 days. Trainers were veterinarians, Sanliurfa emergency personnel, and geographers. It has been emphasized to participants that rescuing animals is important, along with people, in floods or other natural disasters. Some part of training has been carried out by emergency personnel. In this context, rope application for animals is practical. In addition, duties of emergency personnel, fire protection, and humanitarian rescue in the earthquake and flood areas were explained.

**Results:** The activities that were provided under the project expanded the knowledge of emergency personnel in animal welfare. Animal welfare training has been given to 70 young people engaged in animal husbandry. These volunteers have become aware of intervening animals, together with veterinarians and emergency personnel, using appropriate techniques.

**Conclusion:** The project is a positive contribution to animal welfare. An Animal Rescue Center has been established within the Sanliurfa fire brigade.

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### Veterinary Oversight of a Short-Term Housing and Veterinary Care Facility for Companion Animals Evacuated due to a Wildfire in Alberta, Canada

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

**Background:** 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.

**Methods:** 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.

**Results:** Between May 9 and May 19, 2016, there were 1,192 companion animals (feline, avian, small mammal, reptile, amphibian, canine, and arachnid) received, examined, provided with veterinary care, and housed.

**Conclusion:** 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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### Animals in Disasters: Lessons Learned from California's 2015 Valley Fire

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