

Animal welfare in natural disasters and emergencies

Training workshop on
AW during stunning and killing in
disease control situations 8.6-11.6.2010
Colli del Tronto, Italy

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WSPA international



Hurricane Katrina August 2005



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Direct welfare issues farm animals:



- Immediate impacts: as humans:
Trauma, drowned, trapped in collapsed buildings, exposed
- Delayed impacts: failure of automated feeding/ventilation systems, contaminated pastures and drinking water, infectious diseases

❑ Estimated number of farm animals in affected area:

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Indirect welfare issues:



- Abandoned companion animals
- Residents forced to evacuate without animals

More than 50% of households own pets

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Indirect welfare issues:

Inhumane culling of farm animals
and companion animals:

- Poultry
- Companion animals

Summary: Animal welfare issues in disasters



- Feed
- Water
- Shelter
- Decontamination
- Medical care
- Evacuation
- Humane culling

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Non welfare related reasons for risk reduction and contingency planning for animals



Economics

- Dead / sick cows \$11,000
- Dumped milk due to lack of refrigeration \$ 4,725
- Unusable milk “in” cows \$ 4,000
- General repairs to generator motors, etc. \$ 1,000
- Treatment of sick cows (per cow) \$ 750
- Fuel to keep generators running \$ 600

Total Cost Per Farm

(Clinton County) \$20,000 to \$30,000

(FEMA 1998)

Risk reduction is 2-6 x more cost effective

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Non welfare related reasons for risk reduction and contingency planning for animals



Biosecurity / Public Health

- Flooded lagoons
- Carcasses

Non welfare related reasons for risk reduction and contingency planning for animals



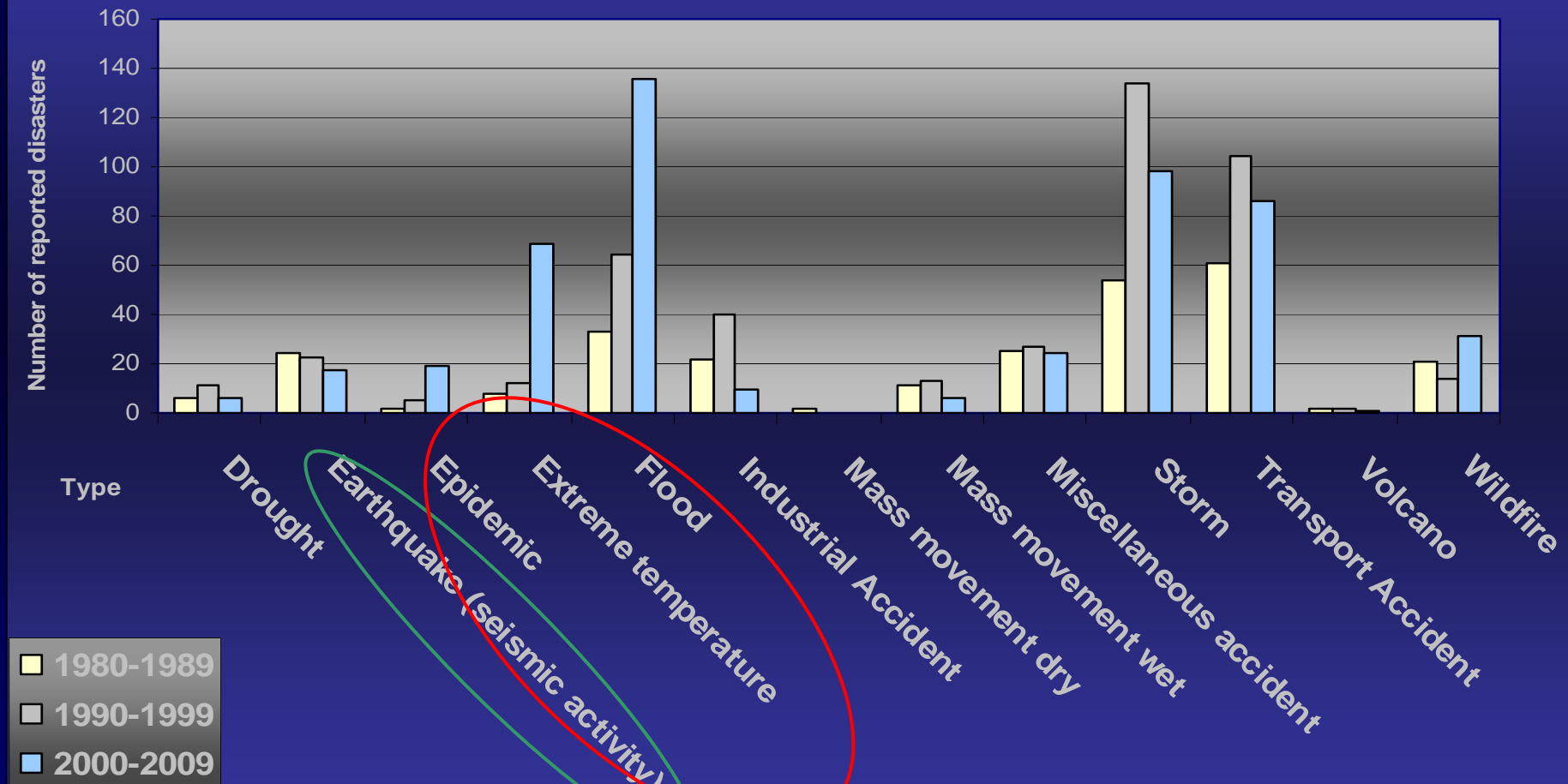
Human evacuation and mental health

- 25% of animal owners would fail to evacuate without their pets
- 50-70% would re-enter a secure site to rescue their pets
- Post traumatic stress increased (Hunt 2005)

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But how important are disasters in Europe?

Disasters in Europe 1980-2009



UK, Climate Change and Livestock

Warmer wetter winters, hotter drier summers, increase in extreme weather events (floods, heat waves)



Temperature rise:

- Animals can stay in fields longer,
- Housing design changes – ventilation, shade

Precipitation changes:

- Increase in humidity related animal health problems
- Increased housing need

Weather extremes:

- Lack of grazing
- Heat stress
- Increased housing need

NFU Report 2005

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Animal related issues that occurred in past disasters



Roles and responsibilities not clear

Inappropriate/insufficient human resources:

Many hands to help – but untrained can become a problem in itself

Or: Emergency personnel not trained for animals

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Animal related issues that occurred in past disasters



Equipment

Communication

Early warning – Early action!?

Absence of legislation

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Animal related issues that occurred in past disasters



High on-Farm vulnerability especially industrial farms

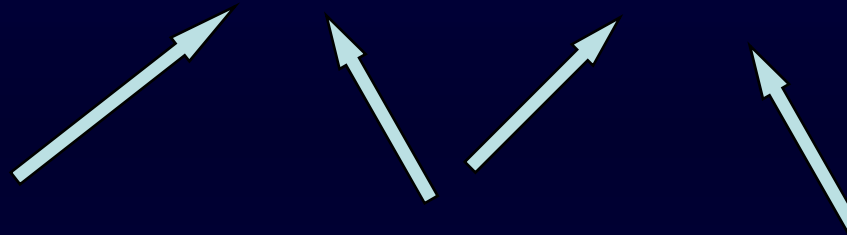
Level of planning and integration of plans, horizontally and vertically

What can be done?

$$\text{Disaster risk} = \frac{\text{Hazard} \times \text{Vulnerability}}{\text{Capacity}}$$

Risk reduction and preparedness works at several levels: farm, local regional, national

Disaster risk = Hazard X Vulnerability



Prevent:

- *Frequently not possible
e.g. peace understanding if hazard is conflict*

Mitigate:

- *Decrease the impact of the hazard, very effective, e.g. drainage system to prevent flooding and overflows*

Prepare:

- *Prepare at various levels for the hazard to decrease vulnerability e.g. contingency plan defining roles and responsibilities, contact lists, resources etc.*

Examples:

1) Decreasing vulnerability at farm level



Farm assurance schemes,
e.g. UK

Ideal: decrease intensity of
farming

Duty of care is with farmer

Obstacles: Compensation schemes
> no economic incentive

*Lesson learnt: effective risk
reduction at farm/household level
has the biggest impact*

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Examples:

2) Legislation

2 Incorporating Household
3 Pets and Service Animals
4 Considerations into
5 Emergency Operations
6 Plans

7 A Guide for State, Territorial, Tribal, and Local
8 Governments

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10 **DRAFT**

11 **March 2009**

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FEMA

- Legal requirement to include pets and horses into existing contingency plans (US)
- Building requirements

Lesson learnt: legislation alone is not enough

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Examples:

3) Roles and responsibilities - planning



Animal stakeholders included in emergency planning committees e.g. US, at different jurisdictional levels

Creation of post/responsibilities in existing departments e.g. Costa Rica, Colombia (Bogota)

Lesson learnt: No separate plans for animals but integrated planning

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Examples:

4) Adequate human resources



- Animal stakeholders/ volunteers trained in relevant emergency management skill e.g. Canada, Colombia, US...
- Relevant emergency management staff trained in animal related needs e.g. Fire-fighters, Civil defence volunteers

Lesson learnt: Joint simulation practice is key to success in the real situation

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Examples:

5) Sufficient equipment



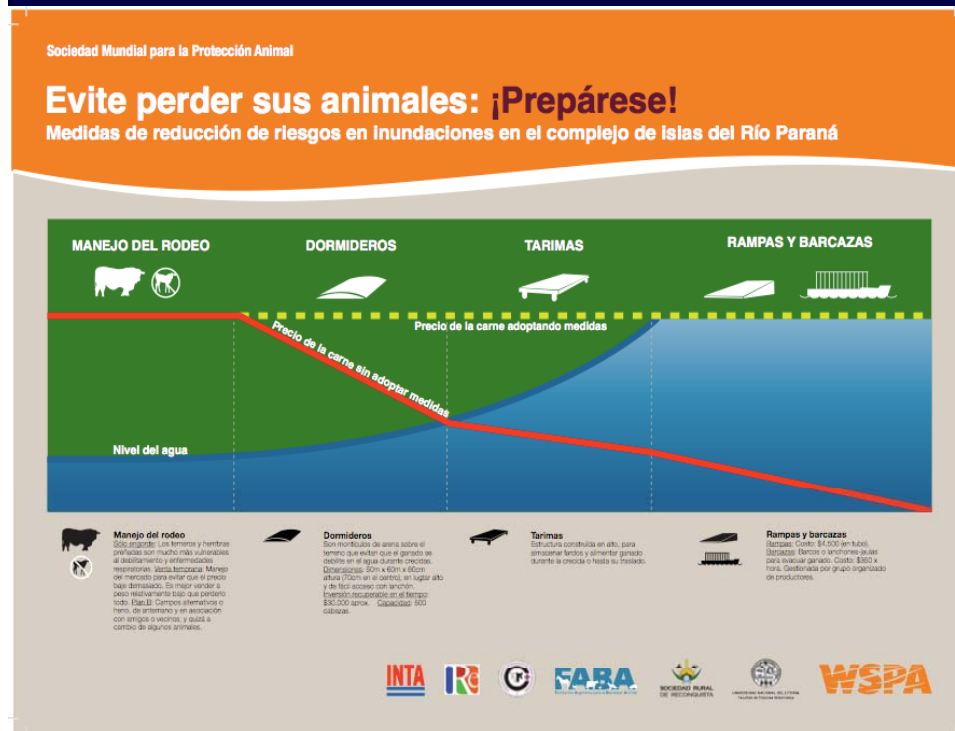
- Needs and availabilities identified in the planning process, e.g. loading ramps, humane slaughter equipment

Lesson learnt: Does not necessarily have to be purchased but protocols to resource it from existing sources in emergencies need to be created

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Examples:

6) Changing perception/ awareness



Research into causes of behaviour

Adaptable strategies to respond, e.g.
WSPA programme
Santa Fe

Lesson learnt: Requires an in-depth understanding of the situation

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Examples:

6) Early warning systems



At different levels:

- International e.g. Rift Valley EW
- National
- Local e.g. Myanmar
- Floods, Droughts, Infectious diseases

Lesson learnt: Important to ensure structures that EW is communicated effectively and followed up with action and regular practice

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Summary lessons learnt

- To minimize animal welfare impacts in disasters it needs a combination of legislation, integrated planning and targeted capacity building and resource inventories and awareness/ behaviour change campaigns

Summary lessons learnt

- The actual success is dependent on people and relationships, it takes a champion

Summary lessons learnt

- Planning needs to be integrated between different agencies and different jurisdictional levels
- Owners need to take responsibility and be made aware of it and convinced to prepare

Summary lessons learnt

- There are a lot of resources out there already
- The key factor for making farm animals less vulnerable to disasters and disease outbreaks would be a restructure of the industry.

Humane killing in disasters

In large scale disasters humane culling of animals may be severely impaired, therefore while planning for implementation of large scale humane culling in such situations and the provision of adequate resources is very important,

reducing the vulnerability of farm animals by favouring less intensive systems in high risk areas and enforcement of on farm risk reduction measures such as back up generators, magnet drop down shields, elevated feeding areas etc is of much higher impact and therefore should be given more importance



Thank you!
– Any Questions?

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