

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The American National Red Cross

and

The American Veterinary Medical Association

and

The American Veterinary Medical Foundation



American Red Cross

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to document the relationship between the American National Red Cross (the "Red Cross") and the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Foundation. This MOU provides a broad framework for cooperation between the three organizations in providing services during disaster relief and daily emergency response efforts.

II. Independence of Operations

Each party to this MOU will maintain its own identity in providing service. Each organization is separately responsible for establishing its own policies and financing its own activities.

III. Organization Descriptions

The American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The Red Cross provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. The Red Cross provides services to those in need regardless of citizenship, race, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status or political affiliation.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is a nonprofit national association of veterinarians established in 1863. The mission of the AVMA is to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine, including its relationship to public health, biological science, and agriculture. The Association is the recognized national voice for veterinarians in presenting their views to government, academia, agribusiness, non-profit organizations, animal owners, and other concerned members of the public.

The American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) formed by the AVMA fosters the health and well-being of all animals on a nationwide basis by rewarding and encouraging innovative veterinary medical science; supporting veterinary medical education; supporting programs that provide veterinary expertise and resources to policy makers; informing the general public about issues related to animal well-being, and responding to other critical concerns among those who care for animals.

As part of its foundation mission efforts, financial support to promote animal disaster preparedness activities and for animal disaster relief expenditures will be sought and accepted by the AVMF. The Red Cross will not assume any financial responsibility for animal disaster relief. In the event that AVMF receives offers of funding for activities outside their area of specialty, they will refer such offers to the appropriate organization.

IV. Methods of Cooperation

The Red Cross and the AVMA/AVMF desire to reaffirm their mutually-beneficial relationship first created and implemented in an MOU signed in January 1998, to provide assistance to communities impacted by disaster events in the United States. The following roles and responsibilities are agreed upon:

1. Communication between Organizations:

- a. Open communication will be maintained between representatives of the AVMA/AVMF and the Red Cross at the national level. Open communication at the state and local levels will be encouraged by all three organizations. This communication will include such information as disaster reports, changes in policy or personnel, and any additional information pertinent to disaster preparedness and response. *See Attachment A: Organization Contact Information.*

2. Pre-disaster planning and disaster response activities at the local level:

- a. The Red Cross will encourage its chapters to engage in discussions with a local AVMA affiliate to develop a plan for local relief operations.
 - AVMA contacts will act as a resource for animal health care, safety, and/or welfare. The contacts will be veterinarians affiliated with national, state, county or local veterinary associations.
 - To locate Veterinary Medical Associations by state go to <http://www.avma.org/advocacy/state/vmas.asp>
 - The AVMF may provide grant and award opportunities to fund national, state and local animal emergency preparedness and relief efforts.
 - To locate additional information on AVMF grants go to www.avmf.org
- b. The AVMA/AVMF will encourage the state and local veterinary community as well as local animal control agencies to work with their local Red Cross chapter to establish standards and formal working agreements regarding the health care, sheltering and feeding of animals by appropriate entities in times of disaster.
 - To locate a Red Cross chapter, veterinary agencies can go to www.redcross.org – “Your Local Red Cross”.
- c. The Red Cross will provide non-financial support, as requested, and to the extent of its capabilities within policy, for any disaster preparedness or response activities sponsored by the AVMA/AVMF, such as the development of regional or local response plans, training programs, workshops, and symposia.
 - The Red Cross and the AVMA organizations or agencies may engage in joint training which addresses areas of complementary or mutual concern. The AVMF may provide funding opportunities through AVMF grants and awards.
 - To the extent possible and appropriate, each organization will provide pertinent training and or educational activities and materials for the other. The AVMA may be asked to serve as technical advisor on material regarding animal issues in time of disaster.

- d. Points of contact for the AVMA/AVMF and the Red Cross can be found in *Attachment A – Organization Contact Information*. Questions or concerns regarding this MOU can be addressed to the Relationship Manager and questions or concerns during a disaster relief operation can be addressed by the Operational contact.

3. Possible Additional Services:

- a. The Red Cross, AVMA/AVMF will actively seek to determine other areas of services within their respective organizations where cooperation and support will be beneficial to victims of disasters and where appropriate to amend this MOU accordingly to include those additional areas or services.

General

- a. The Red Cross, AVMA and AVMF will use or display the name, emblem, or trademarks of the other organization only in the case of defined projects and only with the prior, express, written consent of the other organization.
- b. The Red Cross, AVMA and AVMF will keep the public informed of their cooperative efforts.
- c. The Red Cross, AVMA and AVMF will widely distribute this MOU within the respective departments and administrative offices of each organization and urge full cooperation.
- d. The Red Cross, AVMA and AVMF will allocate responsibility for any shared expenses in writing in advance of any commitment.
- e. The AVMA and AVMF agree to adhere to *Attachment B - the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGO's in Disaster Relief* as it applies to disaster-caused situations in the USA.

V. Periodic Review and Analysis

Representatives of the Red Cross, AVMA and AVMF will, on an annual basis on or around the anniversary date of this MOU, jointly evaluate their progress in implementing this MOU and revise and develop new plans or goals as appropriate.

VI. Term and Termination

This MOU is effective as of the date of the last signature below and expires on February 11, 2014, five years from the signature date. The parties may extend this MOU for an additional period not exceeding five years, and if so shall confirm this in a signed writing. It may be terminated by written notice from either party to the other at any time.


VII. Miscellaneous

Neither party to this MOU has the authority to act on behalf of the other party or bind the other party to any obligation. This MOU is not intended to be enforceable in any court of law or dispute resolution forum. The sole remedy for non-performance under this MOU shall be termination, with no damages or penalty.

VIII. Signatures

American National Red Cross


American Veterinary Medical Association

By: 
Signature

Name: Joseph Becker
Print Name

Title: Senior Vice President,
Disaster Services
Print Title

Date: 2/15/09

By: 
Signature

Name: W. Ron DeHaven, DVM, MBA
Print Name

Title: Chief Executive Officer
Print Title

Date: 2/12/09

American Veterinary Medical Foundation

By: 
Signature

Name: Michael Cathey
Print Name

Title: Executive Director
Print Title

Date: 2/12/09

ATTACHMENT A – Organization Contact Information

Primary Points of Contact

The primary points of contact in each organization will be responsible for the implementation of the MOU in their respective organizations, coordinating activities between organizations, and responding to questions regarding this MOU. In the event that the primary point of contact is no longer able to serve, a new contact will be designated and the other organization informed of the change.

Relationship Manager Contact

American Red Cross		American Veterinary Medical Association	
Contact	Kevin Kellenberger	Contact	Heather Case, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Title	Manager, Partner Services	Title	Coordinator of Emergency Preparedness and Response
Office phone	202-303-8565	Office phone	(847) 285-6632
Mobile	703-474-8396	Mobile	(630) 253-4494
e-mail	kellenbergerk@usa.redcross.org	e-mail	hcase@avma.org

Organization Information

American Red Cross		American Veterinary Medical Association	
Department	Partner Services	Department	Scientific Activities Division
Address	2025 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20006	Address	1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100 Schaumburg, IL 60173
e-mail	NGOPartners@usa.redcross.org	e-mail	
Website	http://www.redcross.org/	Website	www.avma.org

Operational Contact

American Red Cross		American Veterinary Medical Association	
Contact	Anne Palmer	Contact	Heather Case, DVM, MPH, DACVPM
Title	Sr. Associate, Client Services	Title	Coordinator of Emergency Preparedness
Office phone	202-303-5419	Office phone	847- 285-6632
Mobile	202-215-2067	Mobile	630-253-4494
e-mail	PalmerAn@usa.redcross.org	e-mail	hcase@avma.org

American Veterinary Medical Foundation	
Contact	Michael Cathey
Title	Executive Director
Office phone	847-285-6773
Mobile	773-844-1804
e-mail	mcathey@avma.org

ATTACHMENT B

Code of Conduct for The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief

Principle Commitments:

1. The Humanitarian imperative comes first.
2. Aid is given regardless of the race, creed or nationality of the recipients and without adverse distinction of any kind. Aid priorities are calculated on the basis of need alone.
3. Aid will not be used to further a particular political or religious standpoint.
4. We shall endeavor not to act as instruments of government foreign policy.
5. We shall respect culture and custom.
6. We shall attempt to build disaster response on local capacities.
7. Ways shall be found to involve program beneficiaries in the management of relief aid.
8. Relief aid must strive to reduce future vulnerabilities to disaster as well as meeting basic needs.
9. We hold ourselves accountable to both those we seek to assist and those from whom we accept resources.
10. In our information, publicity and advertising activities, we shall recognize disaster victims as dignified human beings, not hopeless objects.

More information about the code of conduct can be found at <http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/conduct/>

The Code Register

The International Federation is keeping a public record of all those NGOs who register their commitment to the Code. The full text of the Code including a [registration form](#) is published by the International Federation and is available upon request. (Telephone +41 22 7304222, Fax +41 22 7330395).

Non-governmental Organizations who would like to register their support for this Code and their willingness to incorporate its principles into their work should fill in and return the registration form.