

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The American National Red Cross

and

The Humane Society of the United States



American Red Cross

Insert partner organization logo here if desired

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to continue the working relationship between the American National Red Cross (Red Cross) and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) in preparing for and responding to disasters at all levels. This MOU provides a broad framework for cooperation between the two organizations in rendering assistance and service to victims of disaster.

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 Humane Society of the United States, founded in 1954, is the largest animal protection organization in the United States. HSUS is a charitable, tax-exempt organization, headquartered in Washington, D.C., with a network of ten regional offices throughout the United States. The HSUS mission as an animal protection organization is to create a humane sustainable world for all beings, both animal and human. Through education, advocacy, and empowerment, HSUS seeks to forge a lasting comprehensive change in human consciousness and behavior; to relieve animals' suffering; to prevent animal cruelty, abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and to protect wild animals and their environments.

IV. Methods of Cooperation

The Red Cross and HSUS desire to continue their mutually-beneficial relationship as follows:

1. Open communication will be maintained between the national organizations. Each organization will share current data regarding disasters, disaster declarations, disaster reports, situation reports, gaps or issues with service delivery or changes in personnel, policies and legislation. The same open communication will be encouraged at all levels of both organizations.
2. The national organizations will work with the chapters and administrative units of their respective organizations to encourage collaboration in their local community. See *Attachment C, Suggestions for Local Collaboration*.

3. The national organizations will work with the chapters and administrative units of their respective organizations to emphasize the need to incorporate the animal component in all disaster plans.
4. HSUS may be asked to serve as technical advisor on material submitted to the Red Cross regarding any animal issues in time of disaster.
5. HSUS will accept responsibility for coordinating animal relief efforts in cooperation with local animal shelters, federal, state, and local government officials, and other pertinent organizations or volunteers. These efforts include but are not limited to animal safety; emergency rescue of animals; provision of temporary shelter, food, medical attention, identification, and efforts to reunite animals with their owners; and any other related services. Local or regional Red Cross organizations may refer animal welfare concerns to the appropriate HSUS Regional Offices or to HSUS headquarters.
6. The Red Cross will refer in-kind offers of assistance relating to animal needs to the HSUS headquarters or appropriate HSUS regional office. A listing of HSUS regional offices can be found at http://www.hsus.org/about_us/offices_and_affiliates
7. The American Red Cross and The Humane Society of the United States will actively seek to determine other areas and services within their respective organizations where cooperation and support will be mutually beneficial and to amend this Memorandum of Understanding accordingly to include such agreements.

General

- a. The Red Cross and HSUS 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 and HSUS will keep the public informed of their cooperative efforts.
- c. The Red Cross and HSUS will widely distribute this MOU within the respective departments and administrative offices of each organization and urge full cooperation.
- d. The Red Cross and HSUS will allocate responsibility for any shared expenses in writing in advance of any commitment.
- e. HSUS agrees 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 and HSUS 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 _____, 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

The Humane Society of the United States

By:

Signature

By:

Signature

Name:

Print Name

Name:

Print Name

Title:

Print Title

Title:

Print Title

Date:

Date:

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		The Humane Society of the United States	
Contact	Kevin Kellenberger	Contact	
Title	Manager, Partner Services	Title	
Office phone	202-303-8565	Office phone	
Mobile	703-474-8396	Mobile	
e-mail	kellenbergerk@usa.redcross.org	e-mail	
Other		Other	

Organization Information

American Red Cross		The Humane Society of the United States	
Department	Partner Services	Department	
Address	2025 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20006	Address	
e-mail	NGOPartners@usa.redcross.org	e-mail	
Website	http://www.redcross.org/	Website	
Other		Other	

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](#).

ATTACHMENT C – Suggestions for Local Collaboration

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

Recognizing the sense of responsibility and interdependence that pet owners feel toward their pets, successful community disaster planning includes a cooperative effort by Government, Red Cross chapters and animal service agencies (public and private) to develop:

1. Policies and public messages to encourage and assist people with pets to develop their own emergency plan, to have pet disaster supplies and to take their pets when evacuating;
2. Pre- and post-disaster communications plans to ensure pet owners are aware of their options with respect to animal welfare when disaster strikes;
3. Training and animal shelter drills and exercises to be executed in coordination with human sheltering drills and exercises for chapter, local animal service agencies and local government;
4. Specialized training, i.e. animal preparedness and first aid information to the community; and
5. Grant opportunities that will increase preparedness and enhance the community's readiness to effectively deal with animals after a disaster.

WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. Red Cross chapters and local animal service agencies should work together with local government animal care and control agencies to develop temporary animal boarding options for all sizes of disasters.
2. Red Cross chapters and local animal service agencies should be participating on government planning committees that are addressing animal evacuation and sheltering needs. This participation will ensure that animal and human evacuation and sheltering efforts are well coordinated so that stress on both the animal and human clients is reduced.
3. Red Cross chapters and local animal service agencies and local government should jointly evaluate shelter sites in order to determine suitability for co-located pet sheltering, or identify nearby sites for pet sheltering. Performing these evaluations together will allow for greater integration of planning efforts.

RESPONSE PLANNING & COORDINATION:

1. Ensure that pet sheltering initiatives and plans are developed and integrated with Red Cross service delivery plans;
2. Develop plans to support service animals that are present in Red Cross shelters, e.g. food, comfort and veterinary needs.

3. Develop a comprehensive resource listing/resource inventory for animal welfare, e.g. boarding sites, veterinarians, animal response agencies, etc. This list can be used as a referral resource for clients affected by any emergency situation or disaster.
4. Red Cross chapters and local animal service agencies should identify liaisons that will work together during disaster response efforts to coordinate activities and quickly identify gaps and solutions.
5. Develop a joint process for receiving and distributing in-kind donations of animal care supplies.
6. Develop plans for providing mass care support to the staff and volunteers who are working on behalf of the local animal service agencies.
7. Suggestions for the Humane Society of the United States activities that can be incorporated into a disaster plan
 - An evaluation or assessment of the situation and its current or potential impact on animals —companion animals (including horses), livestock, and wildlife — will be undertaken.
 - A strategy to respond to the situation based on the assessment.
 - A plan to coordinate delivery of services to the affected animals. The basic delivery of services includes but is not limited to emergency rescue of animals in distress, care to the injured; temporary food and shelter to lost, abandoned and recovering animals as well as to the companion animals of humans displaced from their homes by disaster and resident in emergency shelters, and all efforts to maintain contact and accountability of animals and their owners.