

CUPERTINO CITIZEN CORPS AFTER ACTION REPORT

Name of Event: Citywide Earthquake Exercise **Activation Number:** CUP-09-30T

Date of Event: October 17-18 2009

Location of Event: Hyde Middle School
grounds near the ARK

Animal Shelter Goals and Objectives: To provide shelter and care to displaced household pets belonging to Cupertino residents after a disaster by locating them in a safe place, preferably near a Red Cross evacuation shelter; providing food, exercise, companionship, and veterinary care, if needed; and ensuring their safe return to their owners at the end of the evacuation period.

Executive Summary (brief explanation of purpose of the Activation): The Disaster Animal Shelter Planning Committee wanted to use a demonstration shelter during the exercise to show residents how their pets could be sheltered and cared for if owners had to evacuate their homes after a disaster and to test the intake and return procedures we had developed using the most recent drafts of pertinent forms developed by the County's Animals in Disasters committee.

Remarkable Issues (anything out of the ordinary that happened – good or bad): We had about 40 residents stop by over the two days to see what we were doing and ask questions and were able to hand out several of the brochures on emergency preparedness for pets that we had obtained from the California Veterinary Association. One of the residents who stopped by is a volunteer for the Humane Society, and we accepted her offer of some of their information to hand out as well. On Saturday, the crew of the County Fire Department truck that checked out the ARK stopped by and quizzed us thoroughly on our plans, preparations and procedures for receiving, sheltering, caring for, and reuniting pets with their owners. They asked some very thoughtful questions which we were able to answer thoroughly. The committee members present during that visit were very pleased with both the questions the firefighters asked and with how well we were able to answer them.

Learning Points/Comments from Participants (strengths/weaknesses/observations): Although we had invited all participants in the weekend drill to bring their pets to our shelter and had made arrangements for early drop off and late pick up, we had only two pets participate. Both were pets of committee members—Fiona, a Miniature Schnauzer, and Mowgli, a cat—and were present for only a few hours on Saturday.

Since this was a drill and the only pets sheltered belonged to committee members who were present throughout their sheltering period, we had some difficulty with the thoroughness of the intake form, even though we had somewhat adapted it to our needs. Upon review, we found that the form includes the kind of information we would need in the event of an actual disaster, even though it takes time to complete. We could not find a release form for returning the pet to its owner(s), just an emergency release form to a veterinarian. The committee expects to revise the County's forms for our purposes and will ensure that there is either a place on the

intake form for disposition of the pet or a separate release form for return to the owner(s) or to new owners or a permanent shelter if the pet has been surrendered for adoption.

Attachment(s) (supplies used-needing replacement, sign in sheet, patient logs, etc)

Attached are separate digital files of the poster placed at local retail stores and veterinary offices announcing the Emergency Animal Shelter for the drill, procedures for the demonstration animal shelter, a list of supplies purchased or permanently donated for the shelter, and a list of supplies on loan for the demonstration shelter. The permanent supplies are stored at the Hyde ARK in a large plastic bin clearly labeled for the Cupertino OES Disaster Animal Shelter. Shelter volunteers signed in and out on the ARK's log. Digital copies of the intake form, emergency release form and animal care log for both pets are not available. Photocopies will be provided to be attached to a print copy of this After Action Report.

Corrective Action Plan

Completed by: Wynne Dobyms

Date: December 11, 2009