CLACKAMAS
COUNTY

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Study Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: September 28, 2010   Time: 10:15 a.m.   Length: 15 minutes

Presentation Title: Regional Animals in Disaster Sheltering Exercise

Department: Transportation and Development / Dog Services, Emergency Management

Presenters: Cam Gilmour, Diana Hallmark, Dana Robinson, Laurie Bothwell (Clackamas County Fair), Ron Oberg (Clackamas County Fair), Tim Heider

POLICY QUESTION

Is the Board supportive of County participation in a regional Animals in Disaster Sheltering Exercise at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds?

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

Clackamas County staff from Transportation and Development Dog Services and Emergency Management are participating in a planning and exercise process that will assist animal services providers in the Portland urban area with developing a regionally coordinated response to managing animals in disaster.

It is estimated that 63% of all American households have pets; many homes with multiple pets. During Hurricane Katrina, thousands of animals were left behind because residents were not allowed to evacuate with their pets, and many residents ignored evacuation orders because they were not able to bring their pets along. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Congress wanted to take action to prevent these tragic scenarios from occurring in the future. The result was the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act, signed into law in October 2006. The PETS Act requires states seeking Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance to accommodate pets and service animals in their plans for evacuating residents facing disasters. In May 2007, Oregon passed Senate Bill 570, requiring Oregon Emergency Management to plan with local government and the Oregon Department of Agriculture to prepare a written animal emergency operations plan that provides for the evacuation, transport and temporary sheltering of companion and service animals during a major disaster or an emergency.

The five Portland urban area counties including Clackamas, Columbia, Washington, Multnomah and Clark County in the State of Washington have developed draft Animals in Disaster response plans for their respective jurisdictions. A $40,000 Homeland Security

Grant was secured to develop a regional framework plan that links the five local county plans and to conduct a full-scale animal exercise of the regional plan.

The Clackamas County Fair Board has agreed to host the regional Animals in Disaster Sheltering exercise at their fairgrounds. The exercise is scheduled for October 20, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The fairgrounds will be set up to provide shelter and care for approximately 150 companion/service animals in conjunction with a people shelter. The American Red Cross will be on scene to simulate the people shelter. Clackamas County Cable Services will videotape the exercise for broadcast on the County Cable Channel.

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Is the Board supportive of County participation in the regional Animals in Disaster Sheltering Exercise at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds?

2. Will the Board send a representative to the exercise to observe exercise activities?

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. Endorse Clackamas County participation in the exercise. Other than staff time to prepare for and participate in the exercise, costs are covered by the Homeland Security grant.

2. Disapprove County participation in the exercise. This option would not have a negative financial impact but would limit the development of animals in disaster response capabilities.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board endorse Clackamas County participation in the regional Animals in Disaster Sheltering Exercise at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds, and if possible send a member of the Board to the exercise to observe and advocate exercise activities.

SUBMITTED BY

Division Director/Head Approval
Department Director/Head Approval
County Administrator Approval _____

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