

Memorandum of Understanding Equine Evacuation Group and Animal Services Authority

Whereas, The Santa Cruz Equine Evacuation Unit (hereinafter known as “Equine Evac”), under the auspices of the Santa Cruz County Office of Emergency Services, works in conjunction with the Santa Cruz County Animal Services Authority (hereinafter known as “SCCASA”) to assist in the evacuation of horses (and other large animals, where appropriate) when officially activated during large scale disasters and in other instances which require the services of a trained cadre of horse handlers and horse transports.

Whereas, the missions of Equine Evac and SCASA include a similar desire to save the lives of animals impacted by disasters;

Whereas, Equine Evac and SCCASA are both involved in the welfare of animals;

Whereas, Equine Evac and SCCASA have collaborated successfully on a variety of basic issues and have successfully coordinated in the provision of disaster rescue services, emergency boarding and care and are convinced of the importance of furthering this collaboration to leverage each other’s expertise and experience;

Whereas, Equine Evac and SCCASA believe that a formal memorandum will provide the structure and basis for implementing and expanding the capabilities of each party to respond to the needs of animals affected by disasters;

Equine Evac and SCCASA agree to the following memorandum of understanding (MOU):

I. PARTIES

This document constitutes an agreement between Equine Evac and SCCASA to support each other when the resources available to SCCASA become overwhelmed and SCCASA is unable to meet the rescue, sheltering, and general care of the animal population in its geographic area due to emergency or disaster conditions. Requests for out of county mutual aid must be authorized by the County Office of Emergency Services.

II. AUTHORITIES

The singular mission of Equine Evac is to evacuate horses and where possible, other animals during disasters. Efforts to secure agreements with local animal organizations/agencies prior to an emergency or disaster incident occurring supports our mission and provides both parties with the ability to call upon each other’s services as identified in this agreement.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to provide mutual aid to SCCASA regarding assistance in all

aspects of horse rescue, when conditions specified in this agreement warrant such assistance. Shelter and care for animals rescued in emergencies is the responsibility of SCCASA. Equine Evac will assist with the care of evacuated horses (and other large animals, where appropriate) with volunteers as available.

The parties agree that their mutual goal is to provide lifesaving services for animals impacted by emergency or disaster situations.

Both parties recognize the benefit of coordinating their respective response efforts. This MOU lays the foundation for broader collaborative arrangements that would improve efficiencies and avoid overlapping areas of responsibilities during disaster responses, by leveraging resources and capabilities within each organization.

IV. LIMITATIONS

- A. This MOU is neither a fiscal nor funds obligation document. Nothing in this MOU authorizes or is intended to obligate the parties to expend, exchange, or reimburse funds, services or supplies, or to enter into any contract, or other financial obligation.
- B. This MOU in no way restricts either of the parties from participating in any activity with other public or private agencies or organizations.
- C. This MOU is not legally enforceable and shall not be construed to create any legal obligation on the part of either party.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

Both parties agree to:

- a. Conduct periodic reviews of this document and make revisions as determined agreeable by both parties for the purpose of renewing the agreement.
- b. Provide notification of any changes in contact information or contact procedures
- c. Identify deficiencies and take corrective action
- d. Equine Evac understands and recognizes that SCCASA is the lead agency and SCCASA will provide direction and coordination.

Specific details of this joint agreement are identified and defined in Appendix I of this document.

VI. PERIOD OF AGREEMENT

- a. This MOU will be effective when signed by both parties. This MOU may be amended at any time by the mutual written consent of the parties. Either party may terminate this agreement by providing written notice to the other party.

This MOU constitutes the entire agreement between the parties for the stated purpose, and no modification or addition will be valid unless signed by the parties and appended to this agreement.

VII. LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE

- a. Workers' Compensation insurance for response is door to door coverage to and from responding to a disaster for assistance requested by the SCCASA. Workers' Comp insurance for training coverage is provided while at the training site only and does not cover travel to and from the site.
- b. Auto insurance is the responsibility of the disaster service worker.

VIII. REIMBURSEMENT FOR MILEAGE

- a. The ASA will reimburse equine evacuation volunteers for their mileage at the State of California mileage reimbursement rate.

IX. RESPONSE

- a. This MOU covers equine evacuation response to disasters only as authorized by the County of Santa Cruz Office of Emergency Services. This MOU does not cover day-today, single incident responses to equine evacuations and rescues.

Signed on behalf of

Santa Cruz County Equine Evacuation

Santa Cruz County Animal Services Authority

Name and title of signatory

Name and title of signatory