



VNU ASIA PACIFIC



FAVA-VNU-Regional Webinar

The Vital Role of Veterinarians during Emergencies and Disasters in Asia

**Thursday, 29 July 2021
Time 13.00 - 15.00 hrs. (GMT+7)**

Q&A

Q1. The response of our veterinary experts on natural calamities is highly commendable. But are we prepared to tackle man-made diseases caused biological weapons (agroterrorism)? Thank you so much for your highly enlightening presentations. We are really proud you.

- No. this is another issue that we as key players in the profession should start the discussion. In the US, it is a new discussion and they are taking the necessary steps to address the concerns, we can follow the same approach to brace for the impact of agroterrorism or bioterrorism in the near future.

Q2. Ash is considered the most important hazards during volcanic eruptions, from immediate deaths to gradual loss and worsening condition. Based on your experiences, what appropriate measures or improvements can be done to lessen the impact to animals and livelihood of farmers.

- Immediate remedy may not be possible if we are talking of harmful ash contents that are inhaled or ingested by the animals in the surrounding areas. Suggested in experiences from other countries in the same situation, is to encourage the farmers to switch from farming of animals into crops and or fisheries by where inhalation of ashes is not a big concern

Q3. What are the challenges still there to address these type of condition in future

- Governance, awareness, knowledge, resources and community engagement are the keys:-
- Community engagement and making people understand that animals should be evacuated together with human evacuation in disasters will help solve the big challenge in disaster response
- Inclusion of animals in contingency plan



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Q4. Dear Professor Dr. Lina , thank you very much for the nice presentation on The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS). But I think it was too short a discussion on LEGS especially emergency veterinary responses.

- Hello Palash! My apologies if I was not able to cover as much. Training for LEGS entails several days. Best if you could tap experts to conduct such training in your region. Thank you for joining us today!

Q5. What is the most difficult thing to do when you give aid to the families and/or the animals?

- Realizing that you can only give partial help, but finding hope that any kind of help goes a long way :)
- The most challenging part in responding is overcoming bureaucracy
- That it's not possible to rescue all animals. But this should not discourage us from responding.

Q6. Greetings from Malaysia. I was on a business trip to Batangas, Philippines in Jan 2020. I saw for myself the high amount of ash everywhere. I was told that many livestock was left unattended as the owners have evacuated to safer areas. Very good to see such a good job done by the veterinarians and volunteers. I am so proud to be a veterinarian. Take care and stay safe, Dr Margarita.

- Thank you! I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve :)
- Yes David, the temporary shelters for humans at that time did not have areas for animals. Grateful to the entire Project TAAL team for providing support to animals left by their owners.

Q7. Do we have animal guidelines aside from LEGS emergency response with regards to disaster preparedness plan (EARTHQUAKE.VOLCANIC ERUPTION, TYPHOON etc) How about preparedness and response plan for animals in case of biological, chemical and radiological materials situation.

- There are several disaster preparedness guidelines that has been published.

They may refer to

- FEMA
- ASPCA
- HIS
- WAP

For existing documents on disaster preparedness



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Q8. Thank you, presenters. I think if the Incident Command System and LEGs is maximized in times disasters. Coordination would be better. Red Tape is minimized.

- ICS may be an effective structure to remove Bureaucratic Red Tapes. However, if the said ICS is not a recognized structure by the government, disaster response to animals remains to be a difficult thing to do. Animal rescues remains to be a limited activity in most countries. Human evacuation and rescue operations has remained a priority.

ICS is not always in place in government institutions or local government units where disasters happen. Often, it is initiated when a disaster has taken place in order to be effective in carrying out a response.

Creating a comprehensive plan for disasters in animals and a good buy in by government agencies is the best solution to the problems that we as responders have encountered on the ground.