



VETERINARY EMERGENCY TEAM
TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY

Veterinary Medical Emergency Preparedness and Response Responding to the Entire Family

Presented by: Wesley Bissett, DVM, PhD

And

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HISTORY



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- Hurricane Rita
- Hurricane Ike



IMPACT



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- Life changing
- Value of selfless service
- Career altering
- Hope



IMPACT



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“When I say this rotation changed me, it changed the way in which I perceive my duties within the veterinary profession. It has allowed me to take a step back from the algorithms of medicine and precision of surgery to ask myself, ‘When the time comes, can I use my skills to help my neighbors? Will I? ‘Veterinarians have the power to change people’s lives and in turn save people’s lives.’” – 4th Year Veterinary Student

ROTATION



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- Provide the nation's 1st and only required clinical rotation in emergency preparedness and response
- Partner with counties to develop preparedness plans for animal issues
- Senior veterinary students participate in simulated and actual deployments



COUNTIES



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- Working with county leaders
 - Perform risk assessments, view local assets and discuss current plans (if any)
- Focus on evacuation, sheltering and veterinary medical support in a disaster

SEVEN CORE COMPETENCIES



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- Leadership
 - Collaboration
 - Team, self, and systems management
 - Communication
 - Diversity and multicultural awareness
 - Adapting to changing environments
 - Commitment to service and life long learning
-
- A photograph of a veterinary emergency tent at night. The tent is illuminated from within, and several people are standing around it. The tent has the number '92' on its side. In the background, there are trees and a building with a satellite dish.

LEADERSHIP



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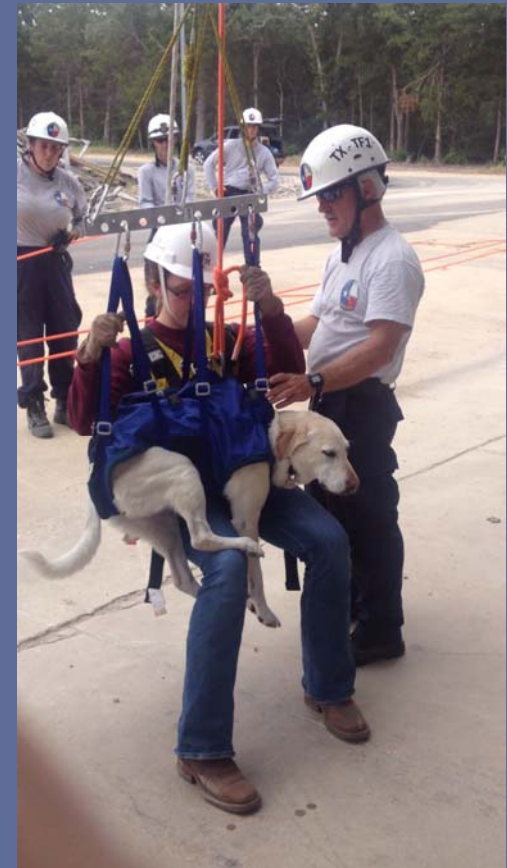
- Group leadership skills
- Triage team



COLLABORATION



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“Working with the VET has added a tremendous amount of depth to our plan and answered questions we only thought we had answers to. Because of the work done by the VET, I am confident we have an animal issues plan that will serve Parker County and the state of Texas well.” – Shawn Scott, Emergency Manager for Parker County

MANAGEMENT



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- Team
 - Instructors
 - Students
 - County Officials
 - First Responders



COMMUNICATION



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- With each other, with county officials, and in web conferences
- In disaster response – either real or simulated, communication skills are key



DIVERSITY



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- Learning to work with people from many different backgrounds is an essential tool in our diverse society



CHANGE



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LIFE-LONG



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"I didn't learn veterinary medicine that I did not already know, I learned so much more. Communication, leadership, teamwork, and the value of being there for someone on a really bad day are lessons that will stay with me forever" 4VM Veterinary Medical Student on the 2011 Bastrop Complex Wildfire deployment.

SECOND LIFE



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- This simulated disaster environment allows the students to develop triage skills, interact with a wide variety of characters typical in a disaster, and practice situational awareness



FUTURE



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- Improved outcomes assessment
- Simulation development
- Technology-assisted community planning
- Exportable curriculum and simulations
- Exportable response capabilities





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Thank You!

Any Questions?



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