

HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response

Report of Animal Welfare Committee

April 26, 2007

Committee Members:

Chair: Claudine Singer
Member: Roxanna Sanchez
Member: Diane Valantine
Member: Dave Valantine
Member: Judy Johns (Latham Letter Editor)
Member: Pat Ott (vet technician, no participation since November 2006)

Purpose of the committee:

The purpose of the Animal Welfare committee is to research, create, and recommend to the Board of Directors national policies for the humane care and treatment of HOPE animals while on duty.

Report of project:

This very important work has now been ongoing since November 2005 (??)
The committee meets on a monthly basis for approximately 4 to 5 hours on a Sunday afternoon. I believe that we will probably have a rough draft ready for review by the BOD by November 2007. The progress of our work is as follows:

We have defined:

<i>“Animal Welfare”</i>	Welfare – As defined by Broom and Johnson, 1993
<i>“Levels of Incidents”:</i>	Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4
<i>“Variables-Risk Index”</i>	Travel Temperature (working environment) Hot weather / Dew point Temperature (working environment) Cold weather /Wind chill Living Conditions Predictability (Deployment Scene) Noise Exposure Congestion (At the scene) Air Quality Index Team Experience K9 Characteristics (Working in hot climate) K9 Characteristics (Working in cold climate)

HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response

A point system of 1 thru 10 has been allocated for each variable. Number 1 represents the least amount of stress the animal will be exposed to and number 10 represents the danger zone, to which a team should not participate. This point system will then be accompanied by a colored chart system, which is the development stage.

Currently we are studying each “Variable” from the Risk index, and are identifying the characteristics that determine the point system of 1 through 10. We are doing this analysis to give each team a good understanding of every facet they will be faced with prior to being deployed and what they need to look for once they are at the scene of a crisis/emergency situation.

Variables Completed are:

- Predictability of Elements at Deployment Scene
- Noise Exposure
- Air Quality
- Team Experience
- Breed Type – Hot Weather Conditions
- Breed Type – Cold Weather Conditions

Other segments we have also worked on are as follows:

- Dog’s Body Language
- Stress Signals
- Zoonotics
- Backpack & First Aid kit recommendations
- SOS Card
- Hazardous Materials
- Pet Poison Safety Tips

The information gathered has come from various resources such as US Government web sites, Internet research, misc. books, written articles, work experience etc.

Presentation materials will be developed for the purpose of training HOPE AACR teams.

Pawsitively,

Claudine Singer
Animal Welfare Chair