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|  | <h2>Municipality of Crowsnest Pass Policy</h2> |
| <p>Policy No.: Policy Title: Approval Date: Revision Date: Supersedes Policy: Department:</p> | <p>1500-01 Large Animal Health Policy May 19, 2015 Agricultural & Environmental Services</p> |

1.0 POLICY PURPOSE

In conjunction with Alberta Rural Development and the Alberta Animal Protection Act, the Municipality is committed to providing contingency planning and other preparedness procedures for employees and the public in the event of animal disease emergencies, animals in distress and environmental emergencies under the Incident Command System. This planning will provide direction for early effective action in the face of an emergency. The municipality will provide a safe work environment, ensuring the health and safety of all employees, first responders and citizens. The Large Animal Disease, Distress and Environmental Disasters Policy Procedure Manual defines the criteria and procedures that the municipality will use to provide direction when responding to diseased large animals, large animals in distress and environmental disasters which includes fire, flood and motor vehicle accidents involving animal transport.

This policy and accompanying manual will provide:

- a. Direction on action necessary to prevent or limit an outbreak of a trans-boundary animal disease which can have serious socio-economic consequences and in extreme cases, may affect the whole national economy.
- b. Direction on how to deal with distressed animals protected under the Alberta Animal Protection Act section 2(1), when reported by citizens or the public to the municipality.
- c. Direction when responding to the health, safety and protection of large animals in the event of an environmental disaster.
- d. Direction for municipal employees and first responders with safe, efficient and appropriate direction in responding to large animal disease, animals in distress and environmental emergencies (Incident Command System).
- e. The policy is created in observance to all applicable legislation as required by Alberta Rural Development and the Alberta Animal Protection Act.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

“Act” means the Alberta Animal Protection Act and its Regulations.

“**CAO**” means the Chief Administrative Officer for the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, and his/her duly authorized designee(s).

“**Citizen**” an inhabitant/resident of the Crowsnest Pass (local taxpayers).

“**Council**” means the duly elected officers of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass and the Chief Elected Officer or Mayor.

“**Director**” means a Director of a Municipal Department, as designated by the CAO, and his/her duly authorized designee(s).

“**Distress Animal**” means deprived of adequate shelter, ventilation, space, food, water or veterinary care or reasonable protection from injurious heat or cold, injured, sick, in pain or suffering, or abused and subjected to undue hardship, privation or neglect.

“**Employee**” means any person employed with the Municipality.

“**First Responder**” means Agricultural Fieldman, Fire, Rescue, Community Peace Officer or RCMP.

“**Incident Command System**” a standardized, on scene, all hazard incident management concept.

“**Large Animal**” (**ungulates**) a diverse group of large mammals that includes horses, donkeys, cattle, pigs, wild game etc.

“**Manual**” means the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass Large Animal Disease, Distress and Environmental Disaster Policy and Procedure Manual.

“**Municipality**” or “**Municipal Government**” means the corporation of the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass located in the Province of Alberta.

“**Public**” of or concerning the people as a whole (visitors).

3.0 POLICY STATEMENTS

3.1 Animal Disease

Animal Disease emergencies may have disastrous consequences for humans and animals which include compromising food security, cause loss of valuable livestock, add significantly to the cost of livestock, seriously disrupt or inhibit trade in livestock, inhibit sustained investment in livestock production, cause public health consequences where diseases can be transmitted to humans, cause environmental consequences when wildlife populations die out or cause unnecessary pain and suffering to animals. As can be seen from the foregoing, an animal disease emergency such as an outbreak of a trans-boundary animal disease can have serious socio-economic consequences which, in extreme cases, may affect the whole nation's economy. If a new disease can be recognized quickly while it is still localized and action is taken to contain and then progressively eliminate it, the chances of eradication of the disease are markedly enhanced. Conversely, eradication may be extremely difficult, costly and even impossible if the disease is not recognized and appropriate control action taken before it becomes widespread or established in wildlife.

Animal welfare in disease outbreaks has received considerable attention in recent years as, throughout the world, numerous animal disease outbreaks have raised concerns over humane options for impacted animals. From these events, we can conclude that animal disease outbreaks are biological disasters and that most significant events have affected livestock (including horses).

When an animal disease is reported to the Municipality, the Agricultural Services Department and/or First Responders will consult the appropriate procedural section in the Large Animal Disease, Distress and Environmental Disasters Policy Procedure Manual. Included in the municipal manual is resource material to professional references, such as, Alberta Veterinarian Medical Association Health & Safety, Alberta Large Animal Handlers Manual and Alberta Occupational Health & Safety Code & Regulations. In regards to biohazard containment & safety, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency works with agency scientists and technical experts to establish the biocontainment levels, procedures and protocols that are needed to work safely with animal and zoonotic pathogens, chemical hazards, and plant pests of quarantine significance, and to protect first responders, employees, the Canadian public, and the environment.

3.2 Emergency Field Response, Disease, Distress & Animal Containment

The policy manual contains eighteen emergency field response procedural steps to be used in the event that emergency field response is required for disease, distress and animal containment. In the event of a confirmed disease emergency, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency will assume control, municipal employees may be excluded after step eight. Each individual response has field report documents using a standardized field report form. A list of possible domestic and wildlife diseases for quick reference along with procedures to follow on foreign animal diseases. If a disease outbreak occurs quarantine is first priority. The manual also contains information on portable corral material, water, feed, temporary shelter, carcass disposal/transportation and emergency contact names.

3.3 Natural Disasters & MVA Animal Containment

In the event of a natural disaster including flooding, wild land fire and MVA's (Motor Vehicle Accidents). Municipal staff including Agricultural Services and First Responders should consult the procedural information pertaining to each disaster listed in the policy manual.

3.4 Emergency Phone Contact List

The manual contains contact information for all emergency personnel that may need to be contacted in the event of an emergency.

3.5 Glossary of Terms

The necessary definition of terms are listed alphabetically in the policy manual.

3.6 Detailed Disease Information

A more detailed list of domestic and wildlife diseases is list alphabetically in the Policy Procedure Manual. This information can be used by first responders to assist disease identification.

3.7 Additional Literature

Additional Literature is listed in the Policy Procedure Manual may be required by first responders for either safety reasons or further information necessary to conduct their task more efficiently. It gives greater detail in equine diseases and procedures. The necessary standardized forms to complete a body condition score on either bovine (cow) or horse (equine) and notice of seizure forms in the event of an animal in distress.

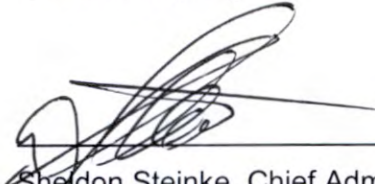
MUNICIPALITY OF CROWSNEST PASS

09/06/15

Blair Painter, Mayor



Date



Sheldon Steinke, Chief Administrative Officer

09/06/15

Date