Information Sources for Veterinary Disaster Planning

Guest author L.M. Rey, a librarian with interests at the intersection of the information world and the veterinary emergency preparedness/disaster world and who is a member of the Texas A&M University Veterinary Emergency Team (TAMU VET), shares sources for disaster planning. If you have comments or questions about this topic, she can be reached at lmrey@library.tamu.edu.

Searching for veterinary information can be tough. Searching for veterinary disaster information can be even more challenging, whether during a disaster or preparing for one ahead of time. Some of the difficulties stem from the interdisciplinary nature of the information. Your search needs to include engineering and communications, and you are likely to be less familiar with these resources. There's less published veterinary medical information than human medical information, so you may not find anything related to the species of interest or situation.

My one-stop shop for disaster literature is the Disaster Information Management Research Center (DIMRIC) from the National Library of Medicine. It has scholarly and general information and is a disaster information supplement to PubMed and MedlinePlus. Other powerful tools available at DIMRIC are WISER (Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders) for hazardous material incidents; CHEMM (Chemical Hazards Emergency Medical Management); REMM (Radiation Emergency Medical Management); and topical information resource pages on, for example, hurricanes and emerging infectious diseases.

To prepare to keep up with the literature, set up automatic email alerts for articles about topics that may be of importance during a disaster. Example tools of free accounts for this are MyNCBI (a link for instructions to set up these alerts is provided below) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Alerts from Google Scholar can be created through your Google account.

By Heather K. Moberly
Coordinator of Veterinary Services, Medical Sciences Library, Texas A&M University

While logged into Google, conduct your search in Google Scholar, and in the right-hand column menu at the bottom of the results page, there will be a "Create alert" envelope. You can customize your alerts and have them sent to your inbox. Another option is liking or following organizations like DIMRC on social media.

- MyNCBI: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/
- Instructions: http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/169671
- Disaster Information Management Research Center on Twitter: https://twitter.com/nlm_dimrc?lang=en

Seek out business or operational continuity planning information for your practice, talk to your clients who rely on their animals for a living, and determine how your practice might fare in likely scenarios. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Ready.gov, the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA) and the Red Cross provide tools to help. Additionally, TAMU VET will assist with disaster planning on request.

- AVMA: https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/disaster-preparedness/emergency-planning-veterinary-practices
- TVMA" https://www.tvma.org/portals/0/Images/resources_disaster_plan.pdf
- Ready.gov: https://www.ready.gov/business-continuity-plan
- TAMU VET: https://vetmed.tamu.edu/vet/outreach/
- Red Cross: https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/workplaces-and-organizations.html

For both general information and to supplement your business continuity plan by offering planning information to clients, resources are available from AVMA, TVMA, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the Red Cross and TAMU VET.

- TAHC: https://www.tahc.texas.gov/emergency/index.html
- AVMA: https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/disaster-preparedness
- AVMA: https://www.avma.org/resources/pet-owners/emergencycare/pets-and-disasters
- TAMU VET: https://vetmed.tamu.edu/vet/be-prepared/
- MedlinePlus: https://medlineplus.gov/
- Red Cross: https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/pet-disaster-preparedness.html

For a more scholarly search, also consider including AGRICOLA from the National Agricultural Library (NAL), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and Google Scholar or Google Patents.

- Disaster Information Management Research Center (includes WISER, CHEMM, REMM, topic pages): https://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/
- PubMed: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/
- Disaster Lit: https://disasterinfo.nlm.nih.gov/disaster-lit
- AGRICOLA: https://agricola.nal.usda.gov/
- Food and Agricultural Organization Library: http://www.fao.org/library/libraryhome/en/
- World Health Organization Library: https://www.who.int/library/en/
- Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/
- Google Patents: https://www.google.com/?tbm=pts

For ongoing disasters or public health crises like COVID-19, preprint databases like MedRxIV and BioRxIV (both by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory) may be helpful. Keep in mind that preprints haven't been peer-reviewed.

- MedRxIV: https://www.medrxiv.org/
- BioRxIV: https://www.biorxiv.org/

To learn more about the process of disaster response, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) may be of interest. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides free courses at https://training.fema.gov/nims. **TV**