



# Start Here: Animal Emergency Response

A simple system to support animals during emergencies

During emergencies, animals are often left behind. Response efforts can quickly become chaotic—with limited time, people, and information. This guide provides a simple system to help you act quickly and work together.

## THE SYSTEM WORKS LIKE THIS

One Communication Channel  
One Intake & Tracking System  
Small Team (3–5 people)

Placement Options  
Safety First



## ROLES



### Coordinator

- Receives requests
- Tracks all activity
- Assigns responders



### Field Responders

- Check locations
- Support animals
- Report back



### Support

- Supplies & logistics
- Communication help

## PRIORITY SYSTEM

When you can't reach every animal, this is how you decide where to start:

### HIGH — Immediate danger

Trapped, injured, confined

### MEDIUM — At risk

No food, water, or shelter

### LOW — Monitor

Stable for now



## WHAT TO DO FIRST

1. Assign a coordinator
2. Create ONE communication channel (Facebook works)
3. Start tracking requests (spreadsheet)
4. Focus on highest priority animals first



## AVOID THIS

- Don't respond outside of the system
- Don't duplicate efforts
- Don't enter unsafe areas
- Don't try to do everything

## THE REALITY

You will not have perfect information. You will not reach every animal immediately. This system helps you do the most good with what you have.



## NEXT STEP

Download the Animal Emergency Response Guide & Toolkit. [borealanimalrescue.ca/resources](https://borealanimalrescue.ca/resources)

