

OHS ANNOUNCES FIRST RESPONDER GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

New York State initiative to fill gaps and build on capabilities

Companion Animal Sheltering Equipment (CASE)

The CASE grant is a competitive program to develop five to 10 regional mobile equipment caches. This grant will fund the necessary planning, equipment, training and exercises to enable operational pet sheltering capabilities that can be deployed statewide.

Pet issues emerged during the recent ice storm in 2008 and during the summer flooding of 2006, in New York State. There has been minimal statewide capacity to shelter pets in emergencies which typically results in poor human compliance with evacuation orders, thus increasing the risk to the health and safety of the public and responders.

“This grant will enhance mass care and sheltering capabilities by obtaining mass care supplies and developing staff to compliment existing sheltering plans establishing sheltering opportunities for pets and companion animals. By developing, equipping, and training the volunteer corps to enhance the state’s ability to safeguard animals we are helping to close the gaps of local jurisdictions so they can meet the needs of their local citizens by providing these often forgotten necessities,” said Director Donlon.

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker said, “One of the main reasons people do not evacuate their homes during an emergency is that they don’t want to leave their pets behind. This funding opportunity will offer the appropriate equipment and training to shelter companion animals, so pet owners who are asked to evacuate their homes will know their loved ones can be cared for until it is safe to return to their homes.”

In order to facilitate a regional approach to this grant funding opportunity, two or more counties are required to join together to submit an application.

Surrounding states, such as Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey have either implemented or are implementing similar trailer-based pet sheltering capabilities. This cost-effective regional approach builds capability without requiring every county to expend money on equipment. These resources would also be available to respond statewide if needed.

Requests for applications have been released. The application spending limit is \$50,000.

Applications for all three programs are due to OHS on July 15, 2009.

For more information you can visit us on the web:

New York State Office of Homeland Security: www.security.state.ny.us

Office for Fire Prevention and Control: <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/fire/firewww.html>

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets: <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/>