

June 2019 Update

Multi-Agency Coordination Webinar Announcement, New World Screw Worm, and More!

Webinar Opportunity!

Multi-Agency Coordination: What the Exotic Animal Industry Can Learn from Existing Animal Response Teams

July 25th 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET

Animal Multi-Agency Coordination Groups and/or Response Teams are used in a number of states, counties, and communities during disasters to coordinate resources and response efforts for companion animals and animals used in agriculture. In this webinar presenters will provide an overview of these efforts, introduce the model used to develop existing teams, and share some of their most valuable insights and lessons learned during the evolution of these groups. Participants will learn how this model can be adapted for the exotic animal industry and what steps can be taken to begin efforts at the local or regional level.

[Click Here to Register!](#)

No previous knowledge of Multi-Agency Coordination groups is required to participate in this webinar. Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions about this opportunity.

New World Screwworm

New World Screwworms (NWS) are fly larvae that infest the living tissue of warm-blooded animals, causing a condition known as Myiasis. NWS had been eradicated in the US for many years until 2016 when an outbreak in the Florida Keys was detected.. The response to this outbreak was relatively small, Key deer were heavily impacted but there was virtually no livestock involvement, still this response cost taxpayers over 3 million dollars. A widespread outbreak in a state such as Texas where there is a large population of cattle, sheep and goats would have devastating economic consequences. NWS have also been known to affect zoo animals, making this a concern for our industry.



Secondary Screwworm Fly
[Kathleen Franklin, cc by 2.0](#)

Dr. Yvonne Nadler of the ZAHP Fusion Center and Gavin Livingston of the [Source Population Alliance](#) recently attended a NWS exercise development workshop with the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and representatives from the Texas agricultural industry. This workshop refined an outbreak scenario, developed along with [SES, Inc.](#), that would be used in an exercise to assess state preparedness for a NWS outbreak. Feedback from the workshop will refine the exercise, which will be made available in the future to be used by susceptible states.

Based on the importance of preventing NWS from becoming established in our southern states, Dr. Johanna Davis of USDA Veterinary Services is preparing a webinar that will discuss specific NWS concerns for the exotic animal industry. A formal announcement for this webinar will be sent in a future update once a date has been set.

In the meantime, visit [the USDA disease information page](#) for more information on NWS. The [Disease Response Strategy New World Screwworm Myiasis](#) is especially timely, having been updated with lessons learned from the recent Florida outbreak.

Preparedness Focus: Unique Needs

June's preparedness focus is [unique needs](#). The needs of the exotics community are certainly unique and can vary greatly from facility to facility. No one knows your facility and collections better than you and your staff. Consider the following:

- What specific resources might your facility need during a disaster? Consider both supplies and personnel, and be mindful of unique equipment and skills that may be needed to maintain life support systems, complete an evacuation, or secure enclosures.
- How will these needs be met? It is unlikely that you have everything you could possibly need on hand at all times, but you should have a plan for how to acquire them.
- How will you request assistance if your needs exhaust your capabilities? It is important to be as specific as possible when requesting assistance. Your local emergency management may be able to help, but they will be far less familiar with the specialized needs of this industry. Developing a relationship with emergency management before disaster strikes will help them better understand your needs and help you learn what assistance may be available and how you can request it.

If you are just getting started with planning, consider looking to our [Contingency Planning Modules](#) for more industry specific information.

[Do 1 Thing](#), a non-profit organization that aims to build more disaster resilient communities, asks the community to do one "thing" to enhance preparedness each month.

Zoo and Aquarium All Hazards Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Fusion Center
301-562-0777 ext. 114 | <http://zahp.aza.org>