
Veterinary Disaster Medicine: Working Animals provides guidance for medical treatment of service dogs and horses working in disaster response. These working animals are frequently injured or killed in the line of duty as may be the case with their human first responder counterparts. The contributing authors are veterinarians who have been deployed to disasters and who have used their experience to find the right balance of key information that will be useful to veterinarians, veterinary technicians, veterinary students, and to search/rescue personnel or emergency response teams. The book is not intended to be a textbook but a useful field resource. The outline format distills a great volume of information to key elements pertinent to natural disasters such as firestorms or floods or to intentional disasters such as bomb blasts, chemical injury, or biologic agents. The book includes 10 chapters, an Emergency Response Contacts Directory, and an index.

Chapter 1, First Aid for Working Dogs, reviews sick or injured dog presentations and includes obtaining a history, handling, vital signs, the basic canine physical exam, and the management of such cases. It provides a functional introduction to bandaging techniques and emergency conditions more commonly seen, such as shock or neurologic injuries.

Chapter 2, First Aid for Working Horses, reviews handling, physical and chemical restraint, and the basic equine physical exam. It provides instruction on basic first aid, wound care principles, and basic wound treatment. In addition, there is first aid for common injuries such as lacerations or fractures. Common equine medical concerns such as lameness and colic and circumstance-related medical issues like heat exhaustion, stroke, and tying up or exercise-related myopathies are addressed. This chapter also includes a helpful Appendix A: First Aid Chemical Restraint and Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs and Dosages for Working Horses. Information on burn or smoke inhalation injury associated with firestorms is not included and might have been beneficial.

Chapter 3, Veterinary Triage, discusses triage principles and development of a triage system for sorting working animal patients in a disaster response. I am unaware of any other written resource addressing this topic. The authors effectively describe the differences between human and veterinary triage, stressing the