Emergency Preparedness for Animal Care

I. Extreme Weather
   a. Wildlife Center
      i. Upon the credible threat of hurricane or heavy snowfall, birds and reptiles will be fed extra rations in advance of the predicted arrival of the storm in Statesboro to allow for delays in feeding schedule during the active hurricane.
      ii. All birds will be crated and moved to the brick lecture hall in the main exhibit building when the threat of hurricane landfall becomes apparent. No windows are located in this structure. Other portable animals will be moved into the lecture hall in exhibit or travel housing.
      iii. The facility Curator will be responsible for feeding and watering of animals during any shutdown period caused by weather related events. If the Curator is unavailable, a specific staff person will be identified by the Curator to cover the facility feeding and watering.
      iv. No emergency power will be required for wildlife center stock during summer months. All are heat hardy. If an extended power outage occurs during winter months, crated animals who are cold sensitive (mammals and selected birds) will be transported to the research animal care facility (RACF). The RACF is equipped with a back-up generator.
      v. For a power outage of multiple days, single days’ worth of food requiring refrigeration or freezing will be stored in a cooler to limit the number of times freezers must be opened to preserve temperature in the units. If a long term power outage is anticipated, food materials will be housed in biology refrigeration using the back-up generator as long as space is available. If insufficient space is available a temporary generator will be requisitioned from physical plant or loaned by biology faculty to power the food freezers. Any food animals that fall below safe food temperatures will be discarded through the sanitary waste pick up system. Sufficient stock of food animals is available in the community to allow for feeding of the animals even if all frozen food is lost.
      vi. Outdoor ducks will not be housed during the storm but regular feeding schedules will be maintained. Floating food will not be adversely affected by heavy rain.
b. Research Animal Care Facility
   i. Upon the credible threat of hurricane or heavy snowfall, reptiles and mammals will be provided with additional dry food and water in advance of the predicted arrival of the storm in Statesboro to allow for delays in feeding schedule during the active hurricane.
   ii. Animals will be housed in place.
   iii. The Research Animal Care Facility (RACF) is located in a brick structure with no windows. The facility is equipped with a back-up generator capable of powering the RACF as well as all refrigeration units in the biology building. Physical plant maintains the generator including monthly operational testing and fuel checks.
   iv. In the event of flooding, animals are housed in portable caging. Caging will be moved to upper floors of the building until water recedes. If standing water will remain in the building for more than a few days, all animals will be moved to Wildlife Center housing in the portable caging.

II. Fire
   a. Wildlife Center
      i. In the event of a building fire all personnel will leave the building.
      ii. Alarms ring directly to the fire department and Public Safety. Every effort will be made to extinguish the fire as quickly as possible.
      iii. Human caretakers will not re-enter the building to rescue caged or tethered animals.
      iv. Animals in portable cages may be carried from the building as caretakers exit but no caretaker may go in search of animals to rescue.
      v. The Attending Veterinarian will be contacted by the Curator to be available as soon as the fire department releases the building to assess animal welfare and provide necessary treatment.

   b. Research Animal Care Facility
      i. In the event of a building fire all personnel will leave the building.
      ii. Alarms ring directly to the fire department and Public Safety. Every effort will be made to extinguish the fire as quickly as possible.
      iii. Human caretakers will not re-enter the building to rescue caged or tethered animals.
      iv. Animals in portable cages may be carried from the building as caretakers exit but no caretaker may go in search of animals to rescue.
      v. The Attending Veterinarian will be contacted by the Animal Facility Manager to be available as soon as the fire department
releases the building to assess animal welfare and provide necessary treatment.

III. Power Outage – Extended – not weather related
   a. Wildlife Center
      i. Power is only required for the freezers and refrigerator.
         1. For a power outage of multiple days, single days’ worth of food requiring refrigeration or freezing will be stored in a cooler to limit the number of times freezers must be opened to preserve temperature in the units.
         2. If a long term power outage is anticipated, food materials will be housed in biology refrigeration using the back-up generator as long as space is available.
         3. Temperature dependent animal stock will be transferred to the Research Animal Care Facility for temporary housing until power is restored.
         4. If insufficient space is available a temporary generator will be requisitioned from physical plant or loaned by biology faculty to power the food freezers. Any food animals that fall below safe food temperatures will be discarded through the sanitary waste pick up system. Sufficient stock of food animals is available in the community to allow for feeding of the animals even if all frozen food is lost.
         5. Animal carcasses will be discarded through normal waste disposal system.
      ii. Temporary generators are available on loan from facilities services.
   b. Research Animal Care Facility
      i. Emergency backup generator – gasoline powered is capable of sustaining the facility indefinitely.

IV. Pandemic
   a. Wildlife Center
      i. Minimum number of staff required to maintain current animal health and safety is one.
   b. Research Animal Care Facility
      i. Minimum number of staff required to maintain current animal health and safety is one.
   c. Shortage of animal care staff:
      i. Shared staffing:
         1. Wildlife Center and Research Animal Care Facility staff may be utilized to assure adequate care coverage.
         2. Research faculty and graduate students familiar with animal needs may be used to care for animals not on their specific protocol.
      ii. Reduction of workload may include any of the following:
         1. Researcher requested to postpone an non-essential research,
2. animal-breeding will be reduced to minimal maintenance levels;
3. no new animal purchases or collections made;
4. Cull any non-essential animals;
5. Reduction in the frequency of non-essential tasks such as wall washing, etc.

iii. Delay in delivery of food, bedding or other essential supplies
   1. Bedding and food are kept on hand for an approximate two week period.
   2. Additional storage space has been identified in the animal care facility to store an additional two week supply to allow for shipping delays.

iv. Delay in pickup of waste and carcasses
   1. Carcasses are kept frozen in the animal unit for disposal.
      a. In the event of out-break – frozen carcasses will be purged to maintain maximum space for storage.
   2. Additional storage space has been identified in existing freezer space to store an additional semester of putricible waste to allow for pickup delays.