

**CHAPTER 269**

AN ACT

SB 103

Relating to animal emergency operations planning; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 401.975 and 401.977.

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1. The duties, functions and powers of the Office of Emergency Management relating to animal emergency operations plans are imposed upon, transferred to and vested in the State Department of Agriculture.**

**SECTION 2.** ORS 401.975 is amended to read: 401.975. The Legislative Assembly finds that:

(1) During an evacuation after a major disaster or an emergency, many pet owners are reluctant to leave their pets and are willing to risk their lives to protect their pets.

(2) Animals are important to their owners and the presence of an animal brings comfort to an owner and may enhance recovery for an owner distressed over injury or damage caused by a major disaster or an emergency.

(3) Significant loss of livestock as a result of a major disaster or an emergency would seriously threaten the economy of Oregon. Therefore, a livestock emergency operations plan will ensure that livestock are provided for during a major disaster or an emergency.

(4) It is essential that the **State Department of Agriculture, the Office of Emergency Management and the Department of Human Services** [*Office of Emergency Management and the State Department of Agriculture*] work together to develop emergency operations plans for animals and livestock that provide for animals and livestock during a major disaster or an emergency.

**SECTION 3.** ORS 401.977 is amended to read: 401.977. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Companion animal" means a domestic animal commonly kept as a household pet.

(b) "Service animal" means an animal that assists or performs tasks for a person with a sensory, emotional, mental or physical disability.

(2) The [*Office of Emergency Management*] **State Department of Agriculture**, in cooperation with the [*State Department of Agriculture*] **Office of Emergency Management, the Department of Human Services** and local governments, shall prepare a written animal emergency operations plan that provides for the evacuation, transport and tem-

porary sheltering of companion animals and service animals during a major disaster or an emergency.

(3) The [*office*] **State Department of Agriculture**, in developing the plan, shall emphasize the protection of human life and shall consider:

(a) Allowing owners of service animals to be evacuated, transported and sheltered with their service animals;

(b) Establishing a sufficient number of evacuation shelters equipped to temporarily shelter companion animals and service animals in close proximity to a human sheltering facility;

(c) Allowing owners and their companion animals to be evacuated together whenever possible;

(d) Establishing an identification system to ensure that owners who are separated from their companion animals or service animals during an evacuation are provided with all information necessary to locate and reclaim their animals;

(e) Transporting companion animals or service animals, in cages or carriers that safely and securely confine the animals, in an impending major disaster or emergency;

(f) Recommending that animal shelters, humane societies, veterinary offices, boarding kennels, breeders, grooming facilities, animal testing facilities and any other entity that normally houses companion animals or service animals create evacuation plans for the animals housed at their facilities;

(g) Establishing recommended minimum holding periods for companion animals or service animals that are sheltered during a major disaster or an emergency; and

(h) Creating and promoting an educational campaign for owners of companion animals or service animals that will:

(A) Encourage owners to plan for and incorporate their animals in the owners' personal plans in the event of a major disaster or an emergency; and

(B) Inform owners of companion animals or service animals about the animal emergency operations plan prepared under this section.

**SECTION 4. (1) Section 1 of this 2021 Act and the amendments to ORS 401.975 and 401.977 by sections 2 and 3 of this 2021 Act become operative on July 1, 2022.**

**(2) The Office of Emergency Management, the State Department of Agriculture and the Department of Human Services may take any action before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section necessary to carry out the legislative policy expressed in section 1 of this 2021 Act.**

Approved by the Governor June 11, 2021  
 Filed in the office of Secretary of State June 14, 2021  
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