INTRODUCING LASER

PAWUIC Meeting

June 2020

The need for shelters that are focused specifically on large and barn animals has grown.

- Indian Fire 2001: 2 large/barn animals sheltered
- Doce Fire 2013: 25 large/barn animals sheltered
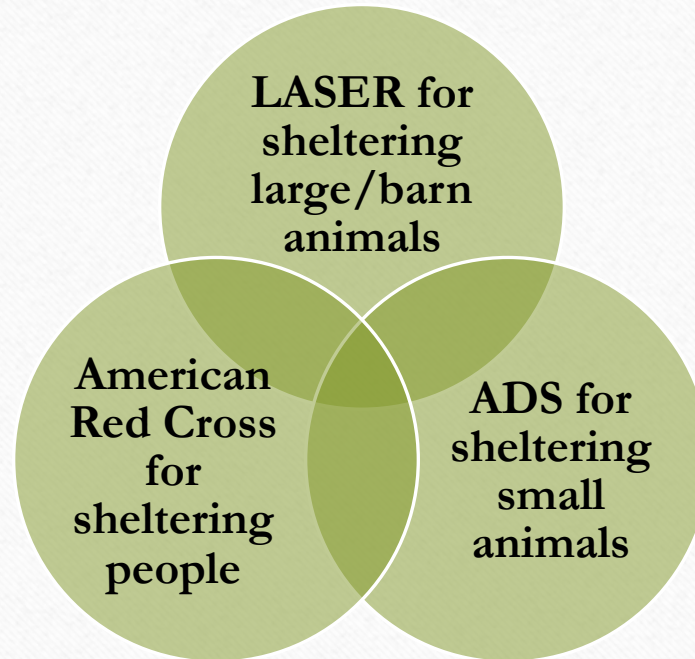- Goodwin Fire 2017: over 200 large/barn animals sheltered

Small Animal Shelters well-established through Animal Disaster Services (ADS)

Large and Barn Animals in need of emergency sheltering resulted in launching LASER in February 2019

Now, Three Separate Sheltering Organizations Under Emergency Mass Care

LASER for sheltering large/barn animals

American Red Cross for sheltering people

ADS for sheltering small animals

LASER - 501c3 organization as of February 2019

Our Mission: To provide safe shelter for barn animals during evacuations in Yavapai County and to provide information for emergency preparedness.

HOW DO WE PROTECT ANIMALS IN OUR CARE?

Setup, volunteer training and care for large animals while in a shelter are different than for household pets. So…..

1. Activation Process

- LASER works in partnership with Yavapai County Emergency Management

- Volunteers are contacted and scheduled as quickly as possible, with activation determined by Emergency Management

- All volunteers are ready to go at any time

- Drills are held to keep volunteers practiced and ready, particularly in off-season to stay proficient
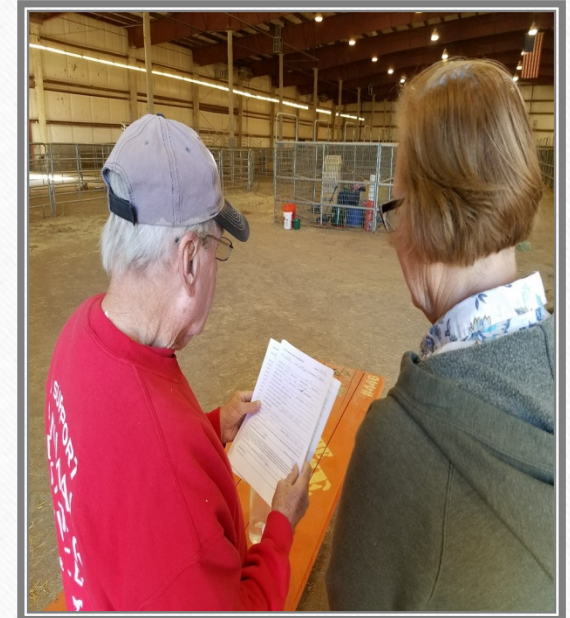
2. Shelter Sites operate 24/7 during evacuations

- Our Goal is to have shelter sites in different areas to allow for safe sheltering away from evacuated areas, wherever they may occur
- Sites are in place and ready for activation in two locations now – Prescott and Prescott Valley
- Third site currently being set up with stalls – Chino Valley
- Fourth site in place for overflow – Chino Valley
- Will be expanding to other areas each year (e.g., Verde Valley)

3. Trained Volunteers

Volunteers:

- Assist with setup and operations of shelter sites
- Effectively process the intake of animals
- Feed/provide water/clean stalls twice a day
- Ensure animal safety and welfare while at the shelter site
- Ensure proper release of animals to owners when the evacuation is lifted
- Assist with community education to prepare for emergencies resulting in evacuations

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Volunteer Training

- Volunteers must pass Yavapai County background checks and a County orientation

- LASER Volunteers get trained in three different levels based on what they want to do at the shelter site, including specific animal handling training for volunteers who will be handling animals or working in close proximity to them

- LASER holds drills and refresher training to keep skills current

RESULT? The public can feel assured that their animals are being cared for by trained volunteers

4. Documentation

- We keep very clear records for intake of animals to properly identify each animal and ensure they go home to the right owners

- We do wellness checks at least twice daily for all animals and create a "watch list" for any concerns

- We have veterinarians on call during any period of activation

- We have clear policies regarding visitors and have practices designed to keep a calm and safe environment for the animals during activation

Emergency Readiness – Being Proactive rather than Reactive

- Our focus for 2019 was to have shelter sites ready and volunteers trained before fire season started and to continue to expand those services.

- We are now working on expanding to other shelter sites, continuing to train new volunteers and including a focus on the Emergency Readiness part of our mission.

- Speakers Bureau started to get LASER introduced to different communities

- Presence at community events and safety/wildfire events planned and distribution of emergency preparedness information

Educating Animal Owners on What They Can Do to Prepare at Home

For Example:

1. **Prepare a large/barn animal evacuation kit - ready to go at all times**
   - We provide a list of recommended items to put in trash bin ready to put in truck

2. **Adopt Firewise practices at their house**
   - We provide resource information on how best to create this

3. **Prepare barn area for safety**
   - We provide information on how best to do this

Educating Animal Owners on What They Can Do to Prepare at Home

4. **Register for CodeRed through Sheriff's Office at www.ycsoaz.gov and add that to cellphone**
5. Sign up for Code Red on cellphones for alerts
6. Create a neighborhood evacuation plan
7. Teach animals to load in a trailer easily
8. Become familiar with various ways in and out of neighborhoods

WE ARE NOTHING WITHOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

LASER
Large Animal Shelters & Emergency Readiness

Volunteers Needed
Apply here.

FOR VOLUNTEERS:

Applications can be accessed via the website at

www.laser-shelter.org

or via email at

lasershelter@gmail.com

Launched our fundraising and media/marketing programs this year

Donations are needed for many things, such as:

- Stall Panels to set up shelter site in Chino Valley
- Shelter Supplies
- Printing of training materials and educational materials

LASER
Large **A**nimal **S**helters & **E**mergency **R**eadiness
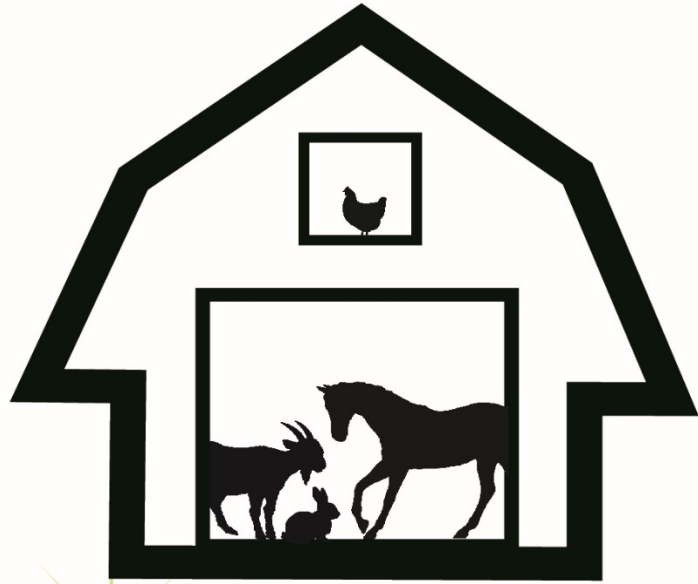
In summary, LASER is new, but we have made a lot of headway. We are excited about what is possible in working together.

We are committed to continuing this work until we have shelter sites throughout populated parts of Yavapai County and volunteers ready to staff those shelter sites.

We are also committed to supporting large/barn animal owners in preparing for emergencies so they can be proactive rather than reactive.

THANK YOU!