

8-16-88



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ely District Office
Star Route 5, Box 1
Ely, Nevada 89301



IN REPLY REFER TO:

4700
(NV-043)

AUG 16 1988

Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses and Burros
c/o Terri Jay, Director
Stewart Facility
5500 Snider Ave., Bldg. 6, Rm. 137
Carson City, Nv. 89710

Dear Ms. Jay:

I have enclosed a copy of the Removal Plan for the Jake's Wash HMA Emergency Wild Horse Gather as you requested. If you have further questions concerning this removal, contact Bob Brown at our office or call (702) 289-4865. He will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Ely District wild horse program.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Walker
District Manager

- 1 Enclosure
- 1. Removal Plan (10 pp)

7-1-88

REMOVAL PLAN FOR THE
JAKE'S WASH HMA
EMERGENCY
WILD HORSE GATHER

Prepared by Robert E. Brown
Wild Horse and Burro Specialist

Bureau of Land Management
Ely District
Egan Resource Area
Ely, Nevada

Removal Plan for the Jake's Wash HMA
Emergency Wild Horse Gather

Introduction

This document outlines the process and events involved with the emergency removal of 41 wild horses from the Jake's Wash Herd Management Area (HMA). The Jake's Wash HMA gather area is located within the BLM Ely District, Egan Resource Area, approximately 15 air miles west of Ely, Nevada (see attached map).

who called?
The Ely District was notified on July 1, 1988 that wild horses were without water in the Jake's Wash HMA at Waldy Pond. Investigation into the report confirmed a serious water shortage throughout the north half of the HMA. Ground and aerial surveillance revealed that the ponds and undeveloped springs on the east side of the HMA were dry. A limited water supply was noted at Waldy Pond on the west side of the fence. The only dependable water source was found at Deadman Well located about 15 miles south of Waldy Pond. There was good forage available throughout the HMA.

The Ely District started hauling water to troughs placed at Waldy Pond east of the fence for the horses on July 1, 1988. There were no horses west of the fence. A portion of the fence at Waldy Pond was subsequently *when* removed to allow the horses east of the fence free access to the ponds on the west side. Even with these measures to provide water, nineteen horses, including twelve at Waldy Pond, died of thirst by July 7, 1988. *Necropsy 2*

Because of the critical nature of the situation, the Ely District contacted the Nevada State Office with the proposal to conduct an emergency removal of the remaining horses in the Waldy Pond area. There were 31 horses, all in poor shape, known to be watering at this location from the water hauled and placed in troughs there. Another 27, which were all in good condition, were noted to the south near Deadman Well. These were to be left alone since they were in good shape and they were watering at a dependable water source. The State Office concurred with the emergency removal proposal.

The Jake's Wash HMA is not covered by a herd management area plan (HMAP). However, the Egan Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD) have established the appropriate management level (AML) for the Jake's Wash herd at 20 horses.

Pregather Planning Meeting

A meeting to plan the gathering strategy was held at the Ely District office on July 8, 1988. Those in attendance included Ken Walker (District Manager), Terry Dailey (ADM Resources), Hal Bybee (ADM Operations), Gene Drais (Egan Area Manager), Bob Brown (Wild Horse and Burro Specialist), Bill Lindsey (Egan Supervisory Range Conservationist), Tooter Burdick (Egan Range Technician), Lisa Diercks and Brian Dick (Egan Range Conservationists).

Methods of capture were discussed and two of these, helicopter capture and trapping horses by running them on horseback, were not considered further for the following reasons. Helicopter capture was not considered due to the emergency nature and the need to react quickly. Neither a helicopter nor a qualified pilot was readily available to conduct the gather. It was also felt that using a helicopter and wing traps would place the horses under too much stress due to the poor condition they were already in. Trapping horses by running them on horseback was also considered unfeasible because it would also place the poor condition animals under too much stress. The BLM Susanville crew was not available and there were not enough qualified Ely District people to use this method. It is also too easy to lose the horses after starting them toward the trap, and injuries to both people and horses are more likely.

It was decided that water trapping the horses would be the most humane and, therefore, the preferred capture method. It was concluded at the meeting that we could not put together a detailed plan of operations as the situation would change too quickly. Tooter Burdick was placed in charge of the removal, since he was the most knowledgeable in water trapping. The Ely District would provide any support needed to ensure a smooth, safe operation. Bob Brown provided a checklist of items to be considered in the removal operation for the safety and humane treatment of the horses during their capture, care and transportation (see attached Stipulations and Specifications).

Time and Method of Capture

The gather took place starting July 8, 1988 and was completed on July 17, 1988. It was conducted by Ely District personnel, with help from Dave Boyles (Winnemucca District Range Technician). The fence at Waldy Pond was reclosed, water in the troughs was allowed to dry up and the troughs were removed. Hauled water was put into the reservoir on the east side of the fence and the water trap was set up around this reservoir using portable pipe panels and a blind for manually closing the gate. A temporary holding corral was constructed adjacent to the trap out of portable pipe panels to hold the horses after capture. Barbed wire or other harmful materials were not allowed for trap or holding corral construction. Horseback riders were available to rope any young foals that may have become separated from the mares. Two foals were, in fact, captured by roping.

Number of Horses to be Gathered

The proposed gather was to remove those horses from the Waldy Pond area that were endangered by a lack of water (approximately 31 horses), and to leave those watering at Deadman Well in the HMA (approximately 27 horses). This action would leave the AML of 20 horses in the Jake's Wash HMA.

When the removal was completed, 41 wild horses had been removed from the Waldy Pond trap site as follows:

July 8, 1988	2 horses captured
July 13, 1988	6 horses captured
July 14, 1988	4 horses captured
July 15, 1988	25 horses captured
July 17, 1988	4 horses captured

A post gather aerial census was conducted by helicopter (Bell 206B jet ranger) on July 18, 1988. The census revealed at least 23 horses remained in the HMA upon completion of the gather.

Administration of the Capture Operation

The Ely District was responsible for the capture, care, temporary holding, and transportation of the 41 captured horses to the adoption preparation facility at Palomino Valley Corrals (PVC).

A precapture evaluation of existing conditions in the gather area was conducted both on the site and at the July 8, 1988 planning meeting. It included animal condition, prevailing temperatures, drought conditions, locations of fences and other physical barriers, and animal distribution in relation to the trap location. It was determined that the services of a veterinarian would be obtained for inspection of the animals prior to transportation to PVC. All animals were checked by the veterinarian to ensure that they were strong enough to ship.

Tooter Burdick was placed in charge of the on the ground capture operation and was directly responsible for conducting the roundup and appointing other BLM personnel to assist with the roundup as necessary. It was felt that his past experience and knowledge of water trapping made him the best qualified to head up the operation. He also reported the roundup proceedings to the Egan Area Manager, who was responsible for the overall capture operation. The Egan Area Manager reported to the Ely District Manager, who kept the Nevada State Office informed. Bob Brown, Ely District Wild Horse Specialist, was committed as project inspector, during this operation, on the Antelope Valley - Antelope - Goshute Wild Horse Removal Contract. Bob was available to Tooter for technical advice and policy direction needed in the conduct of this gather. Bob was also available, if needed, to assist in the gather operation.

All publicity, formal public contact, and inquiries were handled through the Egan Area Manager, Gene Drais. He also coordinated with PVC, the adoption preparation facility, to assure that space was available in the corrals for the captured horses, that they could be handled humanely and efficiently, and that animals transported from the capture site arrived in good condition.

Destruction of Injured or Sick Animals

Any severely injured or seriously sick animal was to be destroyed in accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 4730.1. Animals were to be destroyed only when a definite act of mercy was needed to alleviate pain and suffering. The local veterinarian was on call to determine the severity of any injury or sickness, and if necessary to care for any injured horses. Destruction was to be done in the most humane method available as per Washington Office Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Program Guidance dated January 1983.

The carcasses of wild horses which would die or be destroyed as a result of any infectious, contagious, or parasitic disease were to be disposed of by burial to a depth of at least 3 feet.

The carcasses of wild horses which would be destroyed as a result of age, injury, lameness, or noncontagious disease or illness were to be disposed of by removing them from the capture site or holding facility and placing them in an inconspicuous location to minimize the visual impacts. Carcasses would not be placed in drainages regardless of drainage size or downstream destination.

The 12 horses that died at Waldy Pond were buried to eliminate a potential health hazard. One leppy foal died after five days of care and was disposed of in an inconspicuous location. The veterinarian destroyed one extremely weak mare by lethal injection. She too was disposed of in an inconspicuous location.

Temporary Holding Facility

Captured horses were hauled by gooseneck trailer from the trap site holding corrals to the BLM Ely District holding facility in Ely, Nevada. The District corrals were strengthened using portable pipe panels and the animals were sorted into two pens - one for stallions, the other for mares and foals.

how? burial?

They were provided good quality hay and water and allowed to regain their strength and health. Electrolytes were also provided to those animals that were dehydrated. Leppy foals were bottle fed Foal Lac, electrolytes and vitamins.

Once the animals had regained their strength, they were inspected by the veterinarian who declared them healthy enough to transport to PVC. Stallions, mares, and colts were all shipped in separate compartments in either gooseneck stocktrailers or single deck trucks. All shipped animals arrived at PVC in good shape without any serious injuries.

Prepared by:

Robert E Brown

Robert E. Brown
Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
Ely District

8/8/88
Date

Reviewed by:

Russell T. Dailey

Russell T. Dailey
ADM Resources
Ely District

8/10/88
Date

Gene L. Drais

Gene L. Drais
Egan Area Manager
Ely District

8-9-88
Date

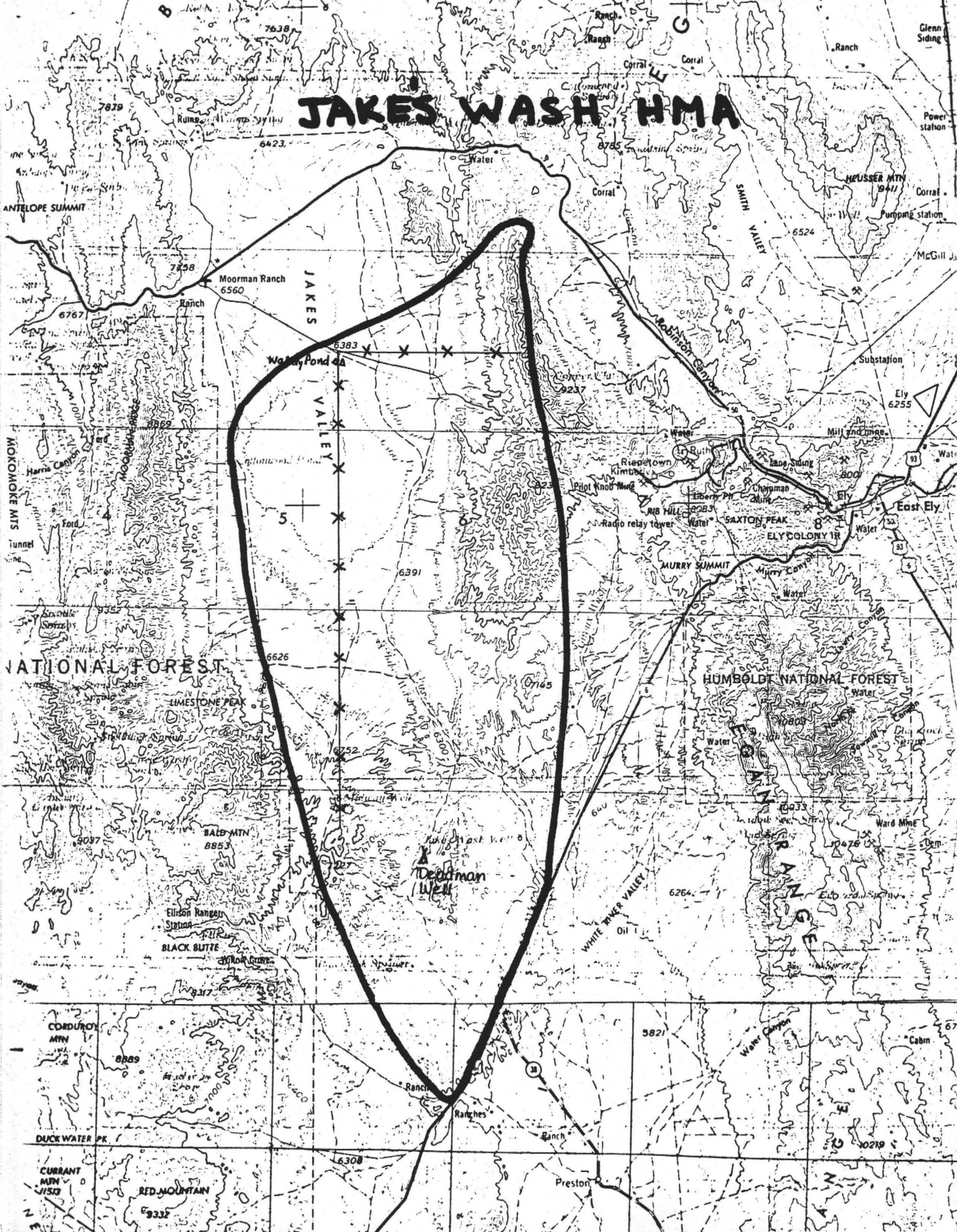
Approved by:

Kenneth G. Walker

Kenneth G. Walker
District Manager
Ely District

8-9-88
Date

JAKES WASH HMA



Stipulations and Specifications

A. Motorized Equipment

1. All motorized equipment employed in the transportation of captured animals shall be in compliance with appropriate State and Federal laws and regulations applicable to the humane transportation of animals.
2. Vehicles shall be in good repair, of adequate rated capacity, and operated so as to insure that captured animals are transported without undue risk or injury.
3. Only stocktrailers shall be allowed for transporting animals from traps to temporary holding facilities. Only Bobtail trucks, stocktrailers, or single deck trucks shall be used to haul animals from temporary holding facilities to final destination. Sides or stockracks of transporting vehicles shall be a minimum height of 6 feet 6 inches from vehicle floor. Single deck trucks with trailers 40 feet or longer shall have two partition gates to separate animals. Trailers less than 40 feet shall have at least one partition gate to separate the animals. Each partition shall be a minimum of 6 feet high and shall have a minimum 5 foot wide swinging gate. The use of double deck trailers is unacceptable and shall not be allowed.
4. All vehicles used to transport animals to final destination shall be equipped with at least one door at the rear end of the vehicle which is capable of sliding either horizontally or vertically.
5. Floors of vehicles and the loading chute shall be covered and maintained with a non-skid surface such as sand, mineral soil or wood shavings, to prevent the animals from slipping.
6. Animals to be loaded and transported in any vehicle shall be as directed by the COR and may include limitations on numbers according to age, size, sex, temperament, and animal condition. A minimum of 1.4 linear foot per adult animal and .75 linear foot per foal shall be allowed per standard 8 foot wide stocktrailer/truck.
7. The COR shall consider the condition of the animals, weather conditions, type of vehicles, distance to be transported, or other factors when planning for the movement of captured animals. The COR shall provide for any brand and/or inspection services required for the captured animals.

8. If the COR determines that dust conditions are such that the animals could be endangered during transportation, the driver will be instructed to adjust speed.

B. Trapping and Care

1. All capture attempts shall be accomplished by the utilization of a water trap. A minimum of one saddlehorse shall be immediately available at the trapsite to accomplish roping if necessary. Roping shall be done as determined by the COR. Under no circumstances shall animals be tied down for more than 1 hour.
2. Water trapping shall be accomplished in such a manner that bands or herds will remain together. Foals shall not be left behind.
3. One trap location will be required to accomplish the work. The trap location and holding facilities must be approved by the COR prior to construction.
4. All traps and holding facilities shall be constructed, maintained and operated to handle the animals in a safe and humane manner and be in accordance with the following:
 - a. Traps and holding facilities shall be constructed of portable panels, the top of which shall not be less than 72 inches high, and the bottom rail of which shall not be more than 12 inches from ground level. All traps and holding facilities shall be oval or round in design.
 - b. All loading chute sides shall be fully covered with plywood or like material. The loading chute shall also be a minimum of 6 feet high.
 - c. All runways shall be a minimum of 20 feet long and a minimum of 6 feet high and shall be covered with plywood or like material a minimum of 1 foot to 5 feet above ground level.
 - d. All crowding pens including the gates leading to the runways shall be covered with a material which prevents the animals from seeing out (plywood, burlap, etc.) and shall be covered a minimum of 1 foot to 5 feet above ground level. Eight linear feet of this material shall be capable of being removed or let down to provide a viewing window.

- e. All pens and runways used for the movement and handling of animals shall be connected with hinged self-locking gates.
5. No fence modification will be made without authorization from the COR, who shall be responsible for restoration of any fence modification which he has made.
6. When dust conditions occur within or adjacent to the trap or holding facility, the COR shall be required to wet down the ground with water.
7. Alternate pens, within the holding facility shall be furnished to separate mares with small foals, sick and injured animals, and stray animals from the other horses. Animals shall be sorted as to age, number, size, temperament, sex, and condition when in the holding facility so as to minimize, to the extent possible, injury due to fighting and trampling.
8. Animals shall be transported to final destination from temporary holding facilities only after a veterinary inspection has determined that the animals are sound enough to transport, unless prior approval is granted by the COR for unusual circumstances. The COR shall schedule shipments of animals to arrive at final destination between 6:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. No shipments shall be scheduled to arrive at final destination on Sunday.
9. The COR shall provide animals held in the traps and/or holding facilities with a continuous supply of fresh clean water at a minimum rate of 10 gallons per animal per day. Animals held for 10 hours or more in the traps or holding facilities shall be provided good quality hay at the rate of not less than 2 pounds of hay per 100 pounds of estimated body weight per day.
10. It is the responsibility of the COR to provide security to prevent loss, injury or death of captured animals until delivery to final destination.
11. The COR shall restrain sick or injured animals if treatment by a veterinarian is necessary. The COR and the veterinarian will determine if injured animals must be destroyed and provide for destruction and disposal of such animals.