

## **Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Department of Clinical Sciences Protocol For University Closures with Definitions of Essential Personnel**

**Purpose:** To guide management of animal care, hospital responsibilities, and teaching responsibilities during Auburn University closing in response to severe weather events or other emergencies. Priorities will be keeping people and animals safe, providing and maintaining quality patient care for hospitalized patients, and admission, care and treatment of animals needing emergency care.

**Essential personnel** need to be available to serve the hospital to attend to patient care and emergencies as needed.

The Department Head and Hospital Administration will be present to assist Section Chiefs and Faculty as needed.

Section Chiefs should oversee service responsibilities of faculty and house officers within their sections.

Faculty are essential personnel if they are scheduled on clinic duty. They will work with their section head to support their service, and should assist faculty in other services, as they are able and if needed.

House Officers (Residents and Interns) are essential if they are assigned to a clinical service. They will be expected to assist that service, and where needed in other service areas as they are able, if their assigned service responsibilities are accomplished.

**NOTE:** If travel to the CVM Campus is unsafe for an individual that is a part of “on-clinic personnel”, notification of the danger should be communicated to the Section Chief, or Department Head. Faculty and house officers that are not on clinic duty and that have safe travel access may be called and asked to assist and support VTH or Department responsibilities if available. Department or VTH staff should report circumstances where travel to the CVM campus is unsafe to their immediate supervisor and/or hospital administrator.

### **Veterinary Teaching Hospital Staff**

During emergency events, the VTH will generally close for elective appointments but will remain open to care for inpatients and emergencies. Members of the community that arrive with their pets to seek shelter from an anticipated storm event will need assistance from staff. These individuals will be advised to seek shelter in one of the Colleges “Safe Areas”. Questions about reporting to, or leaving work, should be directed to your supervisor.

## **Clinical Pathology Laboratory**

The Clinical Pathology Lab will assume emergency hours, which are 9AM-12PM, in emergency university closures. The availability of the after-hours student workers (5PM-12AM) may not be known and will depend on the student's ability to arrive safely for their shift. Therefore, student assistance should not be assumed, as they may not be able to travel safely to the VTH. The Clinical Pathology Teaching Lab will remain open.

## **DCS Staff**

The Farm Supervisor will direct animal care and assign his crew to essential responsibilities as needed if they can safely come in, and will assist faculty with teaching herds and other animal care as required.

Research/Instruction Coordinators will assist with teaching herd and research animal management, and communicate to their supervisor's issues that require assistance.

Multipurpose Laboratory (MPL) technical staff will be expected to support caring for the animals in the MPL and to assist with other animal care as needed under the direction of coordinating faculty.

## **Veterinary Students**

Veterinary students on clinical rotations that can safely travel to the veterinary teaching hospital will be expected to do so to provide care of their hospitalized patients and for emergencies admitted to the clinical service to which they are assigned. Faculty coordinating specific services will advise veterinary students as to their need for them to remain at the hospital. Veterinary students may be released to go home at the discretion of the coordinating faculty member. Non-clinical elective teaching rotations will be cancelled, and restart when Auburn University classes are resumed.

## **Southeastern Raptor Center**

The Center Director, Assistant Director of Education and Training, Raptor Specialists, and veterinary staff are essential personnel in emergency closures. These individuals will be expected to provide care and management of raptors in the educational collection. Additionally, they will participate as a team in caring for rehabilitating raptors with attention to Center biosecurity. Volunteer Supervisors for Education and Rehabilitation will be the contact persons that will advise volunteers regarding the necessity to come in for various shifts in such an event. Personnel that cannot travel to the Center because of unsafe conditions; that have questions about reporting to, or leaving work, should contact the Center Director.