

**THE ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR
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COMMITTEE ON LEGAL ISSUES PERTAINING TO ANIMALS

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April 21, 2003

John T. Odermatt
Commissioner
New York City Office of Emergency Management
11 Water Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Commissioner Odermatt:

The need for emergency procedures for the benefit of animals is crucial so that no population is without assistance in times of crisis. It is important that citizens and first responders have information on emergency provisions to deal with crises like the Condé Nast fire in Times Square and the collapse of the World Trade Center, like that provided on "Pet Preparedness," by the OEM web site.

I am writing on behalf of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York's Committee on Legal Issues Pertaining to Animals. In the spring of 2002, Eileen Pleva, also a member of the Committee, spoke to Elizabeth Davis about animal welfare issues following the collapse of World Trade Center and about the OEM's effort to create an Animal and Disaster Response Committee Task Force. I understand that OEM has continued its endeavor to form such a committee and we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to continue a dialogue to discuss the possibility of having a representative of the Committee act as a liaison between the OEM and the members of the legal community. Recently the Committee was instrumental in the development and successful creation of the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals, which signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City on December 24, 2002, to address the problem of dog and cat overpopulation. New York City's Center for Animal Care and Control (CACC) is an important charter member of the Alliance. Similarly, we strongly believe that a representative from our Committee would have much to offer the OEM in its attempt to plan for the protection of New York City's animals during emergencies.

I sincerely thank you for time and would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you. Please

contact me at (212) 857-8809 to let me know whether such a meeting would be possible.

Sincerely,

Jennifer S. Rosa