



Veterinary Emergency Response Unit (VERU) : Activities and Accomplishment

BIHAR ANIMAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, PATNA-800014

Veterinary Emergency Response Unit (VERU)

India is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world, suffering over 430 major disasters in the last thirty years, affecting an estimated 1.5 billion people

ABOUT VERU

In 2009, following the Kosi river flood in north Bihar, and frequently occurring major disasters in India: the Bihar Veterinary College, with the support of World Animal Protection, initiated India's first Veterinary Emergency Response Unit (VERU) for Animal Disaster Management activities. It was found that the specialised training for emergency management of animals is essential to veterinary graduates, paravets and other stake holders. Thus this unit was established for capacity building to various stake holders in different areas of animal disaster management viz flood drought, fire, natural calamities etc.

VERU is an organised group of veterinary students, structured and trained for rapid responses with the aim of benefiting the welfare of animals and livelihood of the community in disasters.

Establishing VERU in India

Following its success in Bihar, VERU's have been established in five key regional hubs in India: North - Palampur, South - Chennai, West - Anand, East - Guwahati and Central - Jabalpur, with an additional unit in Patna.

It is also successfully introduced VERU's in Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Colombia, Thailand and Myanmar.

Objective of VERU

- ✱ To assist with emergency veterinary responses
- ✱ Effective stabilization of animal populations
- ✱ Support communities in risk reduction
- ✱ Promote awareness of animal welfare

Five freedom for Animals through VERU

- ✱ Freedom from hunger and thirst
- ✱ Freedom from discomfort
- ✱ Freedom from pain, injury and diseases
- ✱ Freedom from expressing abnormal behaviour
- ✱ Freedom from Fear and distress



The VERU - BVC has got the opportunity to become first unit in India for imparting various training to students, officers. NDRF and SDRF personnel and farmers and youth in Livestock Disaster Management. Besides training and capacity building this unit also works in disaster situation by organising animal health camps, rescue operations, hands on training to villagers in drought, flood and fire situation with the help of their experienced faculties, facilities and WAP personnel. VERU broadly covers the areas like disaster impact on animals, deployment and post intervention responsibilities, feeding and water supply in disaster, safety security & trauma management, community preparedness, disease control, biosecurity, emergency medicines and carcass disposal, preparedness planning for drought, flood, heat etc. Disaster risk reduction planning, pre disaster, during disaster and Post disaster intervention etc.

VERU training at Bihta, Patna



Activities

Major activities covered by VERU is Training and Capacity building of Veterinary students, youth, farmers and veterinary officers. NDRF and SDRF personnel are also given training on livestock Disaster Management, specialised training on animal rescue techniques, first aid practices and management of animals in emergency. Organization of animal health camps and awareness programmes in flood and drought affected areas of Bihar also covered under this forum. Identification of Vulnerable Zone and pre-flood and pre-drought planning and intervention by team. VERU conducts Certificate Course for IIIrd / IVth year students of Bihar Veterinary College, Patna .

Accomplishments

- Since the inception of VERU a total no. of 324 Veterinary Students has been trained through VERU. The VERU Certificate Course consists of 16 lecture series and a mandatory Simulation exercise in real situation with the help of WAP.
- A total of 9 animal health camps and awareness programme was organized to sensitise the drought and flood affected area during last 2 years by VERU Students.
- 1180 veterinary officers from department of A.H Govt. of Bihar has been trained in Management of Animals in Emergency. The programme was sponsored by Bihar State disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) to impart specialised training to their officers in Animal Disaster Management. We feel proud to say that BASU is pioneer in India to provide training to all the officers of AH. Deptt. working in field as well as district head quarters and state level officers. The whole programme was completed in 33 batches.
- 3 training to NDRF & one for SDRF personnel was given by BASU Patna in animal rescue and Emergency Management during Disaster.
- VERU Patna also participated in state level events like Bihar Diwas, Kishan Mela etc. and created awareness and training on the sports.
- This centres also got prizes and certificate from BSDMA for their excellent contributions.
- The students are exposed to five to seven days theory classes on designed animal disaster lecture module and one day simulation exercise at 9th Bn, NDRF Bihta and at river banks. They also gets hands-on-training on management of wildlife animals in emergencies by experts of WWF and zoo experts. This programme is first of its kind in India which impart specialized training to Veterinary students.



Certificate distribution after training

Details of training of Veterinary officers from June-2018 -June 2019.

S.No.	Training Period	No of Participants
1.	June 2018	140
2.	July 2018	140
3.	Sep. 2018	69
4.	Oct. 2018	98
5.	Jan. 2019	174
6.	Feb. 2019	106
7.	Mar. 2019	64
8.	Apr. 2019	40
9.	May 2019	195
10.	June 2019	158

Preparing Veterinarians for emergency response

- ◎ The Veterinary Emergency Response Units (VERU) located in key veterinary colleges in India, deliver internationally recognized training and lectures, both theoretical and practical, to final year veterinary students.
- ◎ The program is supported by the Bihar state disaster management Authority (BSDMA) and World Animal Protection India & National disaster response force.
- ◎ Upon completion; the students emerge with a VERU certificate, accredited by the BSDMA and World Animal Protection, New Delhi.
- ◎ Students learn all aspects of veterinary care needed to quickly respond to protect animals in emergencies and disasters.
- ◎ VERU also prepares veterinarians to support vulnerable communities, who rely on animals for their livelihoods and for companionship, in disaster preparedness. VERU also work effectively alongside government partners and humanitarian NGO.

Address Areas for VERU, Patna

Mainly Bihar but the Unit also impart training and other activities in nearby states viz. U.P. , Jharkhand and West Bengal.



Compiled & Edited by :

Dr. J K Prasad

Dean, BVC

Dr. Pankaj Kumar

Head Extension &

Officer in charge VERU

Dr. S K Rajak

All correspondences may kindly be addressed to:

Dean, Bihar Vety. College, Patna

Bihar Animal Sciences University, Patna,

Bihar, India, PIN Code – 800014

Phone No.: 0612-2226644

Email: deenbvcpatna@gmail.com

principalbvcpatna@gmail.com