

Tips for Protecting Your

Animals in a Disaster

Prepare, Prepare, Prepare!

- Keep a “Pet Emergency Kit” ready. The kit should include: a few days worth of medication, your pet’s medical and vaccination records, a leash, collar, identification, water, food toys, a picture of YOU & YOUR PET, and bedding.
- Make sure that your animals have some form of permanent identification such as a microchip, brand, tattoo, etc.
- Purchase a pet carrier and label it with emergency contact information.
- Store water and feed for emergencies.
- Create a contingency plan for animals including horses, livestock, etc., in emergency situation that addresses transportation, water and feed resources, and areas for confinement if needed.

“THE NUMBER ONE REASON PEOPLE REFUSE TO EVACUATE THEIR HOMES DURING AN EMERGENCY IS BECAUSE THEY DON’T WANT TO LEAVE A PET BEHIND”

How You Can Help

- Volunteer—Become a CART member.
- Get certified through our free classes and on-line FEMA training.
- Acquire animal handling skills and life-saving techniques for pets and humans.
- Prepare your own family and pets for the unexpected.
- Help Chesapeake CART educate the public on how to get prepared. We have tables set up at most large public gatherings with lots of information to share.
- Encourage neighbors and extended family to Be Prepared, Make A Plan and Stay Informed.

Get Involved!

Volunteering is a way that YOU can make a difference in our City!

For further info please contact:

Emergency Management Office

304 Albemarle Drive

Chesapeake, VA 23322

(757) 382-6504

Fax: (757) 382-8228

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City of Chesapeake CART

Chesapeake
VIRGINIA



Goals of Chesapeake CART

- To facilitate a rapid, coordinated and effective response to any emergency affecting animals.
- Enhance overall health and safety for animals and humans.
- To prevent or decrease the spread of disease during emergencies affecting animals.

Formed under the guidance of the Virginia State Animal Response Team



About Chesapeake CART

Chesapeake CART is working with the assistance and cooperation of Chesapeake Fire, Animal Control, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Medical Reserve Corps, Chesapeake Humane Society, Community Emergency Response Teams, Sheriff's Department, Parks, and Recreation and local Veterinarians.

Our "Emergency Pet & Equine Shelter Standard Operating Guidelines", received approval from the VA SART Board of Directors in September 2009.

The Large Animal sector has had several exercises including Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue in which over 100 participants and auditors attending. This training has resulted in several emergency responses with positive results.



Classes & Training

Volunteering does not mean just showing up at an event expecting to blend in with a team. Specific training will keep you, the animals and the rest of the team, safe and better able to deal with whatever disaster may affect your community. Many of the required and suggested FEMA classes can be taken on line at:

<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

Ongoing Classes

- ARC Pet First Aid/CPR for dogs and cats
- Human First Aid, CPR/AED
- Animals in Disaster I & II

Volunteers have also had the opportunity to participate in Animal Decontamination, Disaster Response Workshops, a visit to an Alpaca Farm, and various other training opportunities.

Grants Received

Through grants we were quite fortunate to receive two pet trailers complete with everything needed to set up two 200 crate emergency shelters.

During Hurricane Irene in August, 2011 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012 we were able to provide pet sheltering at a local community center. With the assistance of the Chesapeake Fire Department and the Sheriff's work force we were set up and ready to receive animals within 24 hours of the request to open a pet shelter.



Although we had a small number of animals being brought in, if these Hurricanes were much larger we would have been challenged by not having enough volunteers to assist.



It has been our desire to be able to accept pets of First Responders as they may be on duty for up to 36 hours. If, at some point in time, we are able to have a "people & their pets" shelter, we should be able to function much better. The people would assist in caring for their pets, lessening the stress on all. Even at that time, we will still need caring volunteers to be ready to respond.

"What about my pet?" is a question we receive frequently from potential volunteers. Yes, you may bring your own pet(s) to the shelter. They will be placed in separate quarters so that when they see you come into that room, they know you are coming to take care of them. A win-win situation!

