

# DART Disaster Animal Response Team

The Disaster Animal Response Team is an integral part of a community's planning, preparation, response and recovery to a disastrous event.

Learn how to become a part of the animal emergency/disaster response team in your community and Tennessee. Members include:

- Veterinarians
- Veterinary technicians
- Animal control personnel
- Extension agents and specialists
- Companion animal and farm animal owners
- Wildlife personnel
- Administrative personnel



## DART Support Agencies and Organizations

- American Humane Association
- American Red Cross
- Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley
- Humane Society of the United States
- Tennessee Animal Control Association
- Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
- Tennessee Cattleman's Association
- Tennessee Dairy Producer's Association
- Tennessee Department of Agriculture
  - Agricultural Crime Unit*
  - Division of Forestry*
  - Division of Regulatory Services*
- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
- Tennessee Department of Health
- Tennessee Department of Safety
- Tennessee Department of Tourist Development
- Tennessee Department of Transportation
- Tennessee Egg and Poultry Association
- Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
- Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
- Tennessee Livestock Marketing Association
- Tennessee Office of Homeland Security
- Tennessee Pork Producer's Association
- Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association
- Tennessee Volunteers Active in Disasters
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- United States Department of Agriculture
  - University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine
- University of Tennessee Extension Service



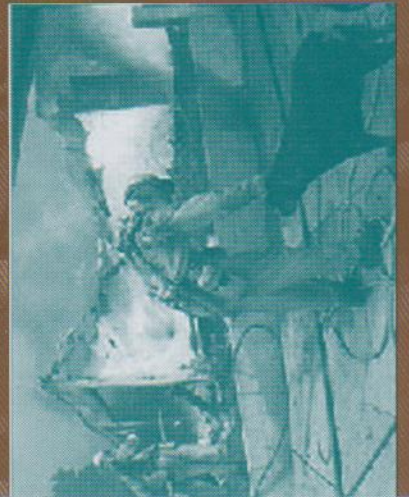
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# ESF 16 Purpose

The Tennessee Emergency Response Plan includes a section on animal care called Emergency Support Function 16. ESF 16 establishes procedures for coordinating local, state, federal and private agency responses for animal care during manmade or natural disasters, including disease outbreaks. ESF 16 identifies procedures for providing emergency veterinary care, temporary confinement, housing, food and water, identification services and the disposition, if necessary, of dead or unclaimed animals. The state's animal emergency plan also outlines surveillance, diagnosis and depopulation procedures as well as biosecurity measures for animal disease events. The plan relies upon concepts presented in the National Incident Management System, the national plan to coordinate federal, state and local emergency agency responses.



## Disaster Animal Response Team

The Disaster Animal Response Team is composed of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, animal control personnel, county extension service personnel, and pet and livestock owners. Each county should have a DART to assist the county Emergency Management Agency in animal-related emergencies. As first responders in an emergency, DART is responsible for implementing a plan of animal housing and care services. An implemented DART will have an emergency call-down list of responders for use in the 911 Emergency Call Center.

## The State DART Program

At the state level, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture is the lead agency for ESF 16. In the event that the local DART is overwhelmed during an emergency, the local jurisdiction, through the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA), can activate state resources. If the state resources are inadequate, the state can request federal resources through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). TDA is also responsible for training and credentialing DART members and maintaining the DART database.

## Credentialing

Credentialing is a method of assuring the incident commander that personnel, responding to an incident, will be properly trained and qualified, allowing for task assignment based on the qualifications and experience of the responder. The procedures for credentialing in Tennessee complies with directives and

procedures of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In Tennessee, all animal care workers responding to an emergency must be credentialed. A credentialed person must have documentation of completion of Incident Command System ICS-100 and ICS-200 and National Incident Management System IS-700 standardized federal emergency training courses.



Courses are also conducted across the state on Tennessee's emergency plan and ESF 16, foreign animal and emerging diseases and biosecurity. The described training qualifies a credentialed volunteer for work during a foreign animal disease outbreak such as Foot and Mouth Disease and High Pathogenic Avian Influenza. All activity groups (veterinarians, veterinary technicians, extension agents, volunteers, administration) will have a role in the surveillance, control and eradication of a disease threatening an animal population.