

## Central Mass Animal Response Team - Volunteer Agreement

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print)

Welcome to the Central Mass Disaster Animal Response Team, Inc. (CMDART). Our team and its Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves. We ask all new members to demonstrate support for our organization by reading, and agreeing to, some basic principles or guidelines that follow. Should you have any questions about any of these guidelines or the activities of CMDART, we encourage you to contact one of our Board members. Welcome to CMDART.

1. CMDART is an organization that assists the community with emergency preparedness for pets and animals. We work in collaboration with many other organizations. Without compromising ethics or safe practices, we operate in a professional and respectful manner with other organizations whether their philosophy matches ours or not. This is especially true in disaster services.
2. Animal welfare services often arouse strong and passionate feelings and beliefs. Disaster services, in particular, increases the amount and intensity of stress within the individual and the team. In order to complete tasks effectively, any group has to sustain itself by cooperation among team members. Ideas need to be presented in a respectful manner. Cooperation and understanding is established through good communication. Disagreements and conflicts will erupt. Debates over issues of importance are valuable, healthy and can lead to growth and new development if each member and the team work for resolutions when conflicting opinions are presented. Unresolved conflict can reflect badly on the team and hurt individuals. We encourage direct communication between relevant parties or with the team when necessary.
3. It is our belief that a trained and experienced individual is less likely to be compromised during a disaster. We actively encourage team members to get proper training including the required courses of the Incident Command System (100) and National Incident Command System (700) via local courses and through the FEMA website;
4. Confidentiality for the client and volunteers is ensured upon request. Exceptions to this guideline are evidence of criminal or ethical misconduct with the intention of harm or disruption;
5. Although we encourage individuals and groups to mention their participation with CMDART, no one other than the Chairman, the Board of Directors or their designated spokespeople are authorized to speak to the media or distribute any form of materials on behalf of the organization without permission;
6. The use of the CMDART email distribution list is restricted to Board approved individuals and team members for team related activities only. Other disaster-related information must be approved by the Board or its representatives;
7. CMDART projects or task force activities must be approved by the membership. Approval must be received before funding can be solicited or authorized. Between membership meetings, the Chairmen and/or Board of Directors can grant an exception in special circumstances;
8. CMDART members are expected to have a personal emergency, family preparedness plan and "grab-go kit" for themselves and their animals;
9. Illegal drug or compromising alcohol use is not acceptable for responsible disaster service. Volunteers identified as impaired and /or under the influence, especially during a disaster, may be removed;
10. Volunteers are expected to monitor themselves for physical and mental strain during the disaster response. Volunteers will follow supervisory instruction about task changes, breaks or change of shifts should the leader deem it necessary for the volunteer and the safety, effectiveness of the response;
11. Volunteers will maintain proper CMDART attire and proper ID at all times during an incident;
12. Volunteers need to work with the buddy system. You must sign in and out at all functions and responses;
13. No volunteer is to be alone with a child at any time. Two volunteers must work in cooperation when in the presence of underage children. Spontaneous, unauthorized volunteers are not allowed to work with clients or animals without trained personnel supervising.

I recognize that I am participating with CMDART, Inc. knowingly, willingly and voluntarily. I agree to release and hold harmless CMDART and its administration and Board Members from any injury or liability that might occur in connection with my participation with CMDART, Inc. I have received a copy of this paper.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_