



**Central Massachusetts
Disaster Animal Response Team**



WHERE KINDNESS HELPS ALL KINDS

P.O. Box 1317
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cmdart.org

In light of the increased visibility and magnitude of disaster events, the Central Massachusetts Disaster Animal Response Team (CMDART), would like to introduce ourselves and our function. In the event that your community experiences a future disaster need, we wanted to let you know we are here, ready to help.

Our group of volunteers has a variety of backgrounds which includes training and handling animals in a disaster situation. Many of our volunteers are cross trained with the American Red Cross, MEMA, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), VMAT teams, SMART (the State of Massachusetts Disaster Animal Response Team) and national animal disaster trainers including Noah's Wish, Humane Society of the United States, Large Animal Rescue Teams, local animal shelters, animal organizations and breed groups. Our team members have both personal and professional experience with a variety of animals including family pets, farm and zoo animals, equines, exotics, and reptiles. **All volunteers, who wish to do direct disaster response, are required to have knowledge of the Incident Command System by completing ICS 100 and 700 on line or in a class. See Team Requirements at www.cmdart.org.**

CMDART has responded during the critical needs of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and Mississippi and in Texas with Hurricane Ike and Gustav. We assisted at Camp Edwards, Otis Air Force when evacuees from Katrina were shipped north with pets. CMDART shipped nearly 15,000 lbs. of pet products to Louisiana and Mississippi during Katrina and more goods to storm surged Texas. Because of our collaboration with the American Red Cross of Central Mass, the local Departments of Public Health and the Medical Reserve Corp, CMDART assisted with pet sheltering during the 2005 floods, during the ice storm of December 2008, at local fires and for animal victims of hoarding puppy mills. Several of team members assisted the HSUS and the State of Maine after the ceasing of 300 animals at a Maine puppy mill in 2007. Our web site includes an updated pet-friendly motel list, frequently used by the American Red Cross of Central Mass to help house clients with pets.

Depending upon the severity of the incident, we offer sheltering, logistics, public education for disaster preparedness, and the potential of acquisition and distribution of animal disaster supplies..

CMDART establishes relationships with local towns, agencies, and animal authorities within Worcester County and Central Massachusetts in order to strengthen local response. We seek to increase the numbers of credentialed, trained team members, to establish shelter facilities near human shelter locations, and to collect and store equipment and supplies in or near the local community. We believe in regional efforts to join communities together in planning, however, we also strongly believe in local teamwork, group and community development.

CMDART's first goal is to increase public education and personal preparedness so that the need for disaster response will be greatly reduced. As you are aware, as of October 2006, the PETS Act now requires that state and local governments prepare evacuation plans for pets as well humans. Many citizens are reluctant to evacuate when instructed to leave pets behind. Now they don't have to. We can alleviate evacuation challenges by establishing locations for animal sheltering near those already in place for humans.

While it is our fond hope that you will never require our services, we do want you to know that we are here to help should the need arise. We encourage you to contact us for a personal meeting.

Regards,

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