Maryland State Animal Response Team (MDSART)
www.mdsart.org
Maryland SART

Maryland State Animal Response Team

Dr. Jacob Casper

Maryland Department of Agriculture
How SART Got Its Start

SART Started in North Carolina as a result of Hurricane Floyd. Floyd cost NC Agriculture $812,629,064.
Our Mission

Providing prevention, response & recovery for animal emergencies.
Selected Animal Issues During Disasters

- Evacuation
- Sheltering
- Transportation
- Fostering
- Adoption
- Return to owners
- Feeding
- Veterinary Medical Treatment
- Surveillance
- Disease Control
- Quarantine
- Humane Euthanasia
- Dead Animal Disposal
Goals

• Decrease the threat to humans and animals during disasters.

• Prevent and decrease the spread of diseases that impact animals and humans.

• Minimize the economic impact of animal emergencies.
What Does SART Do?

• We facilitate a safe, environmentally sound and efficient response to animal emergencies on the local, county and state level.

• We promote the implementation of County Animal Response Teams (CARTs) across Maryland.
Any Animal
Any Disaster
Any Where
Chaos, Confusion and Crisis

Replaced with
Cooperation, Coordination, Communication
SART is based on Incident Command System (ICS)

- Planning
- Operations
  - Field Operations
  - Search & Rescue
  - Sheltering
  - Veterinary Services
  - Industry Specialist
  - Mortality Management
- Logistics
- Administration
Where SART Fits In

- Government Agencies
- Corporations
- Animal Industries
- Veterinary Groups
SART Programs

- Volunteer Training
- Public Awareness
- Pet Microchipping
- Annual Awards
- Technical Assistance
- National Training Initiative
Why SART Works

• Common mission for animal emergencies

• Proven method (ICS)

• Private entity (501C3) with public partnership

• Team Approach
What the Partners Offer

- **Public Entities**: Consistency, legal authority, and statewide presence.
- **Private Organizations**: Zeal, abilities, rapid deployment, solutions and availability of funds & funding mechanisms.
- **Animal Industries**: Need, experience, mandate to be responsible & fund.
Incorporation

- Incorporation involves becoming a private, non-profit organization
- 501(c) 3 tax-exempt status
- Needs bylaws and board of directors
- Allows for fundraising and memorandum of understanding with other entities
- Allows the purchase insurance
Building Trust & Credibility

• Code of Conduct
• Volunteers and organizations must be activated, and similarly can be deactivated by the Incident Commander
Strengths of Code of Conduct

- Volunteers and participants represent the entire SART organization
- Protects the integrity of SART and of those who respond to disasters on SART’s behalf
- Each SART participant must agree to read, sign and abide by this code
Building a Team of Responders

Veterinary experience is NOT necessary to be a valued responder.
Building a Team of Responders

Disaster response requires volunteers with a wide range of skills and experience.
In addition to providing emergency animal care, we need responders to:

- Perform office functions (filing, in/out)
- Answer phones
- Manage supplies and equipment
Building a Team of Responders

We also need responders who have access to:

- Four wheel drive vehicles
- Cranes & Bobcats
- Chainsaws
- Other heavy equipment
County Animal Response Teams
CARTs

• Local response is the best response.
• Animal Control, veterinarians, Public Health, Red Cross, Fire Dept., Sheriff, EMS, humane groups, farmers, lab animal facilities, pet boarder/sellers, Dept. of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension, pet owners
County Teams Are Critical!

- Local teams will be First Responders in any activation.
- Requests for resources and assistance always start at the local level.
- Disasters happen from the bottom up.
- Local response is the best response!
CART - County Animal Response Teams

- Animal Control
- Public Health
- Red Cross
- Fire Department
- Sheriff
- EMS
- Dept of Agriculture
- Cooperative Extension
- veterinarians
- humane groups
- Farmers
- lab animal facilities
- pet boarder/sellers
USDA Funds SART Initiative

- Colorado, Tennessee trained in SART in 2003

- Pennsylvania launched in Feb 2004

- 12 additional states being trained
State of our SART union

State Animal Response Teams
Development Status

5/25/2004
Benefits of being a SART

• Credibility and name recognition
• Recognized entity to participate in mutual aid and national EMAC system
• Participation in the SART national website, www.usasart.org
• SART national partner donations
• Electronic newsletters
• National database of responders
• County Animal Response Teams
• Covered by State Tort laws
Board of Directors

• Governs SART
• Consists of members from public and private institutions
• Establishes SART’s policies and secures funding for operations
• Meets quarterly
Suggested Board Members

- USDA
- MDA
- HSUS
- DAYS END FARM
- DNR
- MDA
- U of MD CES
- CART REPRESENTATIVE

- VMAT
- MVMA
- ESSEX CC
- VMRCVM
- PAWS
- MEMA
- 2 AT LARGE DIRECTORS
Projects for which we need volunteers and leaders

- Formation of Board of Directors
- Fundraising
- Committee formations
- MOU drafters
- Animal Transporter lists/Shelter locations
- Plan writers
- Operational Planning

- Supplies officer
- Job Description writers
- Public Relations
- Stakeholders identification
- Training officer
- Volunteer Coordination
- Communications procedures