

## Beginning of SART

In today's world, we all worry about the threat of a natural or man-made disaster. Animals are especially vulnerable when a disaster strikes because they must rely on us for help. In 1999, Hurricane Floyd claimed the lives of millions of animals in North Carolina, and thousands more were separated from their owners. Many of these animals could have been saved by a coordinated response plan. From this tragedy, the State Animal Response Team (SART) concept was born. In 2006, Virginia adopted this concept to address its animal-related disaster response needs.

## About VASART

### Any Animal, Any Disaster, Anywhere

The Virginia State Animal Response Team (VASART) was created through a private-public partnership to serve as a unifying network of organizations, businesses, federal and state government agencies, and individuals that supports the prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery for emergencies affecting animals. Because disaster response needs to happen at a local level, VASART will build City/County Animal Response Teams (CARTs) across the state. Local coordinators will be selected to lead the development of city/county teams consisting of volunteers who will respond to emergencies at the local level.

## Goals of VASART

- To facilitate a rapid, coordinated, and effective response to any emergency affecting animals;
- To decrease the health and safety threat to humans and animals;
- To minimize the economic impact of emergencies affecting animals; and
- To prevent or decrease the spread of disease during emergencies affecting animals.

## How You Can Help

1. **Volunteer!** Become a SART volunteer by completing the attached Volunteer Roster Form. We need people with all types of skills, expertise and resources.
2. **Donate!** Preparing for a disaster and responding to one is expensive and requires a lot of resources and equipment. Plus, VASART helps all animals. This requires us to be ready for any kind of disaster event and depending on the animals involved, it may even require special equipment. Contribute financially to support VASART's training and response efforts.
3. **Prepare!** Prepare your home, business, or farm before an emergency occurs by creating disaster preparedness kits and emergency plans for your family, pets, and other animals.
4. **Join!** Join your City/County's animal response team, or if one is not created yet, help us get a CART started in your area.

## Tips for Protecting Your Animals in a Disaster

### *Prepare, Prepare, Prepare!*

1. 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 and your pet and bedding.
2. Make sure that your animals have some form of permanent identification such as a microchip, brand, tattoo, etc.
3. Purchase a pet carrier and label it with emergency contact information.
4. Store water and feed for emergencies.
5. Create a contingency plan for animals including horses, live-stock, etc., in an emergency situation that addresses transportation, water and feed resources, and areas for confinement if needed.

## Donations

- During times of disaster, VASART will need help from people who own specialized equipment and are willing to donate their time and services.
- Cash donations to purchase needed equipment and materials are graciously welcome.
- Donations are tax deductible. VASART is a private, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, and all donations are tax deductible.
- Donations can be mailed to:  
VASART  
2314 C Commerce Center Drive  
Rockville, VA 23146

## Need More Information?

Virginia State Animal Response Team  
2314 C Commerce Center Drive  
Rockville, VA 23146  
Phone: (804) 749-8058 Fax: (804) 749-8003  
Email: [VirginiaSART@aol.com](mailto:VirginiaSART@aol.com)  
[www.virginiasart.org](http://www.virginiasart.org)



**"THE NUMBER ONE REASON**  
**PEOPLE REFUSE TO EVACUATE THEIR HOMES**  
**DURING AN EMERGENCY IS BECAUSE THEY**  
**DON'T WANT TO LEAVE A PET BEHIND."**



# When a disaster strikes, who will take care of **Them?**



## VIRGINIA STATE ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM

Providing Prevention, Preparedness,  
Response, and Recovery for  
Emergencies Affecting Animals

Supported in part by a  
grant from the American  
Veterinary Medical Foundation



VASART  
2314 C Commerce Center Dr.  
Rockville, VA 23146  
www.VirginiaSART.org

### VASART Volunteer Roster and Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_ Title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Areas of Expertise: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
Interested in volunteering for:  Administrative work (answering phones, mailings, etc.);  Disaster response at the county level (requires completion of training)  Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am interested in donating the following:  Item(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Equipment (use of equipment in an emergency situation): \_\_\_\_\_  
In-Kind Donation of Services: \_\_\_\_\_ Monetary Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Monetary donations will be used to purchase necessary disaster response equipment and to further the training and outreach efforts of the Virginia State Animal Response Team. (Personal and corporate checks are welcome). Checks should be made payable to "VASART" and sent to 2314 C Commerce Center Drive, Rockville, VA 23146. Donations are tax deductible. VASART is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.