

The Disaster Animal Response Team is integral for a community to plan and prepare for, respond to, and recover from a disastrous event.

Learn how to create or become a part of the DART in your community.

For information about scheduled credentialing training or to schedule training in your area, please contact the State Veterinarian's office at (615) 837-5120 or e-mail at [Animal.Health@tn.gov](mailto:Animal.Health@tn.gov).



## DART Support Agencies and Organizations

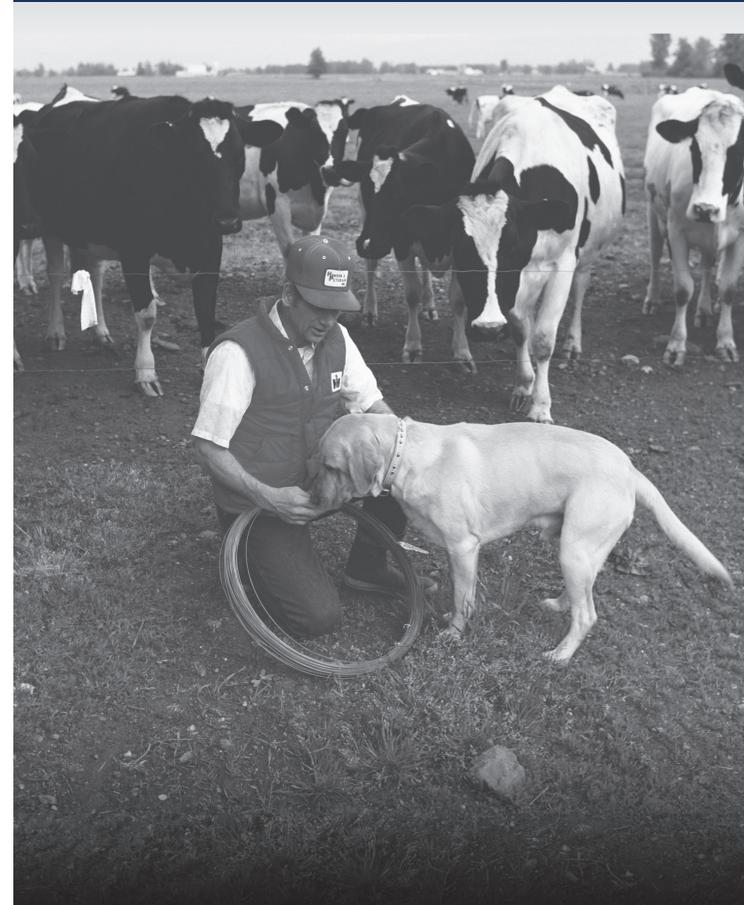


American Humane Association  
American Red Cross  
Farm Animal Care Coalition of Tennessee  
Tennessee Animal Control Association  
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation  
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association  
Tennessee Dairy Producers Association  
Tennessee Department of Agriculture  
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation  
Tennessee Department of Health  
Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security  
Tennessee Department of Tourist Development  
Tennessee Department of Transportation  
Tennessee Poultry Association  
Tennessee Emergency Management Agency  
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation  
Tennessee Livestock Marketing Association  
Tennessee Office of Homeland Security  
Tennessee Pork Producers 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



# DART

## Disaster Animal Response Team



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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 (TDA) 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.a and National Response Framework IS-800.b 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.