

AEWG E-Newsletter

Spring 2009



WHAT'S NEWS:

Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT)

On February 26, 2009, 40 veterinarians, veterinary technicians and veterinary support staff attended an informational meeting on organizing a statewide Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT). The purpose of the VERT will be to assist the CARTs during disasters where the CART veterinarian is overwhelmed either by the scope or nature of the disaster. A sub-committee was formed to meet monthly and develop a standard operating procedure for an emergency animal triage/treatment unit, and to work out the details of recruitment, supplies, and training for the VERT. The formation of a statewide VERT will be the first active branch developed for the NJ SART.

Web Based Document Library for CART Leadership

A web-based document library **for the NJ CART leadership** has been developed over the last year and recently put into use. This document library features information on developing animal emergency response plans, animal emergency sheltering, and educational materials that CARTs can develop and distribute to their constituents, and forms and other documents to be used by the CARTs during disasters. There are also sections which list resources available to CARTs, on-line courses, and grant sources. CARTs may also list upcoming training events they are holding and indicate whether or not they will be open for other CARTs to audit or participate in. CARTs will also be encouraged to document their training experiences to share with other CARTs as a "lessons learned" experience. The documents are located on a secure site hosted by the State of NJ. Access to the site must be approved and authenticated by **NJDA Division of Animal Health**. This allows documents used by the CARTs to be stored on the site. Access will be limited to the CART leadership which may then distribute material as needed to the rest of their team.

SAFETY TIP:

Spring Flooding – While April showers may bring May flowers, they can also bring flooding rains making roadways impassible and causing evacuations of people and their animals. If roadways are blocked while you are responding; Turn Around, Don't Drown. While many think their 3000 lb vehicle is heavy enough to be able to go through water running across the road, just remember that aircraft carriers weighing 97,000 tons float due to buoyancy and so will your vehicle. In addition, the water may be deeper than it seems and/or has been washed away, so it is best to heed the signs and use your GPS to find another way to go.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Disaster Animal Response Team Training

April 24-26, 2009: AEWG is providing tuition reimbursement for one person from each NJ County to attend this training. To register for the event go to http://www.humanesocietyu.org/dart_nj.html. For information on tuition reimbursement, contact Dr. Silverman 609-292-3965.

For more information on upcoming events go to <http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/ah/prog/cart.html>