



State Animal Response Teams

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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N.C. Animal Response Team Arrives at Mississippi Emergency Operations Center

Raleigh, N.C. (September 21, 2005) – North Carolina's State Animal Response Team (SART), in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, has organized an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) team to aid Mississippi with animal response and recovery management following Hurricane Katrina.

Mississippi's Board of Animal Health and Department of Agriculture made a request for assistance and N.C. SART answered the call.

N.C. SART recruited Bill Gentry, director of the Community Preparedness & Disaster Management Programs at UNC-Chapel Hill, to serve as team leader.

Under the direction of Gentry, an incident command team was organized and deployed for a two week mission to Hattiesburg, Miss.

Emergency response activities are wrapping up in Mississippi, and North Carolina's team is charged with assisting Mississippi's Animal Response Team (MART) with the transition of its operations from a response to a recovery phase. Other states that have provided onsite assistance with the animal response efforts include Florida and Georgia.

North Carolina's Incident Command Team includes:

Mary Blinn (Charlotte, N.C.), shelter veterinarian, Charlotte/Mecklenburg Animal Control

Diane Ferello (Zebulon, N.C.), large animal technician, N.C. State University's School of Veterinary Medicine

Wike Graham (Charlotte, N.C.), Captain, Charlotte Fire Department

Dr. Ellen Hoots (Fuquay-Varina, N.C.), veterinarian, Hoof Beats Vet Practice

Mark Howell (Hickory, N.C.), emergency programs specialist, N.C. Department of Agriculture's Emergency Programs – Catawba County

Chris Peninger (Charlotte, N.C.), animal control, Charlotte/Mecklenburg Animal Control; supervisor, County Animal Response Team

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Robbi Porter (Charlotte, N.C.), kennel supervisor, Charlotte/Mecklenburg Animal Control

Cameron Sheffield (Raleigh, N.C.), project coordinator, Capstrat

Sharron Stewart (Four Oaks, N.C.), deputy pesticide administrator, N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Jimmy Tickel (Roanoke Rapids, N.C.), veterinarian, N.C. Department of Agriculture's Emergency Programs – Halifax County

Michelle Whaley (Greenville, N.C.), manager, Pitt County Animal Control; supervisor, County Animal Response Team

NOTE: PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

About SART:

Founded in North Carolina after Hurricane Floyd, SART's mission is providing prevention, response and recovery for animal emergencies. SART's public-private partnership includes governmental agencies, veterinarians, animal industry and advocacy groups. SART is the recognized national leader in the implementation of the Incident Command System (ICS) as a means for managing animal emergencies during disasters, and promotes the formation of County Animal Response Teams on the local level. For more information go to www.ncsart.org.

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