



Florida veterinarians and animal health technicians have volunteered to assist animal owners and local officials in responding to animal emergencies. We are recruiting more volunteers to help protect our state. Anyone who would like to join this very important service, please contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to obtain an application.



**For more information, visit:**  
**[www.flsart.org](http://www.flsart.org)**

**or contact**

**Florida Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
(850) 410-0900**

**or e-mail:**  
**[vetcorps@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:vetcorps@doacs.state.fl.us)**



**SART** is a multiagency coordination group consisting of governmental and private entities dedicated to all-hazard disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery for the animal and agricultural sectors in the state of Florida.

**SART** operates at the local level through county SART organizations.

**SART** utilizes the skills and resources of many agencies, organizations, and individuals with its multiagency coordination structure.

**SART** supports the county, regional, and state emergency management efforts and incident management teams.

**SART Mission:** Empower Floridians through training and resource coordination to enhance all-hazard disaster planning and response for animal and agricultural issues.



# THE CORPS

## Florida Veterinary Corps

***Safeguarding Animal and  
Public Health in Florida***



A program of the  
College of Veterinary Medicine,  
Florida Veterinary Medical Association,  
and the Florida Department of Agriculture and  
Consumer Services

# Florida Veterinary Corps

## Why a Florida Veterinary Corps?

- The Florida Veterinary Corps (The Corps) has been established to enlist veterinarians and veterinary technicians who are willing to volunteer their services in responding to animal emergencies in the state of Florida.
- During activation, Corps volunteers will work within an incident command structure under Emergency Support Function 17 as part of the State Emergency Response Team.
- The Corps will be a component of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team under the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry.
- Corps volunteers will be kept informed as to the status of emergencies and the need for volunteers depending upon the specific emergency.
- Volunteers may serve in veterinary infrastructure assessment teams, in triage or emergency animal treatment teams, and in animal disease surveillance or control teams under an incident command system.

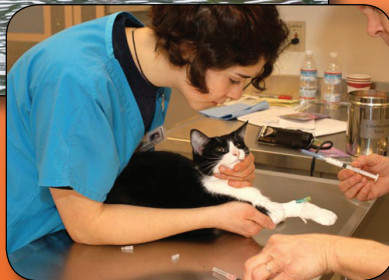
## Obligation of Corps Volunteers

Corps volunteers will be required to serve only when activated and under the incident command system, as part of the State Emergency Response Team, and adhere to all state regulations and rules.

Minimal training will need to be completed online and during activation, as required.

Communications will need to be maintained by Corps volunteers to stay informed as to emergency status and volunteer needs.

Volunteers will only be activated in response to specific emergency situations. Volunteers called upon may decline service at any time depending upon their personal needs and circumstances.



## Rationale

- Protecting agriculture in Florida begins locally and requires cooperation, participation, and partnership.
- Federal or other outside assistance to deal with an animal disease emergency may not be available for hours or days.
- Animal agriculture in Florida is highly vulnerable to severe disruption and financial loss through natural disasters and exotic or zoonotic diseases.
- Counties and state agencies must be prepared to respond to animal disasters through planning and identification of human and material resources.
- Natural disasters are unpredictable and cannot be prevented.
- Florida is at high risk for an outbreak of an exotic animal disease.
- The Division of Animal Industry, Office of the Florida State Veterinarian, and the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine, will provide training in the National Incident Management System and foreign animal and zoonotic diseases to members through on-site and online courses. The training is required for credentialing of emergency responders by the Department of Homeland Security.