



CMDART, Inc.
PO Box 1317
Douglas, MA 01516
508-476-3677

Dear Interested Member:

Thank you for your interest in the Central Massachusetts Disaster Animal Response Team (CMDART, Inc.), an organization committed to assisting the community with emergency preparedness for pets and animals during disasters. We welcome new members from Central Mass communities who come from various levels of expertise, abilities and talents. Attached is an introductory packet of information for you which includes your membership application, liability form, forms for the State of Massachusetts Animal Response Team, our Welcome Agreement, and other forms that will be outlined in your first *"Introduction to Animal Disaster Services"*.

We welcome and encourage your attendance at our member meetings held several times per year. Watch the web site for details, times and locations. Our team offers public education, new member trainings, participates in education events, drills and exercises. Your presence and participation is essential to our success both in preparing for and responding to disaster situations at various levels. Our team welcomes newcomers at all levels and appreciates every contribution of time, no matter how small. Volunteers respond at the scene or help at home.

Volunteers are encouraged to attend meetings or events at least six times per year. CMDART was founded on and believes that team cohesiveness increases the success of a good response. In addition to participating in team events, all active team members must possess Incident Command System (ICS) certification, ICS 100 and ICS 700. These courses are offered on line at www.training.fema.gov via our website, www.cmdart.org. Our site offers easy access to ICS and many other training's and certification classes. Because some folks don't easily maneuver computers or find computer courses difficult, CMDART assists member certification by offering small group trainings for ICS. Contact our registrar@cmdart.org if you need assistance to complete certification and/or wish to take a group course or other training. We request that you try to complete your ICS training within three months of receiving this packet. The next disaster is right around the corner.

Once you complete your ICS courses, we ask that you submit copies of your ICS training certificates to CMDART, Inc. , P.O. Box 1317, Douglas, Ma 01516 or fax them to 508-476-3531. You may also email them to our membership coordinator at membership@cmdart.org .You will be notified that you have now been placed on the active list of responders. ICS certification is not unique to CMDART, but is a prerequisite to being an active responder to any disaster, at all levels for local and national animal response organizations. Should you be unavailable to respond when called by to a disaster, you merely indicate "unavailable" when you receive a call.

Please review all the membership requirements at our web site before making your commitment to CMDART. We sincerely hope that you will make the commitment by completing the required courses, attending six meetings per year (no meetings in July and August) and participate in some of our activities and functions. We do hope that you can help build the foundation of our strong, growing team. We look forward to hearing from you.

"Don't Forget, Take Your Pet"
Sincerely,
The Membership Committee
CMDART, Inc.

