



Tennessee DART Code of Conduct

Please read this document. Retain pages one and two of this document for your record. Attached is the Tennessee DART Code of Conduct Signature Sheet; please sign the signature sheet and return to facilitator of the DART Credentialing Class to be retained with your records with the Tennessee State Veterinarians office.

Credentialed personnel and registered volunteers working for or representing Tennessee Disaster Animal Response Teams (DART), under the authority of the Tennessee State Veterinarian, shall adhere to the following policies. All credentialed personnel and registered volunteers deployed to work with animals in disaster will be working under the command and control of the Tennessee State Veterinarian or a county DART during their period of duty, will become members of DART, and are subject to the following policies. All credentialed personnel and registered volunteers will sign this document to indicate that they understand and agree to abide by the codes identified within this document. Incident Commanders will have authority to deactivate any activated DART representative for behavior(s) that is contrary to the code of conduct based on their discretion.

1. Individuals shall project a professional manner and appearance while participating in any DART related activities. The following will not be tolerated while on a site at a disaster, conference or other DART activity:
 - a. Consumption of alcoholic beverages while on duty or any display of public drunkenness
 - b. Possession, use or selling of any illegal drugs.
 - c. Violation of any laws
 - d. Public outburst, public derogatory remarks about other organizations or individuals
 - e. Illegal use or display of a firearm
 - f. Under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
2. Individuals shall identify operations that are beyond their capabilities based on their experience, training, and knowledge and will provide and carry professional credentials during activation. Individuals shall observe all safety rules and regulations and be familiar with proper usage and operations of all equipment.
3. Individuals shall be expected to accept assignments and/or orders as directed by the supervising authority (ICS Incident Commander), or if required, make discretionary decisions based on appropriate intent and good judgment.
4. Individuals while representing DART will not participate otherwise in operations that serve to promote personal gains or ideologies.
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5. Individuals should not participate in DART activities if they are recovering from any physical injury or recent surgery. Individuals must have a release form from their physician.
6. Individuals shall not enter private properties to perform evacuation duties without permission from the owner, supervising authority or without a law enforcement escort.
7. Individuals shall remain in contact with the appropriate supervisor, and confine their activities to the stated mission and directives.
8. All individuals shall wear current identification while on site for a disaster.
9. Individuals will be required to document or participate in documentation for each animal evacuation in a timely manner, and submit documentation to the commander.
10. Individuals shall not transport animals to the facilities other than the ones that have been assigned by supervising authority without permission from the supervising authority.
11. Individuals shall refrain from taking photographs out of respect for the privacy of the owner. Any photos that are made will not be used for public display without the expressed written permission of the owner.
12. In situations in which an animal(s) is evacuated and transported from a property without prior permission, individuals participating in such evacuation must leave notification of the removal of the animal or disturbance of the property on the property in the most visible area possible.
13. Individuals shall not accept personal gratuities. All inquiries of personal donations shall be directed to the DART Coordinator, the Office of the State Veterinarian or the Tennessee Emergency Management agency Operations Center.
14. Animals will not be adopted from this incident. Unauthorized removal of animals from the DART premises will constitute theft.
15. Individuals will comply with established standard operating procedures for the incident, unless directed otherwise by the Incident Commander.
16. Individuals will comply with Tennessee state law regarding the humane treatment of animals. Abuse of animals as documented by the Incident Commander is reason for badge revocation and dismissal from the DART.