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### Website Information

<http://health.hamiltontn.org/>

Click on: Hamilton County Disaster Animal Response Team

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# HC-DART



**Hamilton County Disaster  
Animal Response Team**

*Helping Animals During Disasters*

Provided by: Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department

# HAMILTON COUNTY-DISASTER ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM (HC-DART)

## Purpose

- Decrease the threat to health and safety of both humans and animals during emergencies
- Prevent or decrease the spread of disease during emergencies affecting animals
- Minimize the loss or separation of animals from their owners



## What is HC-DART?

Disaster response begins and ends at the local level, so there is a need for local response groups to be formed prior to a large-scale emergency, including animal response teams. HC-DART is a local group of diverse volunteers that are willing to respond, when activated, to an emergency impacting animals. It was developed collaboratively by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department and UT Extension-Hamilton County in 2006.

## What Does DART do?

DART's purpose is to respond during a disaster or emergency that negatively impacts animals. DART members can have various duties ranging from the strike teams that go to the disaster area and recover animals to setting up temporary shelters for evacuated animals. The level of response is determined by the severity and duration of the emergency or disaster.

## Members of DART

The current members of HC-DART are quite diverse, bringing valuable expertise to the group.

- Veterinarians
- Veterinary Technicians and Assistants
- Farmers
- UT-Extension Staff
- Health Department Staff
- Animal Control Officers
- Interested Individuals that just love animals and want to help.



Your background doesn't matter as long as you are interested in helping!

## How You Can Help

**Volunteer** to be a member of DART. You would receive free training from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and UT-Extension and then be added as an active member of HC-DART!

**Donate** Do you have supplies, equipment, or facilities that can be used for an emergency animal response? Contact the HC-DART to establish a donation agreement in advance of a disaster. Knowing where these resources are available before a disaster



strikes will speed up emergency response efforts.