

Threats of catastrophic natural or man-made disasters and diseases

necessitate a new era in our ability to address both animal health and public health needs during emergency situations. Fires, hurricanes, and tornadoes as well as animal diseases like avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease and monkey pox have plagued the last decade. These events demonstrate an overwhelming need to create a direct link between our nation's veterinary and animal emergency response capabilities and local, state and national emergency management systems.



The Wisconsin Animal Response Corps, or WARC, is a group of trained volunteers who respond to emergencies involving animals. As a unit of the Medical Reserve Corps, members of WARC work with veterinarians and animal health inspectors from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection to effectively protect animal and public health during emergencies in their local communities.

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

—Mahatma Gandhi

Why do we need your help?

The answer is easy! Wisconsin has more than 63 million domestic animals distributed across 54,375 square miles in more than 1.8 million locations...and we have 40 state and federal veterinarians, inspectors and compliance officers. We would run out of people very quickly in a real crisis.

Program Contact

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WARC is a unit of the national Medical Reserve Corps, affiliated with the Office of the Surgeon General and Citizen Corps. It is also part of a multi-agency effort that partners with local, state and federal agencies including:

- Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Local Public Health and Emergency Management



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection

Division of Animal Health
2811 Agriculture Drive, PO Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708
datcp.wi.gov

Volunteer to help animals in our communities



WISCONSIN ANIMAL RESPONSE



CORPS

A unit of the Medical Reserve Corps

No disaster response experience necessary.

You don't need any prior disaster response experience or training to join WARC. Our program provides an opportunity for anyone with animal handling experience to participate!

We are seeking these individuals to assist us:

- Veterinarians
- Veterinary technicians
- Veterinary assistants, office managers and all support staff members
- Students in veterinary medical programs
- Retired veterinary professionals
- Livestock producers
- Animal caregivers
- Animal handlers
- Anyone skilled in handling animals, both large and small, domestic or exotic



WARC provides substantial benefits to participants, including:

- Free baseline training in general emergency management and response, animal emergency response, disaster sheltering, veterinary field medicine, animal handling and personal protective equipment
- Free advanced training in foreign animal disease recognition, sample collection, surveillance, rescue techniques
- Networking with others interested in animal care
- Regular communications concerning issues and events related to animal and public health emergency issues
- Continuing education credits required by veterinarians and veterinary technicians
- Another opportunity to help your community

Perform important tasks impacting public and animal health.

Volunteers may be called upon to assist with any of the following tasks in cooperation with DATCP or local emergency management and other authorities:

Animal Disease

- Locating infected animals
- Testing animals
- Disinfection
- Vaccination, treatment or euthanasia assistance

Natural or Man-made Disasters

- Animal rescue
- Shelter and feed
- Veterinary care
- Milking in evacuated areas
- Reunification



Simple Steps to Joining WARC

1

Complete two basic training courses available at no cost through the FEMA Emergency Management Institute. These classes prepare our volunteers for understanding the framework under which animal response operates.

2

Submit a completed WARC Application and WARC Volunteer Release along with your FEMA Certificates of Completion to the WARC Coordinator. The application and release are available on our website at datcp.wi.gov under the Animals tab.

3

Register with the Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry Program, or WEAVR, at dhs.wisconsin.gov/preparedness/weavr. WEAVR provides WARC with an online volunteer database for tracking and communicating with their volunteers.

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