**CART Volunteer/Donation Form**

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**I am interested in volunteering**

- Administrative/Clerical (answering phones, mailings, etc.)
- Disaster Response at the County level (requires completion of training program)
- Other (explain):

**I am interested in donating**

- Items:
- In-Kind Services:
- Equipment:
- Monetary Donation: Amount $_________

Monetary donations will be used to purchase necessary disaster response equipment, and to further the training and outreach efforts of the CART program.

Checks should be made payable to **Charles County Treasurer**

Please mail this form to:

**Charles County Animal Control**
**CART Program**
P.O. Box 2150
La Plata, MD 20646

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**Charles County Commissioners**

*Equal Opportunity County*

**Charles County**
**Department of Emergency Services**

10425 Audie Lane | P.O. Box 2150 | La Plata, MD 20646
301-609-3400 | MD Relay: 711 • Relay TDD: 1-800-735-2258

Learn more at [www.CharlesCounty.org](http://www.CharlesCounty.org)

**Mission Statement** – The mission of Charles County Government is to provide our citizens the highest quality service possible in a timely, efficient, and courteous manner. To achieve this goal, our government must be operated in an open and accessible atmosphere, be based on comprehensive long- and short-term planning, and have an appropriate managerial organization tempered by fiscal responsibility.

**Vision Statement** – Charles County is a place where all people thrive and businesses grow and prosper; where the preservation of our heritage and environment is paramount; where government services to its citizens are provided at the highest level of excellence; and where the quality of life is the best in the nation.

**Americans With Disabilities**–The Charles County Government welcomes the participation of individuals with disabilities. We comply fully with the Americans With Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations to encourage involvement. If you require special assistance and would like to participate in our programs, please contact the Charles County Government directly.
Today, we all worry about the threat of a natural or man-made disaster. Animals are especially vulnerable during emergencies because they must rely on people for help. In 1998, Hurricane Floyd claimed the lives of millions of animals in North Carolina and thousands more were separated from their owners. Most of these animals could have been saved if a coordinated response plan were in place.

After recognizing the need for an animal response plan, the State Animal Response Team (SART) was born. In 2006, Maryland adopted the SART concept to create the Maryland State Animal Response Team (MDSART).

During Charles County Government’s Fiscal Year 2009 the Animal Control Division deployed the first operational County Animal Response Team (CART) in the state of Maryland.

What is the CART Program?
The CART Program is operated under the direction and control of the Charles County Department of Emergency Services Animal Control Division. We are part of a coordinated effort between government, corporations, and private entities dedicated to the rescue of animals during natural and man-made emergencies in Charles County and beyond.

The CART program consists of a volunteers that assist during different types of disasters and emergencies such as floods, wind events, electric emergencies, large scale impounds, as well as law enforcement operations.

Goals of the CART Program
- Facilitate a safe, environmentally sound and efficient response to animal emergencies
- Increase disaster awareness and preparations within Charles County
- Minimize the loss or separation of animals from their owners
- Adhere to the principals of the Incident Command System (ICS)
- Be in compliance with the requirements of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Tips for Protecting Your Animals During Disasters
- Keep a “Pet Emergency Kit” accessible. The kit should include a few days supply of your pet’s medication(s), medical and vaccination records, a leash, collar, identification, water, food, toys, and bedding.
- Make sure that your animals have some form of permanent identification such as a microchip, brand, tattoo, etc.
- Purchase a pet carrier and label it with emergency contact information.
- Store water and food for emergencies.
- Create a contingency plan for animals, including horses, livestock, etc., in an emergency situation that addresses transportation, water and food resources, and areas for confinement, if needed.
- Include a picture of you and your pet together in your official papers.
- Have all medications and dosage available if you need to leave your pet at an emergency shelter.

How to Help…
- Volunteer – Visit our website, www.charlescounty.org/es/animalcontrol, to find out how to become a CART volunteer, or complete the attached volunteer roster form. We need people with a variety of skills, expertise, and resources. Training is provided for many positions within the CART program, including animal care and sheltering, handing and use of equipment, first aid, animal rescue in disasters. We also need volunteers for clerical support, fund raising, publicity, photography, and other non-animal handling positions. Volunteers with specialized equipment are also welcome.
- Donate – Preparing for a disaster and responding to one is expensive and requires a tremendous amount of resources and equipment. Plus, CART helps all animals. This requires a need to be ready for any kind of disaster event, and depending on the animals involved, it may require special equipment. Any financial contributions to support the CART training and response efforts is greatly appreciated. Donations are tax deductible. CART is a non-profit organization. Cash donations to be used towards the purchase of equipment, training, and materials are welcomed. Please use the form located in this brochure to make a donation to the CART program.

For more information on the CART Program, please feel free to contact us at:
301-609-3425
E-mail: animalshelter@charlescounty.org