

Volunteering

The Cannon Beach Disaster Animal Response Team (CBDART) is a volunteer organization that is committed to assisting the community with emergency preparedness for pets/animals and pet owners during disasters. Disasters require volunteers who can maintain structure, skill, humility and strength in chaotic and traumatizing circumstances. Volunteer training before the incident provides the tools to help do this. CBDART will provide regular training classes and/or collaborative cross training with other organizations. In addition to providing critical assistance whenever a disaster occurs, there are many benefits to volunteering. These include engaging in community, making new friends, gaining new experiences, and providing a feeling of satisfaction, to name a few. In Cannon Beach, volunteer opportunities include CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team), MRC (Medical Reserve Corp), Red Cross, and CBDART. We encourage you to learn about the different volunteer opportunities offered by the City of Cannon Beach, and volunteer with the group that interests you most.

Who are our volunteers?

CBDART volunteers are people like you who care about pets and their community and are concerned about being prepared for emergencies. Our volunteers may be full-time or part-time Cannon Beach residents or may live near the Northwest Oregon or Southwest Washington coast, and they come with various levels of

expertise, abilities and talents. Team members can have both personal and professional experience with a variety of animals, including family pets, farm and zoo animals, equines, exotics and reptiles. We are seeking people who may respond during a disaster, as well as people to help with administrative and logistical functions of the organization.

What does a CBDART volunteer do?

As a DART volunteer, you are offered basic and advanced training to help equip you to respond in a disaster situation involving companion animals (dogs, cats, other small animals). Most disaster scenarios will involve assisting owned pets and pet owners, so you need some skills working with people as well as animals. We may also offer large and farm animal training from time to time. There are also specific core requirements for ALL disaster responder volunteers. Some courses can be taken on-line, others are offered through CBDART or other partner groups. In the event of a disaster, we will NOT respond unless asked to do so when contacted through the proper notification process. We NEVER self deploy. As a disaster responder, you might be called, day or night, to assist with preparedness efforts or crisis situations. We recognize that not everyone can, or wants to, become a disaster responder.

Is CBDART right for me?

If you choose to be a member of the CBDART, you need to be in good physical health, take Incident Command

training, and learn safe animal handling techniques and care. In addition to animal handling experience, one of the most important skills volunteers need to bring is flexibility. Disasters have a lot of unknowns for both the victims and the team members at various stages. Disaster responders need to be able to take direction from their leaders and be able to work cohesively in a group at every stage of the response. This is especially true when faced with confused and traumatized people and animals during an incident.

What is the time commitment?

We appreciate each and every hour our volunteers give to our mission. We recognize that members have jobs, family commitments, and hardships, and may not always be available. As a disaster responder, we hope that you can be available for several events (whether trainings, public education events, or response calls) throughout the year, and that you will prepare your work and family, including your pets, for the potential that you could be called to volunteer. Members are encouraged to attend as many events as possible to help build team cohesiveness and to stay informed of changing practices.

What about liability?

Volunteers are trained to work within the scope of their respective practice, licensure, training, and skill level. As a volunteer, you will be covered by the City's liability insurance when you are

participating in sanctioned training and when the City officially deploys you.

CBDART Training Requirements

Following an introductory course, volunteers need to complete Incident Command Training (ICS). To strengthen emergency response, the government and those who develop emergency response systems have come up with a common language that they require all responders to know. Whether local, state or national, all are requiring that volunteers have Incident Command Training (ICS). This now includes animal response organizations.

You will be required to complete Federal Emergency Management Agency ICS 100 and 700 certifications. In order to deploy, CBDART volunteers must demonstrate basic and advanced levels of animal disaster response and must make every effort towards personal advancement by attending trainings and practice drills. CBDART offers this training in small groups, or volunteers can take these courses via the Internet. Once you take the training, CBDART maintains a copy of your completed certificate in your volunteer application file with our team.

- * CBDART Introduction to Animal Disaster Services*
- * ICS 100 - Incident Command Training*
- * ICS 700 - National Incident Management Systems*

* CBDART Basic Intake and Interviewing for Emergency Animal Sheltering (We may offer Table Top exercises and short-term simulations as a supplement to this training)

- * Emergency Animal Sheltering
- * Basic First Aid and CPR for humans
- * Pet First Aid
- * Disaster Psychology

Is there a cost to become a volunteer?

There is no fee required to join CBDART. Training opportunities provided by the City are offered at no cost to you. However, any expenses involved in traveling to or participating in remote training will be considered your personal contribution to the organization and the disaster.

We sincerely hope that you will make the commitment by participating in required training, attending meetings, and participating in some of our activities and functions. We hope that you can help build the foundation of our strong, growing team. We look forward to hearing from you.



Cannon Beach
Disaster Animal Response Team

CB DART

**ASSISTING THE COMMUNITY
WITH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
FOR PETS AND PET OWNERS
DURING DISASTERS**