



**Maryland  
State Animal  
Response Team  
(MDSART)  
[www.mdsart.org](http://www.mdsart.org)**

**MARYLAND  
STATE ANIMAL  
RESPONSE  
TEAM**

Maryland SART

*Dr. Jacob*

*Casper*

Maryland  
Department of  
Agriculture





# *How SART Got Its Start*

SART Started  
in North  
Carolina as a  
result of  
Hurricane Floyd  
Floyd cost NC  
Agriculture  
\$812,629,064.





# *Our Mission*

Providing prevention, response & recovery for animal emergencies.



# Selected Animal Issues During Disasters

- Evacuation
- Sheltering
- Transportation
- Fostering
- Adoption
- Return to owners
- Feeding
- Veterinary Medical Treatment
- Surveillance
- Disease Control
- Quarantine
- Humane Euthanasia
- Dead Animal Disposal

# Goals

- Decrease the threat to humans and animals during disasters.
- Prevent and decrease the spread of diseases that impact animals and humans.
- Minimize the economic impact of animal emergencies.





## *What Does SART Do?*

- We facilitate a safe, environmentally sound and efficient response to animal emergencies on the local, county and state level.
- We promote the implementation of County Animal Response Teams (CARTs) across Maryland.

# Any Animal







# Any Disaster



# Any Where





# Chaos, Confusion and Crisis



**Replaced with  
Cooperation, Coordination,  
Communication**

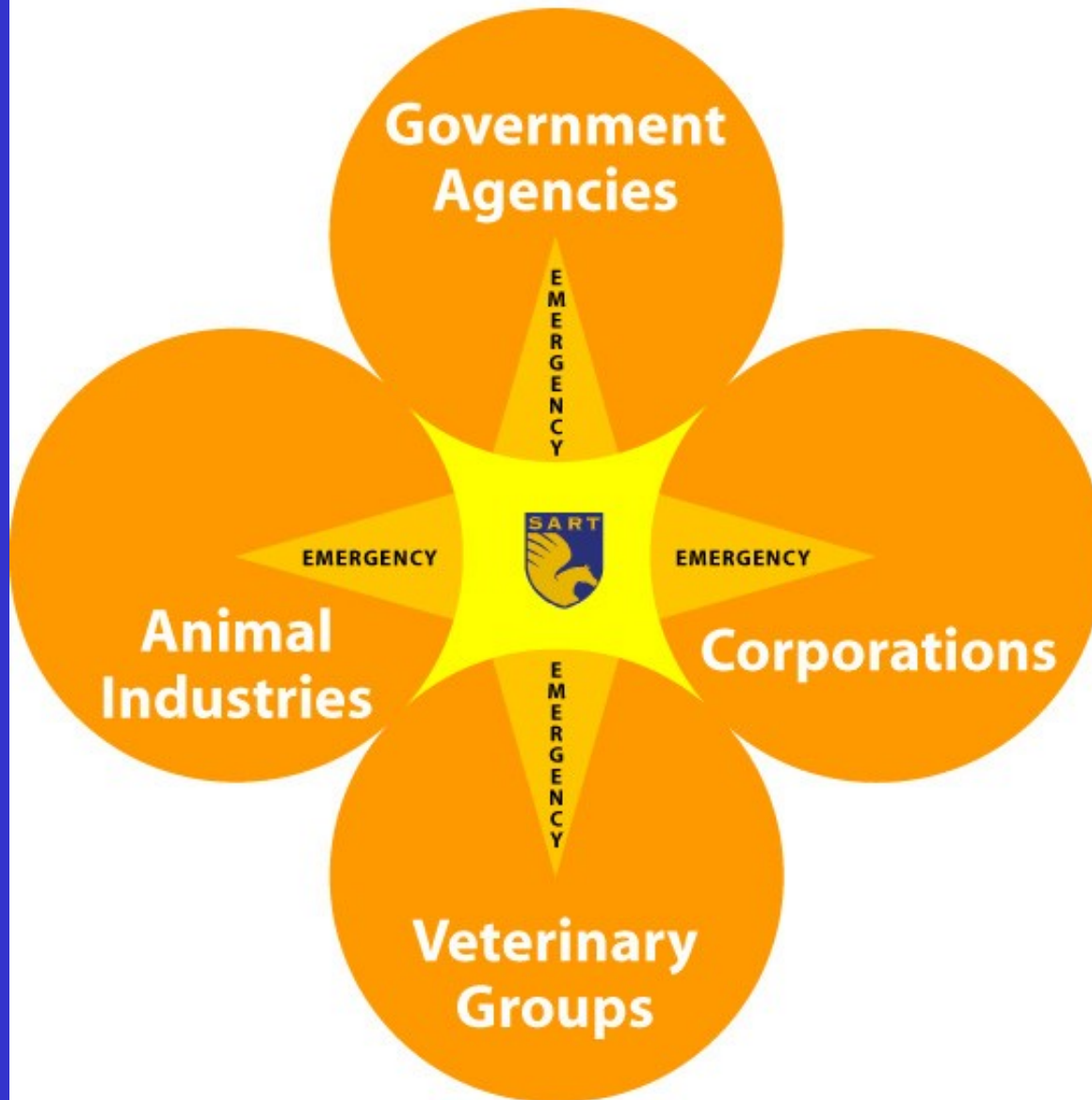


# SART is based on Incident Command System (ICS)

- **Planning**
- **Operations**
  - **Field Operations**
  - **Search & Rescue**
  - **Sheltering**
  - **Veterinary Services**
  - **Industry Specialist**
  - **Mortality Management**
- **Logistics**
- **Administration**



# Where SART Fits In





# SART Programs

- Volunteer Training
- Public Awareness
- Pet Microchipping
- Annual Awards
- Technical Assistance
- National Training Initiative



# Why SART Works

- Common mission for animal emergencies
- Proven method (ICS)
- Private entity (501C3) with public partnership
- Team Approach



# What the Partners Offer

- Public Entities: Consistency, legal authority, and statewide presence.
- Private Organizations: Zeal, abilities, rapid deployment, solutions and availability of funds & funding mechanisms.
- Animal Industries: Need, experience, mandate to be responsible & fund.



# Incorporation

- Incorporation involves becoming a private, non-profit organization
- 501(c) 3 tax-exempt status
- Needs bylaws and board of directors
- Allows for fundraising and memorandum of understanding with other entities
- Allows the purchase insurance

# Building Trust & Credibility

- Code of Conduct
- Volunteers and organizations must be activated, and similarly can be deactivated by the Incident Commander



# Strengths of Code of Conduct

- **Volunteers and participants represent the entire SART organization**
- **Protects the integrity of SART and of those who respond to disasters on SART's behalf**
- **Each SART participant must agree to read, sign and abide by this code**

# Building a Team of Responders

**Veterinary  
experience is  
NOT necessary  
to be a valued  
responder.**



# Building a Team of Responders

**Disaster response requires volunteers with a wide range of skills and experience.**



# Building a Team of Responders

In addition to providing emergency animal care, we need responders to:

- Perform office functions (filing, in/out)
- Answer phones
- Manage supplies and equipment



# Building a Team of Responders

We also need responders who have access to:

- Four wheel drive vehicles
- Cranes & Bobcats
- Chainsaws
- Other heavy equipment





# County Animal Response Teams CARTs

- Local response is the best response.
- Animal Control, veterinarians, Public Health, Red Cross, Fire Dept., Sheriff, EMS, humane groups, farmers, lab animal facilities, pet boarder/sellers, Dept. of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension, pet owners





# County Teams Are Critical!

- Local teams will be First Responders in any activation.
- Requests for resources and assistance always start at the local level.
- Disasters happen from the bottom up.
- Local response is the best response!

# CART - County Animal Response Teams

- Animal Control
- Public Health
- Red Cross
- Fire Department
- Sheriff
- EMS
- Dept of Agriculture
- Cooperative Extension
- veterinarians
- humane groups
- Farmers
- lab animal facilities
- pet boarder/sellers

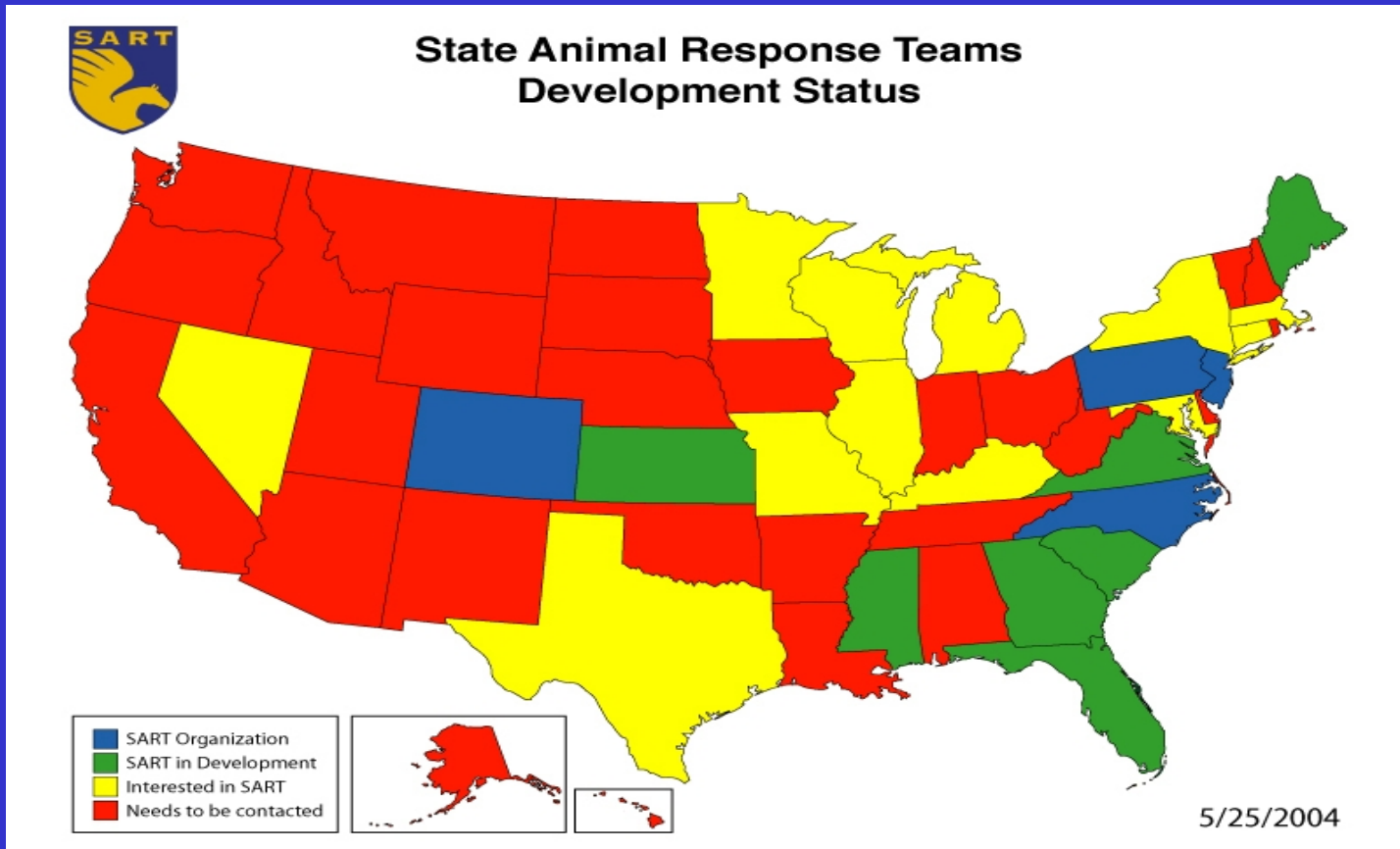


# USDA Funds SART Initiative

- **Colorado, Tennessee trained in SART in 2003**
- **Pennsylvania launched in Feb 2004**
- **12 additional states being**



# State of our SART union



# Benefits of being a SART

- Credibility and name recognition
- Recognized entity to participate in mutual aid and national EMAC system
- Participation in the SART national website, [www.usasart.org](http://www.usasart.org)
- SART national partner donations
- Electronic newsletters
- National database of responders
- County Animal Response Teams
- Covered by State Tort laws

# SART Seats Board of Directors



# Board of Directors

- Governs SART
- Consists of members from public and private institutions
- Establishes SART's policies and secures funding for operations
- Meets quarterly



# Suggested Board Members

- USDA
- MDA
- HSUS
- DAYS END FARM
- DNR
- MDA
- U of MD CES
- CART  
REPRESENTATIVE
- VMAT
- MVMA
- ESSEX CC
- VMRCVM
- PAWS
- MEMA
- 2 AT LARGE  
DIRECTORS



# Projects for which we need volunteers and leaders

- Formation of Board of Directors
- Fundraising
- Committee formations
- MOU drafters
- Animal Transporter lists/Shelter locations
- Plan writers
- Operational Planning
- Supplies officer
- Job Description writers
- Public Relations
- Stakeholders identification
- Training officer
- Volunteer Coordination
- Communications procedures