

### AKC Reunite is Rolling Out Help

By Dallas Harsa, AKC



Vern, an AKC mascot shows off the new response trailer.

AKC Reunite, formerly AKC Companion Animal Recovery, is an affiliate of the American Kennel Club and the nation's largest non-profit pet identification and recovery service. Since 1995 the organization has identified 5 million pets and helped over 400,000 pets find their way home.

In 2002 AKC Reunite launched its Canine Support and Relief Fund, a charitable 501(c)3 fund to support (1) disaster relief and preparedness initiatives, (2) volunteer Canine Search and Rescue (SAR) teams, and (3)

pet identification initiatives, such as scanner donations to animal sheltering organizations in need. Much of the success of the Fund's giving programs can be attributed to AKC Clubs. These local organizations provide a nationwide fleet of pet lovers that are on the frontlines helping pets in an emergency as AKC Reunite sources supplies and relief as needed.

AKC Reunite helped fund the first three Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailers (CAMETS) for its home state of North Carolina. These CAMETS have helped evacuate families with their pets during recent hurricanes. The mobilization of these trailers helped prove the State's resiliency and resolve during Hurricane Irene, requiring no outside assistance to care for its citizens and their pets.

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**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE &  
CONSUMER SERVICES**

**Emergency Programs Division**

*Steve Troxler, Commissioner*

*Sharron Stewart, Director*



# Skywarn Training for Weather Spotters

By Mike Mayes, NCDA&CS

Although the hurricane season may be coming to a close, there is never a better time to learn and understand how severe weather forms and the impact it could have on the people and communities of North Carolina. The National Weather Service (NWS) often combines information from local volunteers in conjunction with modern technology to create detailed reports that are then used to inform communities of impending weather. This effort, entitled SKYWARN, trains volunteers on what to



look for when they are on the ground describing various weather incidents. These ‘spotters’ can then inform the NWS of the events they are visually seeing which help meteorologist make life-saving warning decisions. On September 24, 2013 NCDA&CS was pleased to host Brandon Dunstan of the National Weather Service – Raleigh at the main agriculture building in downtown Raleigh. The training was also streamlined so that others across the state could join remotely. Brandon, a meteorologist, gave in-depth training on how to spot and understand the difference between various cloud formations to include funnel and wall clouds. Brandon explained that although a cloud formation may appear to be “a tornado, there must be ample evidence such as rotation”. He explained that many times people think they see a tornado on the ground, but in reality it is an illusion or misconception, such as the picture shown here of a cloud formation that is not a tornado. Brandon showed several other pictures of what appear to be a tornado but were in fact only clouds that appear to be a tornado.

VRC COORDINATOR	UPCOMING EVENTS:	REQUIREMENTS FOR VRC DEPLOYMENT
<p><b>Mandy Tolson, DVM</b>  <b>Southeastern Region Emergency Programs Veterinarian</b>  <b>(252) 813-0989</b>  <b>Mandy.Tolson@ncagr.gov</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please see our website for future training and activities.</li> <li>• Check out our sheltering webinars posted on the website!</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.ncagr.gov/oep/sheltering/">http://www.ncagr.gov/oep/sheltering/</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICS 100, 200, and 700</li> <li>• Biosecurity/PPE Training</li> <li>• Knowledge of NC Emergency Management</li> <li>• Knowledge of Emergency Support Functions</li> <li>• Attendance at VRC Meetings</li> <li>• Sign a Code of Conduct</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMPLETE YOUR VRC REGISTRATION AT <a href="http://WWW.SERVNC.ORG">WWW.SERVNC.ORG</a></b></p>		

Brandon also explained the importance of understanding that people cannot ‘out-run’ a storm or weather event. “If you are looking at a potential funnel cloud”, he said, “take cover immediately”. Brandon said because weather events are so unpredictable, it is better to immediately find shelter and report when it is safe to do so. Brandon said that while obtaining information from spotters in the field is important, “personal safety is the primary objective of every spotter”.



The training was not only helpful, but interactive as the audience was able to ask questions which allowed Brandon to elaborate on various topics. A question from the audience was asked about winter events and what to report. Brandon said “when making a winter weather report, it is important to report any freezing rain occurrence, ice accumulation, and any damage spotted”. He also said to report how much snow had accumulated and the estimated visibility.

Most felt the training was extremely helpful and many indicated they would sign-up to be a weather spotter for the NWS. This means [after the training] they are certified to give a spotter report to the NWS; and they have the option of choosing whether or not they would be available to be called based on their home location. This is so that if there is weather being shown (via radar) in a specific area, the NWS could contact spotters in that area to describe what they see on the ground. If you or someone you know is interested in taking the training and becoming a spotter for the NWS, please visit the website at [www.weather.gov/rah/skywarn](http://www.weather.gov/rah/skywarn).



**VRC MISSION: Train and prepare professionals in the animal care community to respond to disaster events (all hazards) that affect both production and companion animals. Our members will serve as a resource for our state and the nation.**

**NOTES:** To see recent news and updates, please visit the VRC website at [www.ncvrc.org](http://www.ncvrc.org). If you have questions about the VRC or would like to offer suggestions or articles for future newsletters, contact Mandy at [mandy.tolson@ncagr.gov](mailto:mandy.tolson@ncagr.gov).

# AKC Reunite is Rolling Out Help

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AKC Reunite wants all communities to be equipped with these emergency trailers so they can be better prepared when the unthinkable happens. To make this vision a reality, the AKC Pet Disaster Relief trailer donation program was launched in September 2013. Over the next two years, AKC Reunite has allocated \$250,000 to help supplement AKC Clubs' fundraising efforts to supply local municipalities across the country with custom configured, 16-foot Pet Disaster Relief trailers stocked with the essential sheltering and pet care supplies needed to house at least 55 pets the critical time after a disaster is declared.



Local AKC Clubs are encouraged to partner with their local Emergency Management teams to understand their local disaster assessments and plans and introduce AKC Pet Disaster Relief. Interested Emergency Management teams complete a grant application with a local AKC Club and agree to the Program Terms which include proper trailer storage and maintenance, an adequate towing vehicle and insurance for the trailer and community awareness programs to educate the public on disaster preparedness and showcase how the community is prepared to assist people with their pets in the event of a disaster. AKC Club members are also encouraged to train as first responders to help when animals are displaced.

And the program is working! Exactly one month from the program's launch, Almira Dallas from the Forsyth Kennel Club jumped into action and met with her local Emergency Management authorities near her home in Pamlico County, NC. "Our area is prone to hurricanes and flooding," said Mrs. Dallas. "During these times, we need a better way to help people with their pets. AKC Disaster Relief trailers can provide my community with a practical solution to shelter pets during an emergency evacuation. It is just what we have needed."

AKC Reunite is thrilled the first trailer will be delivered to a deserving county in North Carolina. "AKC Pet Disaster Relief trailers will be contracted through NC SART and delivered with valuable training materials building off of the State's best practices," says AKC Reunite CEO Tom Sharp. "We had a part in launching the NC SART CAMET program in 2002. I cannot think of a better way to launch our nationwide giving initiative than in our home state and with the partnership of the NC SART program. Everything is coming full circle, and the program is off to a great start!"

To learn more about AKC Pet Disaster Relief, go to [www.akcreunite.org/relief](http://www.akcreunite.org/relief) or call 919-816-3980.



Pictured: Patrick and Almira Dallas of the Forsyth Kennel Club; Dallas Harsa of AKC Reunite; Bill Gentry, UNC School of Public Health; Mike Sprayberry, director of the N.C. Emergency Management; Chris Murray of Pamlico County Emergency Management; Ellis Boyle, deputy secretary at the NC Department of Public Safety; Sharron Stewart, director of the NCDA&CS Emergency Programs Division; Chester Lowder of the NC Farm Bureau and NC SART; and Dr. Mike Yoder from N.C. State University.

On October 30, 2013 AKC presented the first CAMET to Pamlico County. This event was attended by many people who helped to make this collaboration possible. Visit our blog for more information at <http://info.ncagr.com/blog/?p=21941>.

## NCVC 2013

By Dr. Mandy Tolson, NCDA&CS

On Nov. 1, 2013 the annual N.C. Veterinary Conference hosted the public practice track for veterinarians and veterinary technicians to learn more about public practice topics. The day was filled with valuable information from great speakers.

The day started with an introduction to the N.C. Veterinary Response Corp by Dr. Mandy Tolson. Dr. Barrett Slenning then discussed one medicine and how human and animal health always walk hand in hand.

Next Drs Richard Ford, Marilyn Haskell and Carl Williams gave great insight and information about rabies vaccination science and laws. After lunch, Dr. Carl Williams and Jennifer MacFarquhar gave an informative update on past E. coli outbreaks and what steps have been taken to prevent future incidents. Next, attendees were given the opportunity to learn about biosecurity and participate in a dress out with personal protective equipment (PPE) and evaluate how well they donned and doffed their PPE. At the end of the day, Dr. Meade from the USDA discussed regulation updates followed by Dr. Marla Friend who presented one of the modules for accreditation and attendees received required continuing education credits to maintain their accreditation status.

Each year the public practice track gives attendees valuable information and updates about a vital aspect of veterinary medicine. We hope to see you all next year!



# Announcing the Tenth "One Medicine" Symposium

December 12, 2013

Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center | Durham, North Carolina

## Pesticides from All Sides

### A One Medicine Approach to Pesticides

A conference for physicians, nurses, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, public health professionals, environmental health specialists, agriculture professionals, wildlife professionals, and federal, military, state and local disaster responders.



**For a full agenda, registration information and other details visit**

**[www.onemedicinenc.org](http://www.onemedicinenc.org) or call 919.515.2261**

- Continuing education is pending for this activity. Please see final announcement for details. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is accredited as a provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.
- The North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board has approved this program for 6.5 hours of continuing education credit for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.
- Application for Continuing Education has been submitted to the NC Board of Environmental Health Specialists Examiners.
- Registration Fee is \$50

### Conference objectives:

- Describe the history, regulation, and current status of pesticide use as it relates to people, animals, agriculture, and the environment.
- Describe the intended and unintended effects of pesticides on humans, animals, and the environment.
- Discuss how the "One Medicine" concept of close cooperation between the human, animal, and environmental health disciplines relates to the uses and effects of pesticides.

