

# THE VRC CONNECTION

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

### Advanced Regional CAMET and Shelter Training

Twenty six Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailers (CAMETs) are strategically located throughout North Carolina to assist counties with the sheltering of pets before, during, or after a disaster. CAMETs have equipment to house 50 small animals (from cats to medium sized dogs) inside a predetermined shelter location. These trailers are North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) assets which they manage throughout natural or man-made disasters. CAMETs do not include people or perishable items, and can be requested separately if needed.

To teach volunteers how to utilize the CAMETs and their contents, NCDA&CS (North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services), USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) and NCEM are hosting Advanced Regional CAMET and Shelter Trainings across North Carolina. The eastern training was held in Williamston at the Senator Bob Martin Agriculture facility in May 2009. Recently the central training was conducted at Davidson Community College in Lexington, NC on February 24, 2010. Both days were fun and a success! The eastern and central trainings were attended by partners from many different organizations who were able to network and train together.

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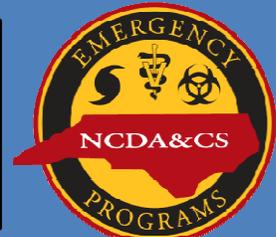


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**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE &  
 CONSUMER SERVICES**  
**Emergency Programs Division**  
 Steve Troxler, Commissioner      Sharron Stewart, Director



### Advanced Regional CAMET and Shelter Training

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The participants included representatives from NCDA&CS, NCEM, USDA, Animal Control, private practitioners, veterinary technicians, veterinary assistants, Public Health Regional Surveillance Team (PHRST) members, State Animal Response Team (SART) members, rescue organizations, and many more. The day long course consists of a morning session with modules that explain the CAMET and how to use its contents to set up an evacuation shelter for pets. The afternoon session includes a hands-on portion where participants can become comfortable with the CAMET and how to use it properly. The goal is to train strong, confident groups of responders in all three regions of the state to face any disaster.

Attendees are encouraged to register with VRC through [www.SERVNC.org](http://www.SERVNC.org). This is the only database utilized for VRC members. Part of the central training was to test the SERVNC system.

As a VRC member that is registered with SERVNC, individuals should have received an email and a phone call requesting the completion of a short questionnaire. The results of the questionnaire highlighted SERVNC's ability to get information out to volunteers quickly and effectively. This training and the utilization of SERVNC was a learning experience which demonstrated how volunteers would be contacted and authenticated for response from the first day of a disaster. Many members were willing and able to deploy anywhere in the state quickly and for a week or more. This will help to support regional teams in the event of a real disaster.

*Article courtesy of: Dr. Mandy Tolson*



### Poultry Strike Team Training

On Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> attendees gathered for annual Poultry Strike Team Training at the Martin Building on the NC State Fairgrounds. This annual training started five years ago with 30 people attending and on this day it was standing room only with approximately 100 participants. Attendees included representatives from: poultry industry, extension (including 2 from South Carolina), NC State University, NCDA&CS, NC Public Health and NC Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

The morning consisted of updates on the NC Avian Influenza Plan, NC Field response, Perdue company plan and response, update from the NC Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Public Health's role in a response and an update from the USDA Indemnity Work group.

After lunch the attendees were split up and rotated through four different stations which simulated a response to an outbreak in North Carolina. The stations included: backyard propagator with sick birds and a potential meth lab on the property, family farm with multiple species of animals and visits by school children, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) donning and doffing, and field entry of lab samples using portable bar code scanners.

The feedback was positive and we look forward to another successful event next year. VRC members are always welcome to attend. Registration is free and usually includes approval for continuing education from the NC Veterinary Medical Board.

*Article courtesy of: Dr. Joanne Walsh-Weeks*

#### VRC COORDINATOR

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#### REQUIREMENTS FOR VRC DEPLOYMENT

- ICS 100, 200, and 700
- Biosecurity/PPE Training
- Knowledge of NC Emergency Management
- Knowledge of Emergency Support Functions
- Attendance at VRC Meetings
- Sign a Code of Conduct

#### COMPLETE YOUR VRC REGISTRATION AT

[www.SERVNC.org](http://www.SERVNC.org)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Advanced Regional CAMET and Shelter Training – April 21, 2010
- Foreign Animal Disease Workshops – Spring 2010 – Spring 2011
- ESF 11 Activation Drill – May 4, 2010

*Dates are tentative. Please check [www.ncvrc.org](http://www.ncvrc.org) for updates.*

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## ESF 11 Activation Drill



On May 4th, SART partner representatives from NCDA&CS, USDA, NC Emergency Management, local universities, Federal agencies, county partners and NCVRC will again participate in an activation drill in the Agriculture Emergency Operations Center (AgEOC) in Raleigh. In an attempt to increase the level of complexity, the Emergency Programs Division (EP) will be building on last year's successes. Volunteers may receive alert update notifications that would lead up to activation of the State EOC and, in parallel, the AgEOC. "Just In Time" training seminars will lead participants through refreshers on management and communications tools attendees were introduced to and practiced with last year.

Prior to the AgEOC becoming busy this year, attendees will take refresher training provided during the morning period and expand on it. During the afternoon session participants will utilize the Incident Command Structure (ICS) and begin working the State EM Hurricane Exercise Scenario. Situation updates will be received at the State's Emergency Operations Center and participants will adjourn in the AgEOC to address issues related to the approaching hurricane.

Attendees can expect to receive preliminary SERVNC messages leading up to Hurrex 2010. Some individuals may also be invited to participate at the AgEOC while others may receive "mock" activation requests. All messages will contain a phrase "This is a training exercise message". This event allows those representatives who would be representing their agencies in the AgEOC to work on solving issues that would happen when North Carolina is faced with its next hurricane.

Keep your "ears on" as the date approaches. Be sure to log on to [www.SERVNC.org](http://www.SERVNC.org) to update your information, as notifications will be sent through this service. SERVNC is the online registration system for medical and health responders for the State of North Carolina.

Article courtesy of: Dr. Bruce Ackers

## ABOUT VRC

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

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).



## VRC SPOTLIGHT:

Terry Blankenship-Paris, DVM

I am a veterinarian at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIH) Department of Health and Human Services in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Prior to government employment, I practiced small animal medicine for five years and continue to do small animal volunteer work with Pug Rescue of North Carolina and Feral Cat Assistance Program.



I have been an enthusiastic member and supporter of the North Carolina Veterinary Response Corps for several years. Most participants prior to joining are familiar with emergency procedures; however there are few veterinarians, veterinary technicians, etc that are trained for a massive emergency affecting livestock and poultry where an organized disaster response is needed

The NCVRC provides great training. The trainings have given me the knowledge, skills, and confidence for deployment. Training opportunities are numerous and varied and most are free or reasonably priced. For veterinarians and veterinary technicians, continuing education credits are available as well. Some minimal training is required for membership (see <http://www.ncagr.gov/oep/Veterinary/VetCorps.htm>) and is offered as a web based course.

NCVRC membership brings together people from different backgrounds as well as different geographical regions expanding the communication among members across the entire state. I am thrilled to be a member of such an active group that is focused on preparing and responding to animal disasters. We all hope the skills we learn are never needed; however, the communication that has developed in this organization as well as the trainings that are offered make NCVRC a very prepared organization.

Article courtesy of: Dr. Terry Blankenship - Paris

# Save the Date!!

## Advanced Regional CAMET & Sheltering Trainings

Training for  
Central &  
Western  
North Carolina

**FREE  
Training!**



This day will include advanced training with the Companion Animal Mobile Equipment trailers, companion animal sheltering, handling and much more! Lunch is provided.

**Target Audience:**

SART Partners, Emergency Management professionals, NCDA&CS employees, Animal Control Officers, SART members, VRC members, Cooperative Extension Agents, CART team members (for both equine and small animal) and any other agency or partner who serves their county or region to assist with sheltering animals in a disaster.

**Central Training: February 24, 2010**  
**Davidson County Community College**  
9:00am-4:00pm

**Western Training: April 21, 2010**  
**Buncombe County Fire Training Center**  
9:00am-4:00pm

**Register online:**

[www.ncmhtd.com/camet](http://www.ncmhtd.com/camet)

Hosted by  
NC Emergency Management,  
NC Department of Agriculture  
& Consumer Services  
Funded by USDA APHIS/  
Animal Care

Directions available on  
registration website:

[www.ncmhtd.com/camet](http://www.ncmhtd.com/camet)

Questions? Contact Dr. Mandy Tolson at (252) 813-0989

