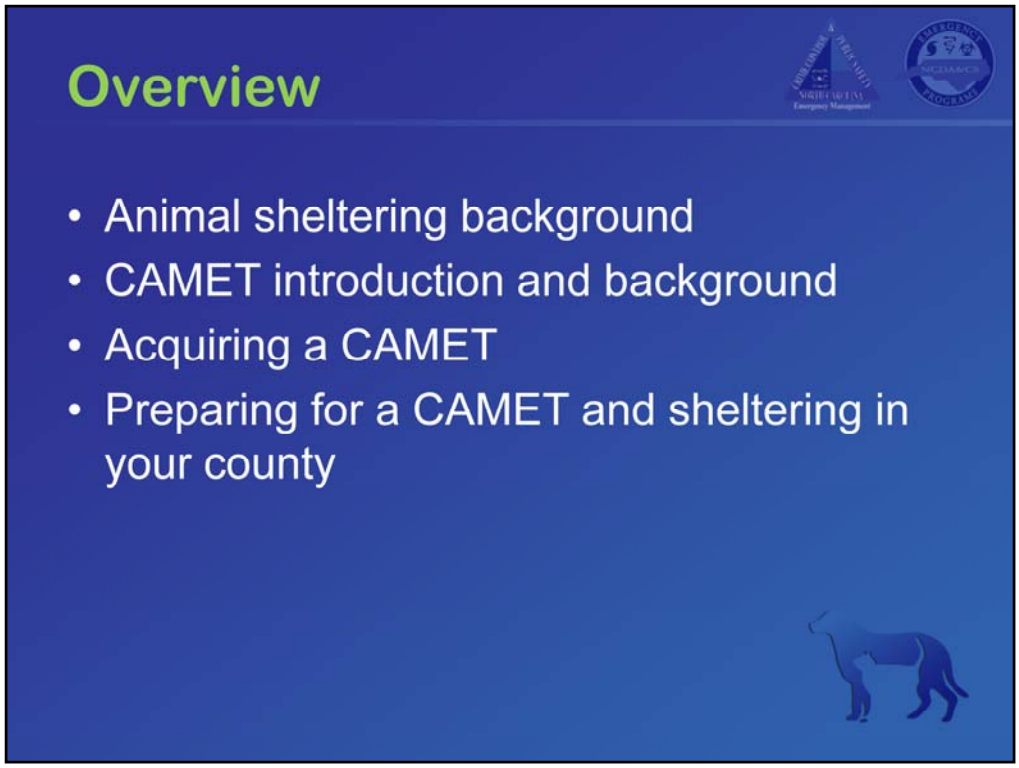
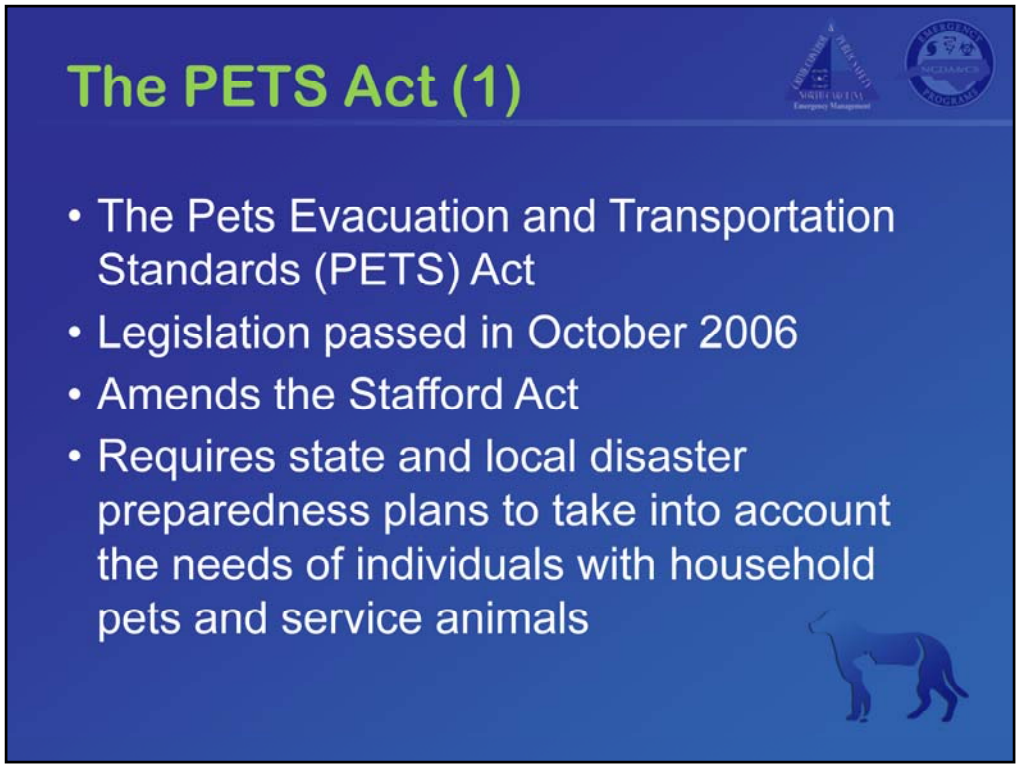
Introduction to the CAMET and Pet Sheltering

Presented by the
NC Department of Crime Control & Public Safety
Division of Emergency Management
and the
NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Emergency Programs Division

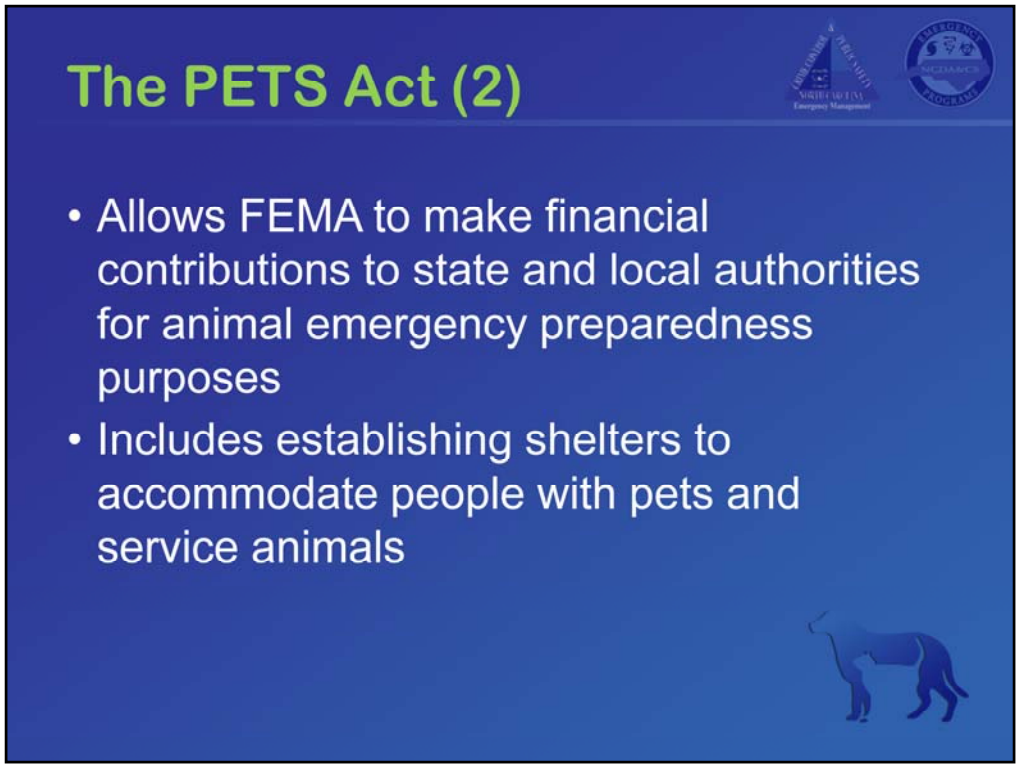


This slide provides an overview of the topics addressed in this presentation.



The PETs Act requires the director of FEMA, in approving standards for state and local disaster preparedness plans, to ensure that the plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals. The bill also allows the director of FEMA to make financial contributions to state and local authorities for animal emergency preparedness purposes, including establishing shelters to accommodate people with pets and service animals.

This is an unfunded mandate that FEMA is requiring states to comply with. Reimbursement is usually available in the case of a declared a federal disaster, but there are no guarantees.



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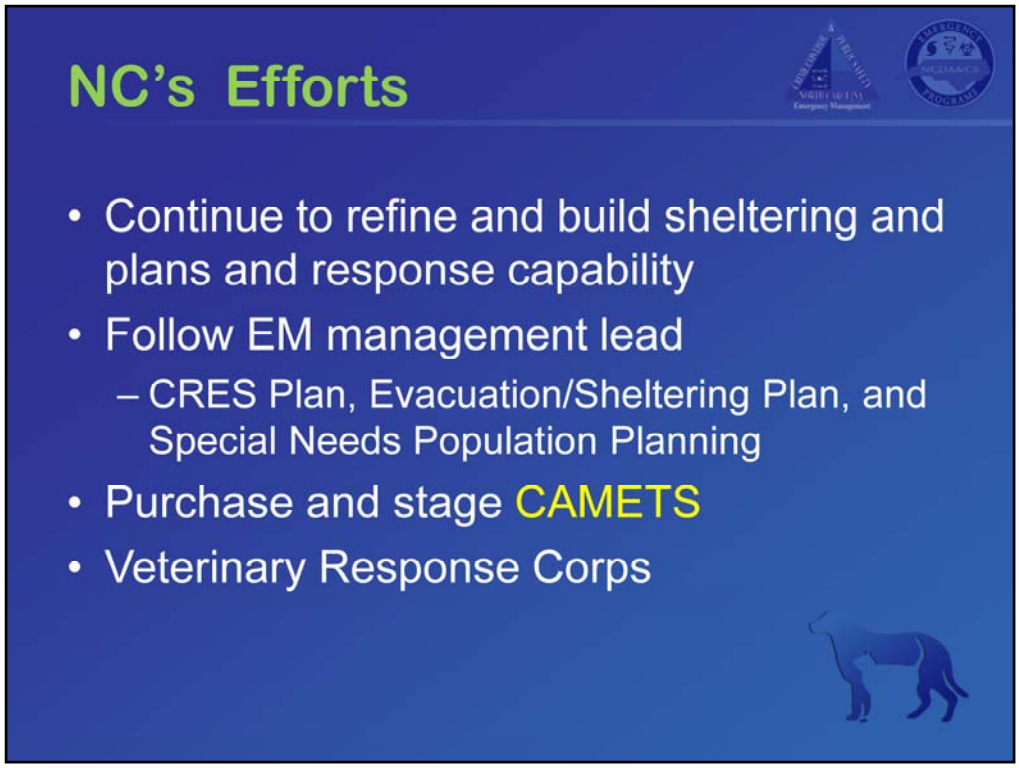
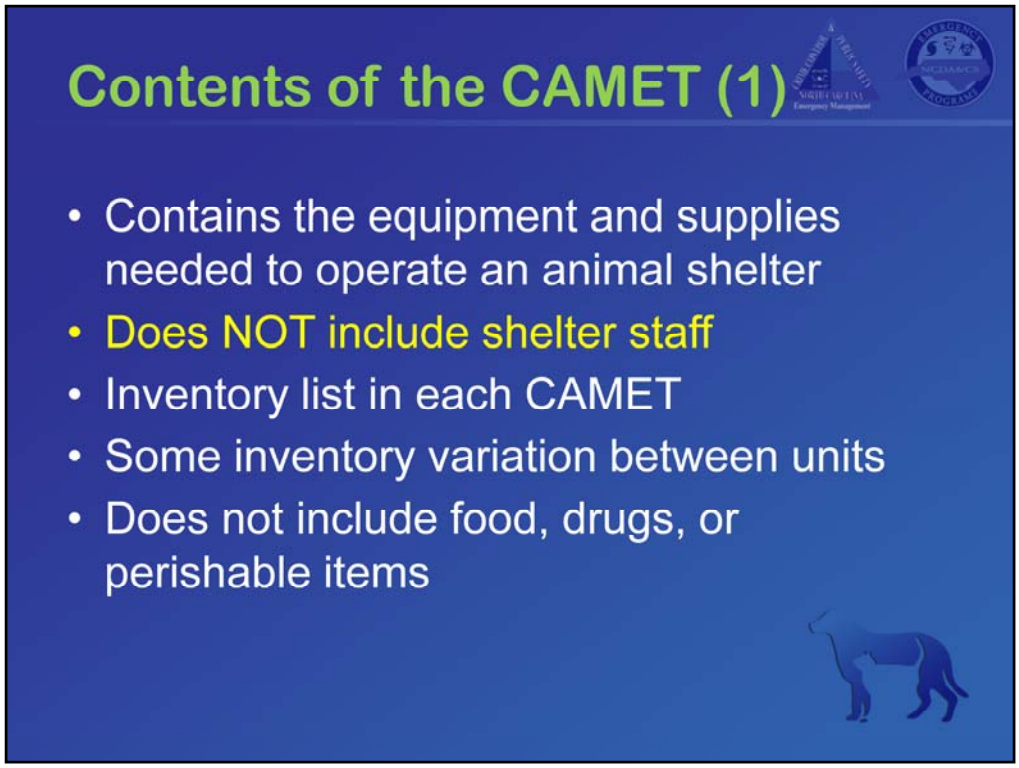


Here are a number of initiatives that NC has either continued to develop or has initiated to better prepare our citizens and their pets for large scale disasters. In this training, we will focus on CAMETS.

CRES stands for Coastal Regional Evacuation and Sheltering

What is a CAMET? A Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailer.
It's basically is an animal shelter on wheels (without the building and staff).

It is similar to a Red Cross “Sheltie”.



A CAMET comes with the “guts” of what is needed to set up a shelter to house companion animals.

Each CAMET includes 50 to 60 cages, a generator, power washer, roll of plastic, bowls etc.

No food, drugs or perishable items are included.

A CAMET do NOT come with personnel to operate the animal shelter.

Contents of the CAMET (2)

- Administrative supplies (forms, ID bands)
- Animal care supplies (crates, plastic bowls)
- Cleaning supplies (roll of plastic, buckets, brushes, hose, disinfectant)
- Generator
- Power washer
- Shop vacuum

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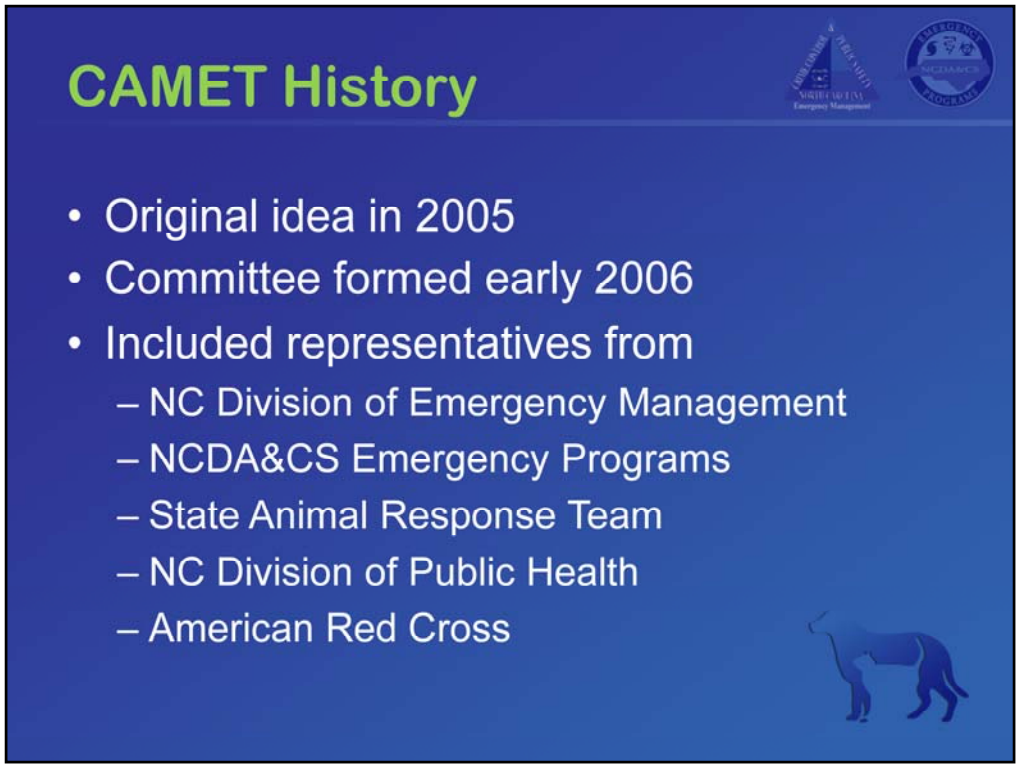
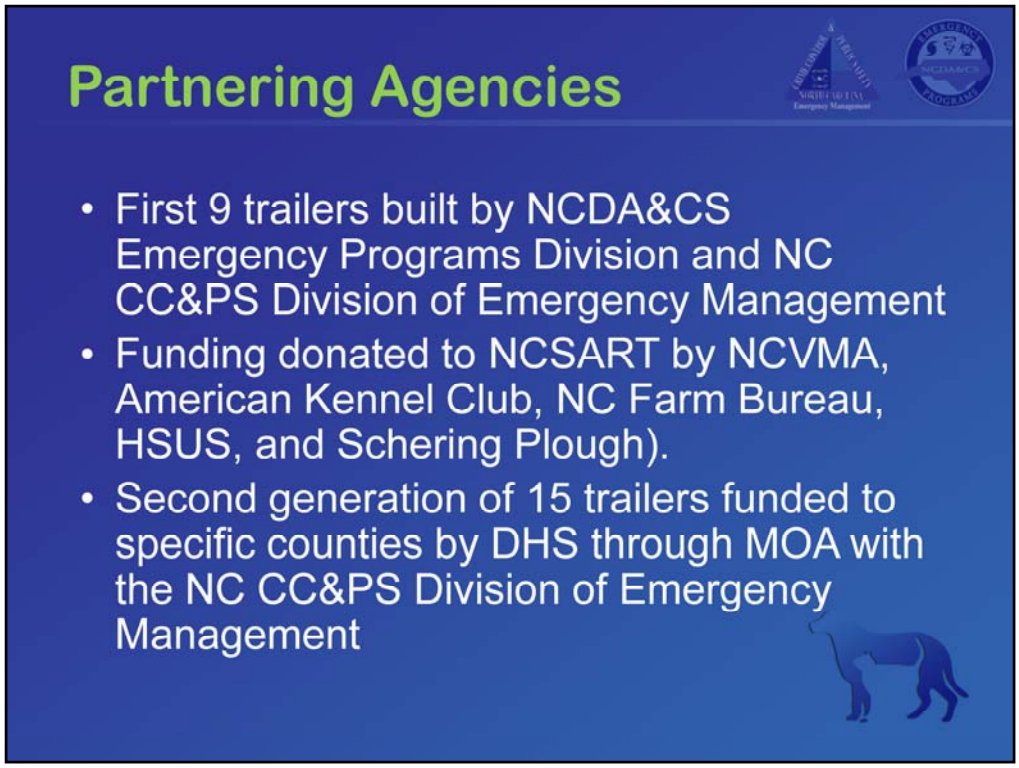


Dr. Jimmy Tickel with the NCDA&CS first developed the idea in 2005.

A committee started actively working on the project in early 2006.

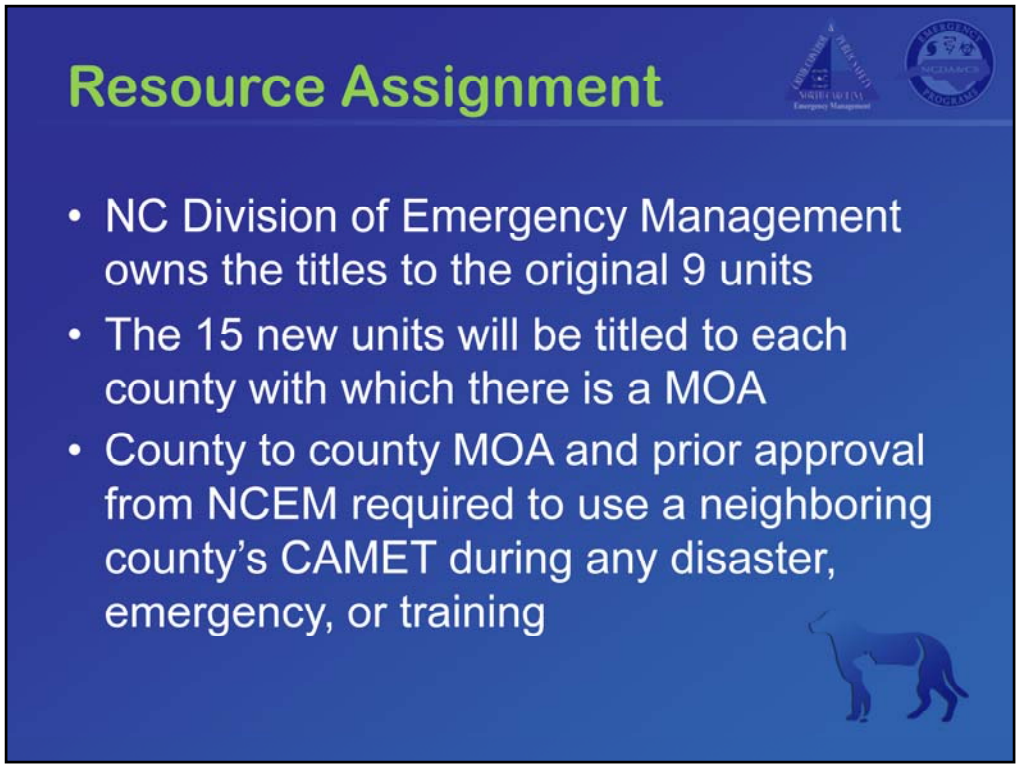
The committee included: NCDA&CS Emergency Programs Division, NC Division of Emergency Management, SART (State Animal Response Team), the American Red Cross, and the NC Division of Public Health.



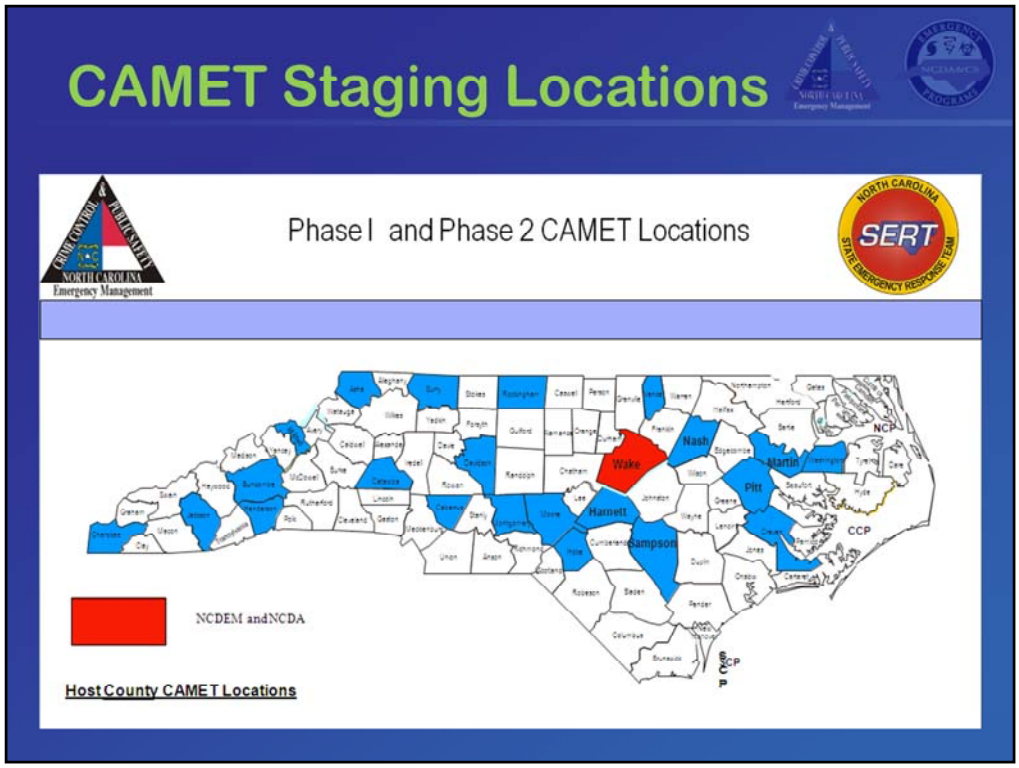
The first 9 CAMETs were built by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Emergency Programs Division and the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety Division of Emergency Management. These trailers are state-owned assets.

Funding from North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association, American Kennel Club, North Carolina Farm Bureau, Schering Plough and Humane Society of the United States was donated to North Carolina State Animal Response Team (SART). SART is a 501c, non-profit organization.

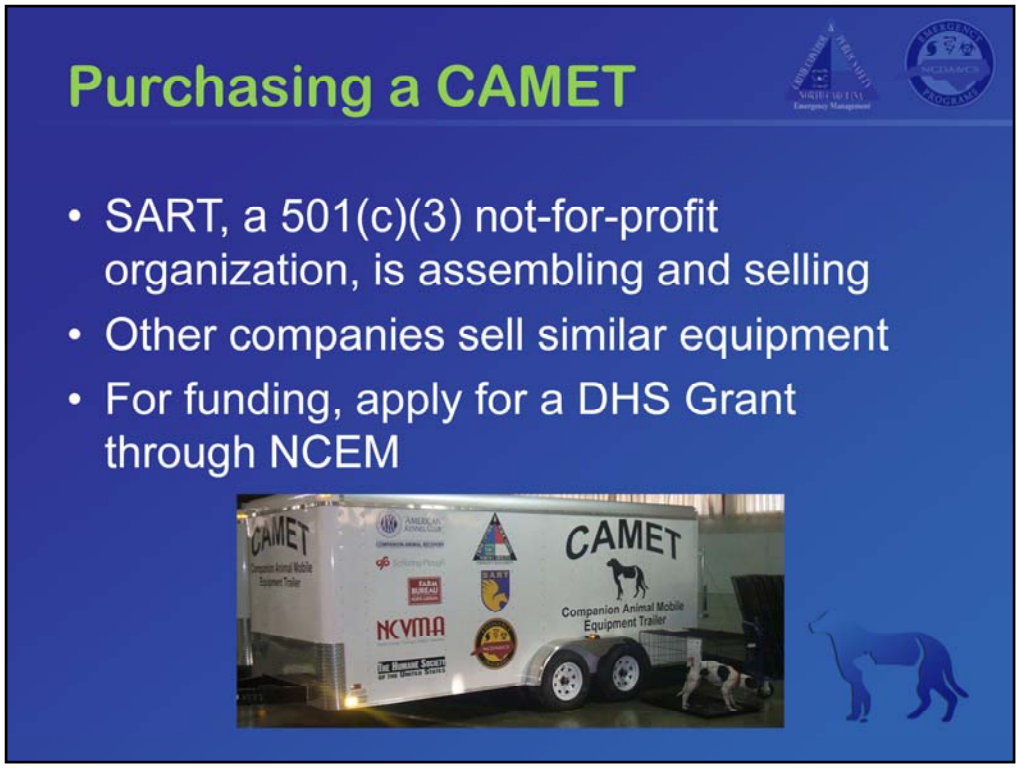
The second group of 15 were funded to specific North Carolina counties by the Department of Homeland Security through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NC Division of Emergency Management. These trailers are county-owned assets.



As of February 2009, the first nine belong to the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM). With a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), NCEM will loan the CAMET to the requesting county for use by the County Animal Response Team (CART) during a disaster or emergency.
As of February 2009 the 15 new units will be titled to the county with which there is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM).



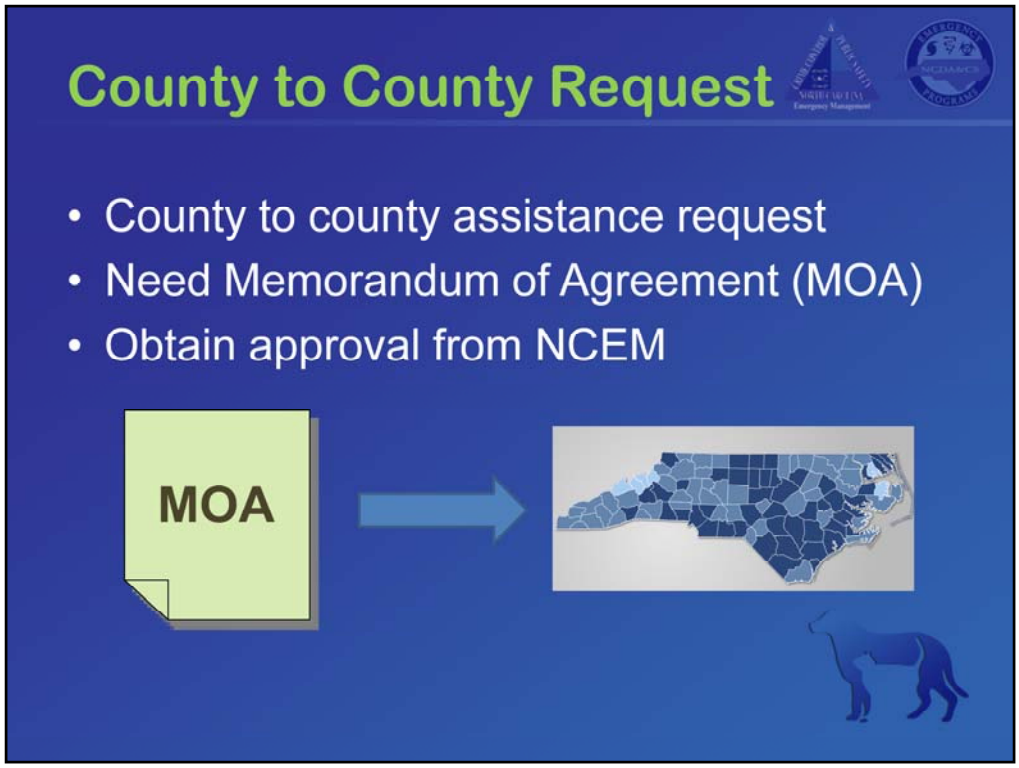
CAMET locations as of 3/17/09 for CAMETs that are state-owned by the NC Division of Emergency Management (phase I) and the CAMETs titled to individual counties through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NCEM (phase II).



As of February 2009, North Carolina State Animal Response Team (SART) is assembling and selling CAMETs.

Other companies in other states sell similar equipment.

Your county may apply for funds to pay for a CAMET from a Department of Homeland Security Grant through North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM).

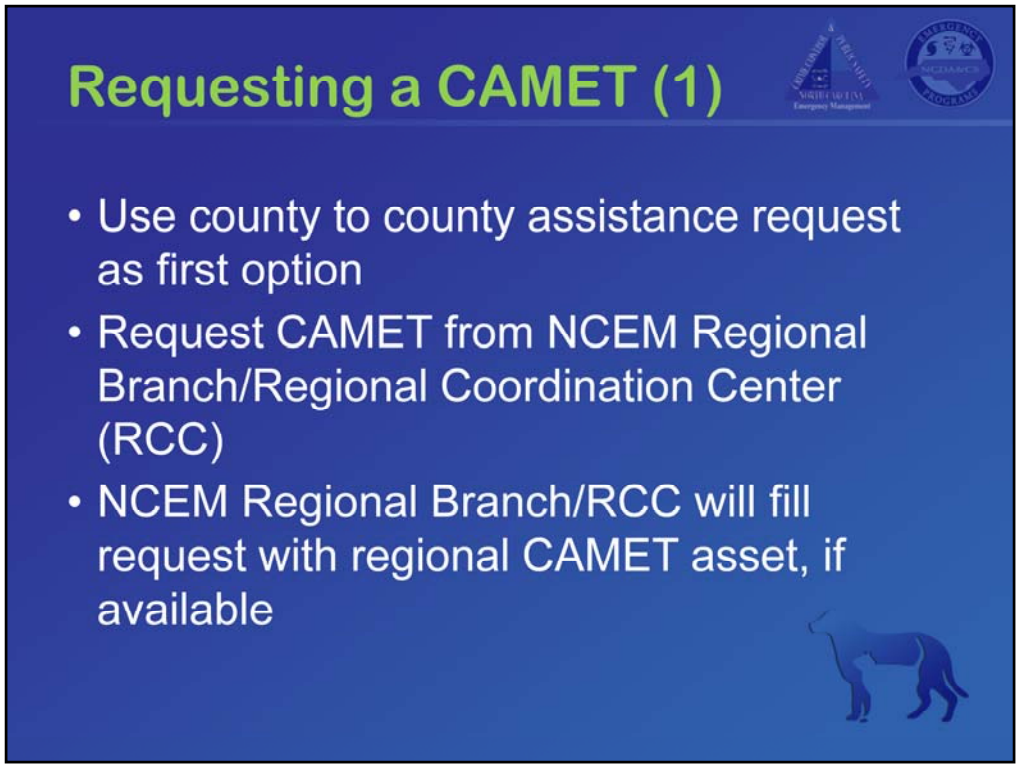


A county may request to use another county's CAMET through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Prior approval must also be obtained from the NC Division of Emergency Management.

Create Partnerships

No CAMET in your county?

- Form a partnership with a county that does have a CAMET
- Make preparations before there is an event in your county
- Train and exercise with your partner county and their CAMET

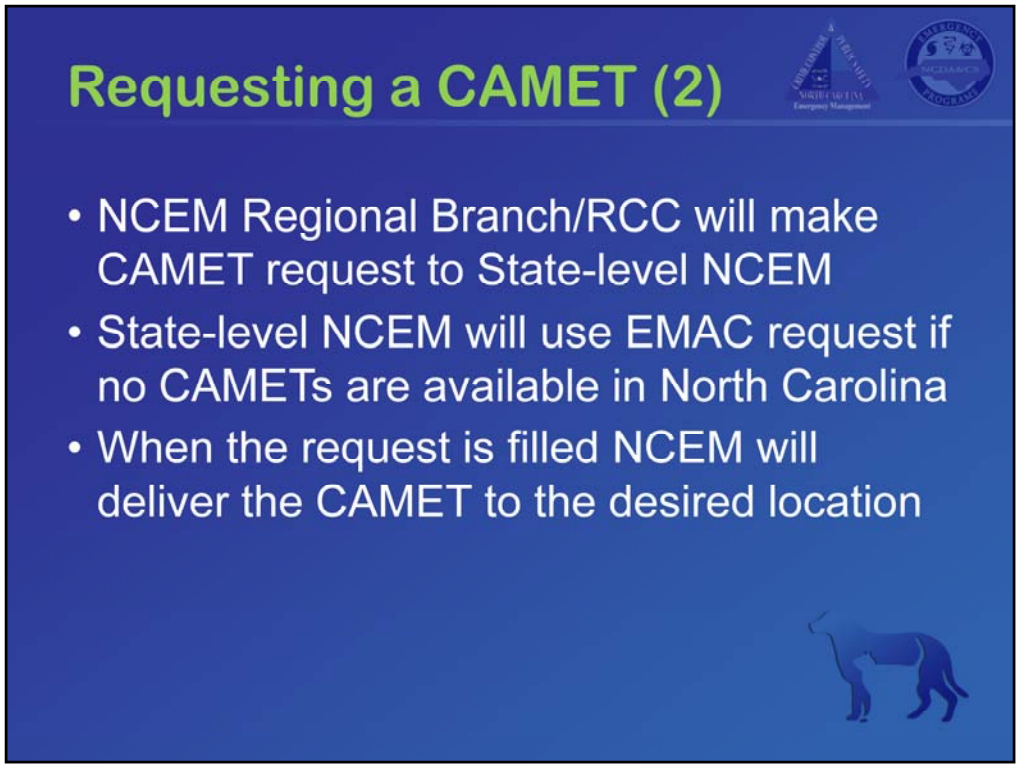


If a nearby CAMET is not available, a county may place a CAMET request to the NCEM Regional Branch/Regional Coordination Center (RCC).

NCEM Regional Branch/RCC will coordinate regional CAMET resources and make a request to the State-level NCEM if no CAMETs are available in their region.

If necessary, NCEM will request a CAMET from other states via an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) request.

When the request is filled Emergency Management will deliver the CAMET to the desired location.



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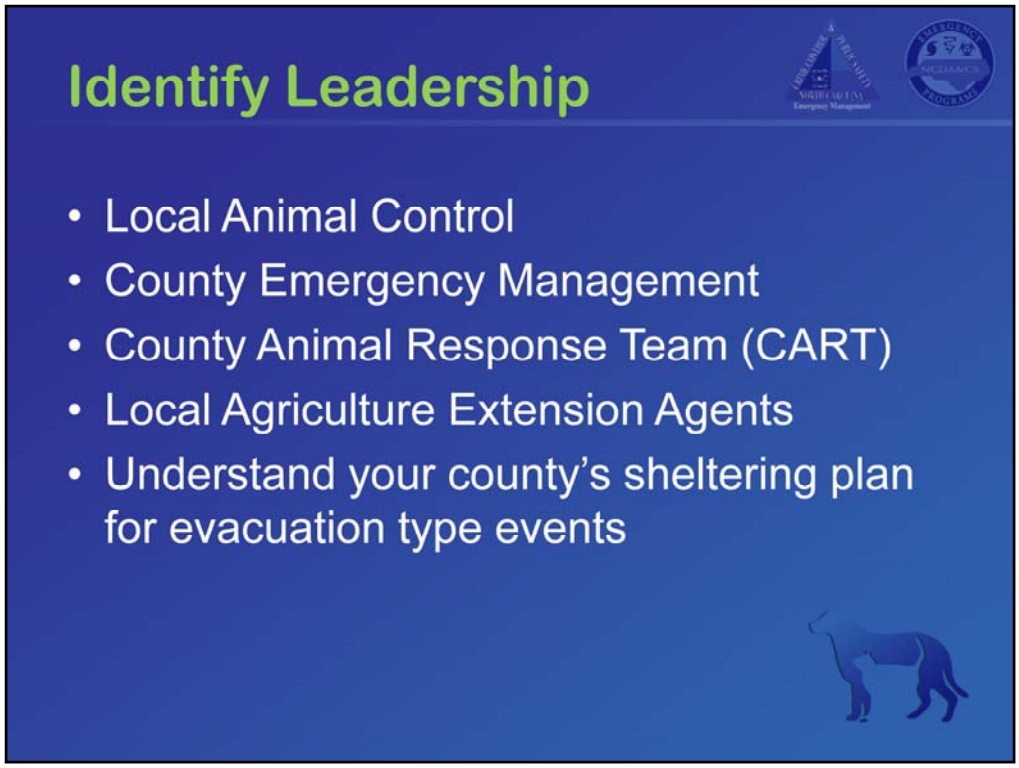
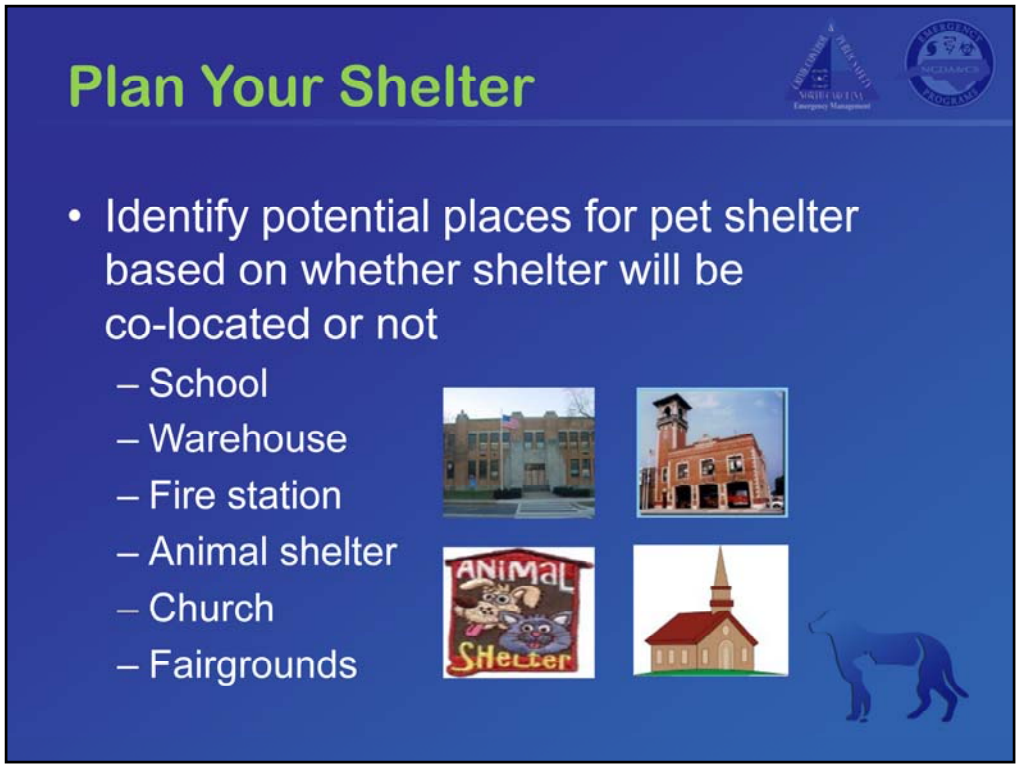
Preparing for a CAMET

- Identify the appropriate leadership
- Plan ahead for sheltering location
- Obtain necessary approval
- Identify companion animal shelter staff
- Receive and host appropriate training



Local Animal Control is the best place to start when your county is considering purchasing a CAMET. In most counties in North Carolina Animal Control is the lead agency for issues involving animals, regardless of the presence of a County Animal Response Team (CART).



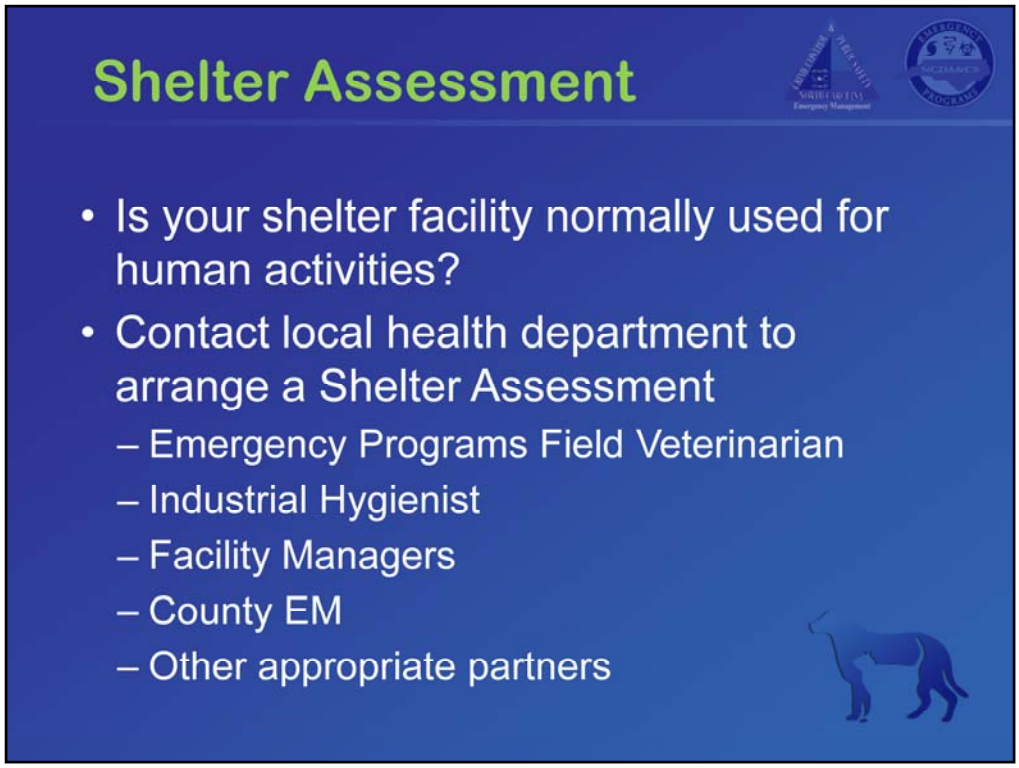
First identify potential places to set up a pet shelter.

Some sites being used in counties in North Carolina include:
-schools (locker room, gym, or hallway)
-warehouse, fire station (it's next to human shelter and has small number of cages pre-positioned due to frequent ice storms)
-county animal shelter (or local humane group shelter)
-church (gym or hallway)
-fairgrounds

Use your county's Emergency Management Plan to identify and gather your sheltering team members.

Depending on your shelter location, potential team members include: animal control, public health, school or school board representative, police, fire, American Red Cross.

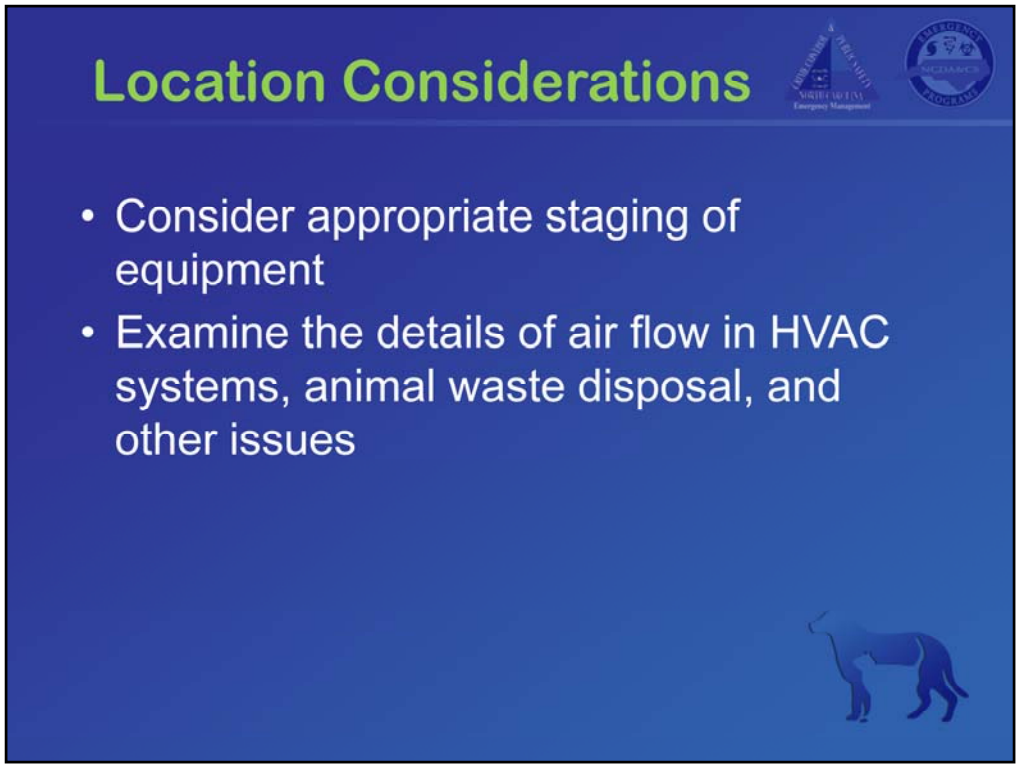
Different shelter locations will require approval from various agencies, boards, and organizations. If a school will be used as a shelter you may need to get approval from the school board and the county commission. In one county in North Carolina, an old local law had to be changed to allow pets to be sheltered in a school.



If your shelter location is normally used for human activities, there are several issues you must address.

A shelter assessment team can include partners from NCDA&CS Emergency Programs Division, a public health industrial hygienist, location facility managers, county Emergency Management, other agencies based on your county's sheltering plan and possible shelter location.

In North Carolina industrial hygienists are trained to consider air flow patterns, which are extremely important to reduce contamination of areas where humans may be (both for allergen and pet waste removal issues).



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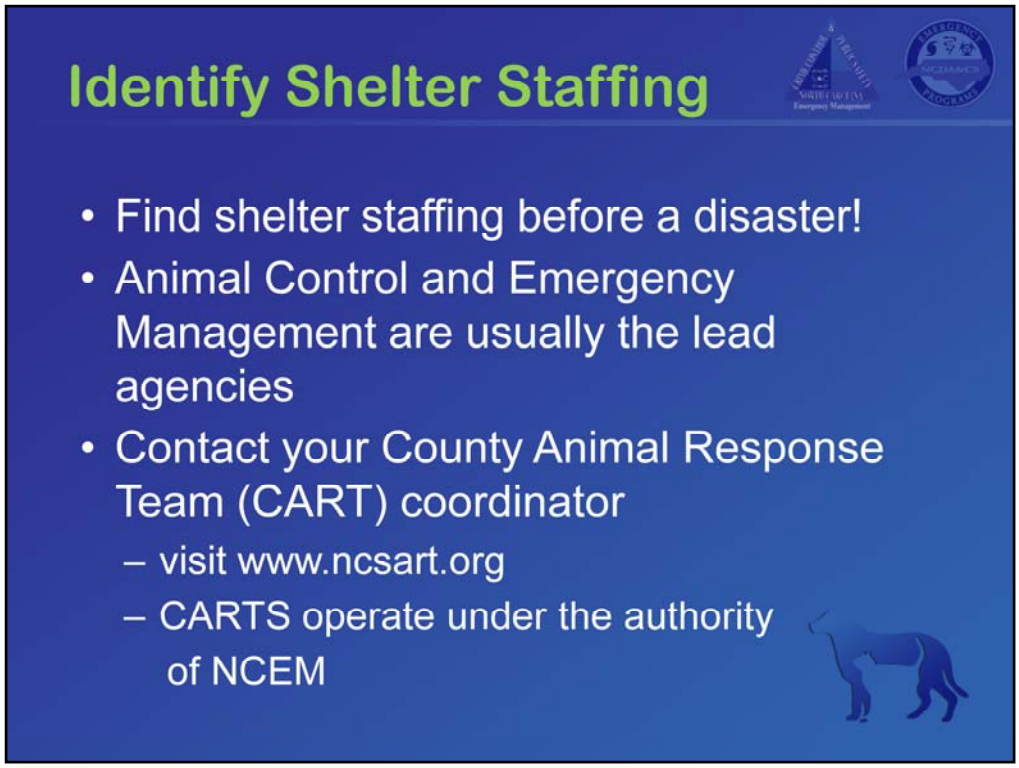
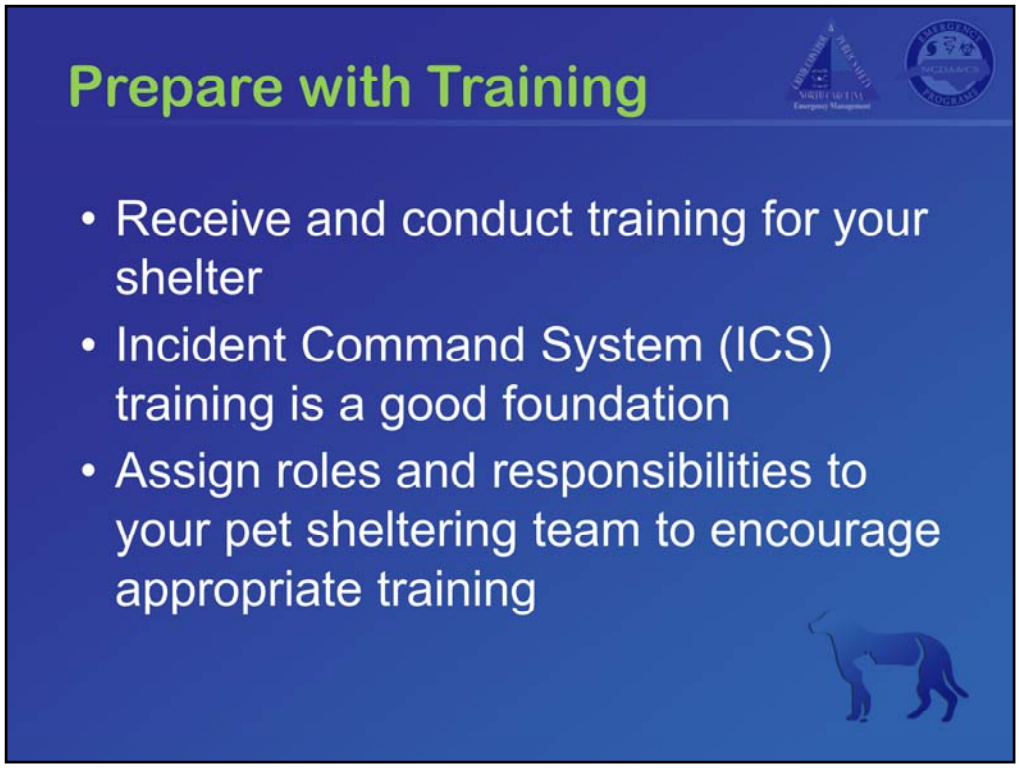


Good resources for sheltering information include Animal Control, County Animal Response Team (CART) coordinator (www.ncsart.org), Veterinary Response Corp member (www.ncvrc.org), or your local veterinarian. These groups of people will be a great source of knowledge to help with the flow of the shelter since they do it every day at their practices and/or shelters.

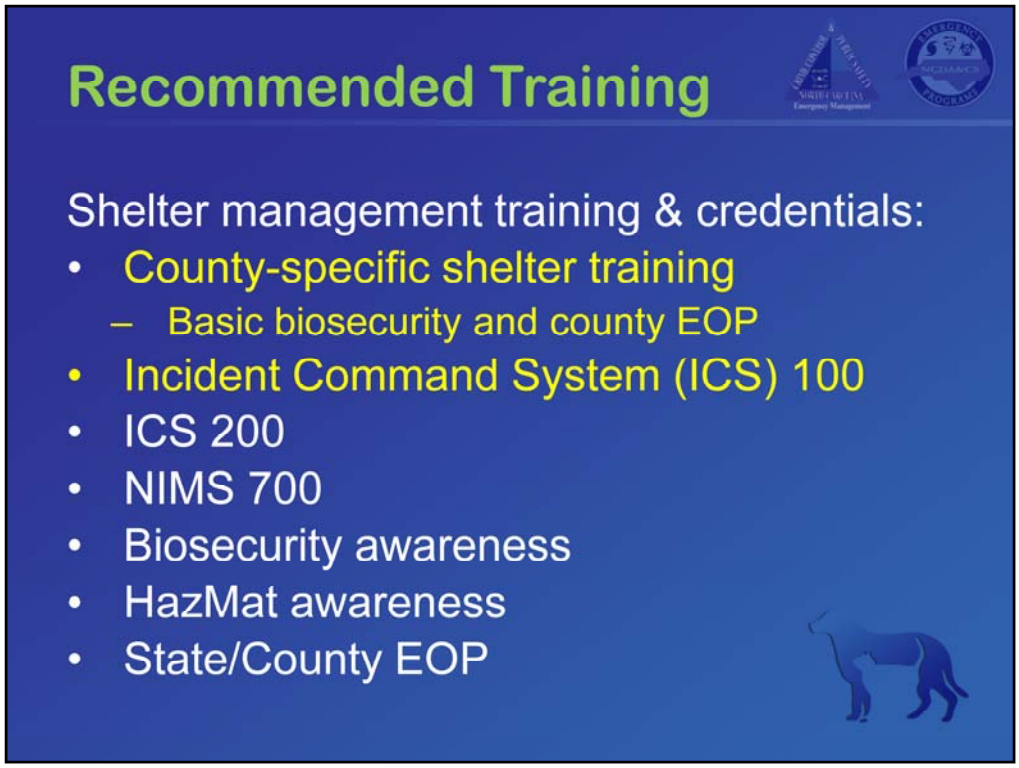
Other Shelter Staffing

- Volunteers are key
- Local Veterinary Response Corps members (www.ncvrc.org)
- NC Cooperative Extension good resource
- Local humane groups & veterinary clinics best source for trained personnel
- Shelter training can help increase interest and recruit potential staff



NCDA&CS Emergency Programs Division, NC Division of Emergency Management, and NC SART are good sources for training information and resources.

ICS training available online through FEMA's Independent Study Program: http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp



Recommended training/credentials for shelter management:

- Yellow = minimum training needed for shelter management
- SART/VRC credentialed staff have completed all of the items listed

Each county is responsible for developing their own plan for animal response. Shelter managers should receive this county specific training prior to opening a shelter.

ICS and National Incident Management System (NIMS) training available online through FEMA's Independent Study Program: http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp

EOP stands for Emergency Operations Plan.

The NC Animal Disaster Sheltering Resources website (www.ncagr.gov/oep/Sheltering) can provide template documents to help your county begin the planning process.

The NCDA&CS Emergency Programs Division will provide animal sheltering guidance but cannot develop specific county trainings because each county has unique issues that need to be addressed locally.

A great place to start gathering information is on the internet at:
www.ncagr.gov/oep/Sheltering
There are guidelines, policies and sample forms.

Points to Remember

- CAMETS can be activated/released only by County or State Emergency Management personnel
  - Not NCDA&CS, SART etc.
- NCSART can assist in the purchasing of a CAMET
- Appropriately prepare to use CAMET before requesting/purchasing one!