

THE VRC CONNECTION

June 2020

I hope you all are doing ok during these trying times. I for one can't believe that we had two named storms before the hurricane season even started!

We've been coordinating with NC Emergency Management Human Services Branch and national groups such as the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) and the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) to figure out what disaster sheltering may look like in light of COVID-19. I encourage everyone to reach out to your county's Emergency Manager and animal shelter director to get involved in planning for disaster pet sheltering. If we are activated to support a state-run shelter, like we were for Hurricane Dorian, we will be reaching out to you all for assistance.

We have a lot of new members which is wonderful! On page 7 are two charts; one to show how the NCDA&CS Emergency Programs Division is organized and the other to show how the regional field staff cover the state.

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Visit the [NCVRC website](https://www.ncagr.gov/oep/veterinary/VetCorps.htm) to learn more about membership requirements and training opportunities.

If you have any particular topics that you would like to see featured in the newsletter, or you would like to write an article, please let me know!

Dr. Anna Allen

<https://www.ncagr.gov/oep/veterinary/VetCorps.htm>

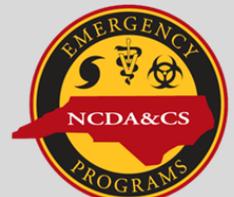


**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE &
CONSUMER SERVICES**

Emergency Programs Division

Steve Troxler, Commissioner

John Howard, Director



COMPANION ANIMAL SHELTER TRAILERS

Michelle Brock, CEM, PEART Coordinator

Pets are family, right? Disaster planners have learned over the years that animals sometimes need rescue, transportation and shelter when disasters happen. Sheltering animals during blue sky days can be challenging, so how do we accommodate animals when a hurricane has tracked across the state or a tornado has leveled a neighborhood?

Since the days of Hurricane Floyd in 1999, North Carolina emergency managers have relied on CAMETs (Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailers) to supply logistical support for animal sheltering. CAMETs are stocked with crates, bowls, microchip scanners, etc., to support an ad-hoc animal shelter, which can be set up near a human shelter, or in another location. There are more than 20 of these trailers across NC, typically maintained by local emergency management offices or animal services.

Today, we have additional assets, called CASTs (Companion Animal Shelter Trailers) to assist us with animal sheltering needs. Eliminating the need to provide a facility to house animals, CASTs have built-in cages and are climate controlled for animal comfort. There are at least 10 CASTs across NC, residing in the following counties: Davidson, Forsyth, Franklin, Granville, Guilford, Halifax, Nash, Northampton, Warren and Wilson. Over the past two years, these trailers were bought with Department of Homeland Security grants. Although CASTs are a new concept in NC, they are rapidly gaining in popularity. You will likely see them in other counties across NC in the near future.

Brent Fisher, Emergency Management Coordinator with Nash County, stated, "During Hurricane Florence, CASTs aided in reducing the stress on evacuees who were worried about where they were going to leave their pets. The CASTs allow flexibility with their capabilities for pet sheltering, pet adoption fairs, animal rescues and similar situations. They are great resources for the locals and the State of North Carolina."

CASTs allow emergency managers and animal services to more easily house animals in close proximity to their human companions during disasters, enabling both the animals and the humans to provide comfort to each other during what may be the worst time of their lives.

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REGISTRATION

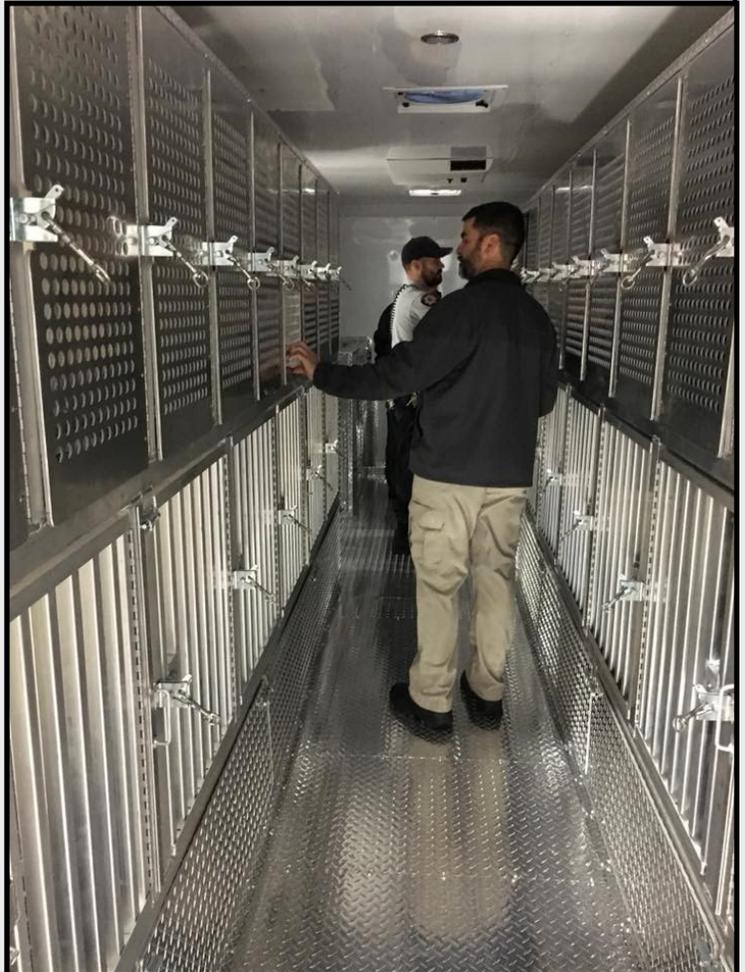
NC TERMS

<https://terms.ncem.org>

REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPLOYMENT

- ICS 100, 200, and 700
- Biosecurity/PPE Training
- Sheltering Training
- Knowledge of NC Emergency Management
- Knowledge of Emergency Support Functions
- Sign a Code of Conduct
- Registration in NC TERMS

COMPANION ANIMAL SHELTER TRAILERS





2019 National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) Summit

For those that are not familiar with the organization, NASAAEP is a 501(c)3 organization promoting the inclusion of animals into disaster response efforts as required by the 2006 PETS Act. They work “to provide communication and networking to facilitate information sharing and effective planning at the local, state and federal levels.” NASAAEP focuses on building local capacity since all disasters begin and end locally.

Numerous best practice working groups have been established and documentation is available from these groups covering topics such as emergency animal decontamination, animal evacuation and transportation, emergency animal sheltering, disaster veterinary care, and zoological best practices.

They conduct monthly conference calls/webinars on some of the latest topics regarding animals and disasters along with maintaining a social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.

The 2019 NASAAEP Summit was held December 10th - 12th in Bellevue, WA. This conference, held every 1.5 -2 years, provides a unique opportunity for local, state, federal, and non-governmental agencies and organizations to meet, network, and learn about the latest and greatest news and projects in the realm of animal and agricultural disasters. Attendees included representatives from 42 States along with some international members. NCD&CS Emergency Programs Division sent 3 people to the Summit - Drs. Anna Allen and Michelle Bouchey and Director John Howard.

Each morning the entire group came together to hear presentations and in the afternoons attendees had their choice of small breakout sessions. If you're interested in seeing the agenda for a conference of this type, it can be found [here](#).

Membership is open to anyone who is interested: <https://www.thenasaaep.com/membership>



2020 Southeast Radiological Emergency Preparedness Workshop

The Southeast Radiological Emergency Preparedness Workshop was held February 10-13th, 2020 in Nashville, TN. Drs. Karen Beck and Anna Allen attended on behalf of NCDA&CS Emergency Programs Division. Workshop participants included stakeholders from FEMA Region IV involved in preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation for radiological emergencies. FEMA Region IV states are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. This workshop provided an opportunity for partners to learn and discuss best practices and regulatory updates related to radiological emergency preparedness. There were presentations designed for the whole group, smaller breakout sessions for specific topics such as using GIS, a new tool for estimating population movement through a reception center, communications including the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System and Wireless Emergency Alerts, and facilitated small group discussions for federal, state, and local level personnel. This workshop was a great opportunity to learn new information and build relationships with regional partners who we can turn to in times of need.

Potential Roles for VRC Members during Radiological Emergencies

North Carolina is home to 3 nuclear power plants - Brunswick in Southport (Brunswick County), Shearon Harris in New Hill (Wake County), and McGuire on Lake Norman (Mecklenburg County). A nearby plant that would affect NC is the Catawba Nuclear Station in York County, SC. Currently 69 of North Carolina's 100 counties are within 50 miles of a nuclear power plant. Counties within a 10 mile radius of a plant, referred to as the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), plan and train to set up receiving centers and shelters for citizens evacuating from their homes if there is a major release from the plant. They may need volunteers to help with evaluation, decontamination, and sheltering of pets. If you live in a county that is within 10 miles of a nuclear power plant, reach out to your local Emergency Manager to find out how you can engage in trainings.

Training and Membership Updates

2019 Student Training

In 2019, Veterinary Response Corps training was conducted for four Veterinary Technician Programs. Students at Gaston Community College, Cape Fear Community College, Nash Community College, and Central Carolina Community College received a 2-hour overview of animal and agriculture emergency preparedness and response as well as potential roles for Veterinary Response Corps members. We hope that they will continue completing requirements to become deployable NCVRC members. This course gives them the basic background and knowledge to be helpful in their communities during a disaster. Cape Fear Community College also received CAMET/sheltering and biosecurity training. Ideally we like to deliver the overview course and a course on biosecurity and sheltering to all students before they graduate.

Training was also provided to 2nd-year DVM students at the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine in November 2019. Veterinary Credentialed Responder training has been a required part of the DVM curriculum since 2009.

2019 Conferences

Dr. Allen set up a booth at the North Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians Spring Conference at the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine on March 16, 2019 to distribute informational flyers to attendees and answer questions and delivered VRC Training at the Fall Conference in Wilmington on October 12, 2019.

Dr. Allen and Dr. Bruce Akers delivered VRC training at the NC Veterinary Conference on Friday November 1, 2019 in Raleigh.

Membership Update

We are pleased to have **54** VRC members registered in NC TERMS. Please continue to share this opportunity with colleagues in the animal health sector and let's grow our numbers!

2020 Trainings

Dr. Michelle Bouchey and Travis Shidal delivered a Co-located Shelter Fundamentals training for PE ART on March 12 in Kernersville.

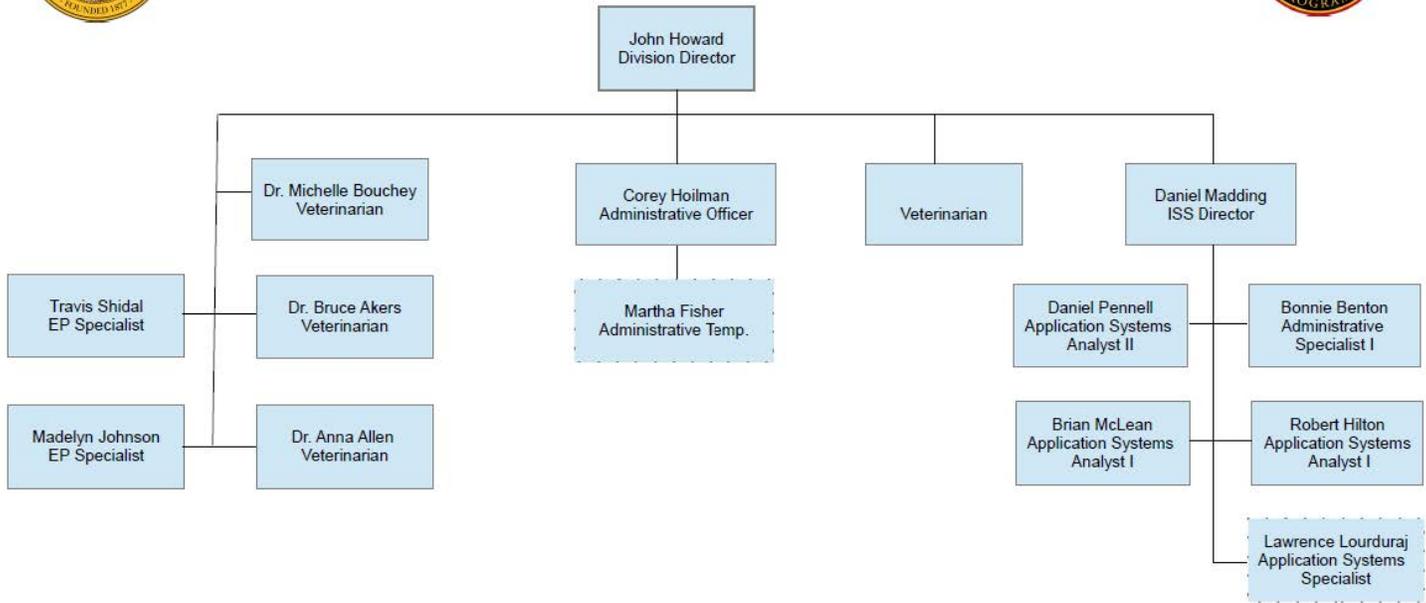
We hope to continue to deliver trainings to Veterinary and Veterinary Technician students at our usual conferences this year, even if they have to be virtual.

In the meantime, continue to check NC TERMS for trainings in your area as we see how things go with the COVID-19 outbreak.

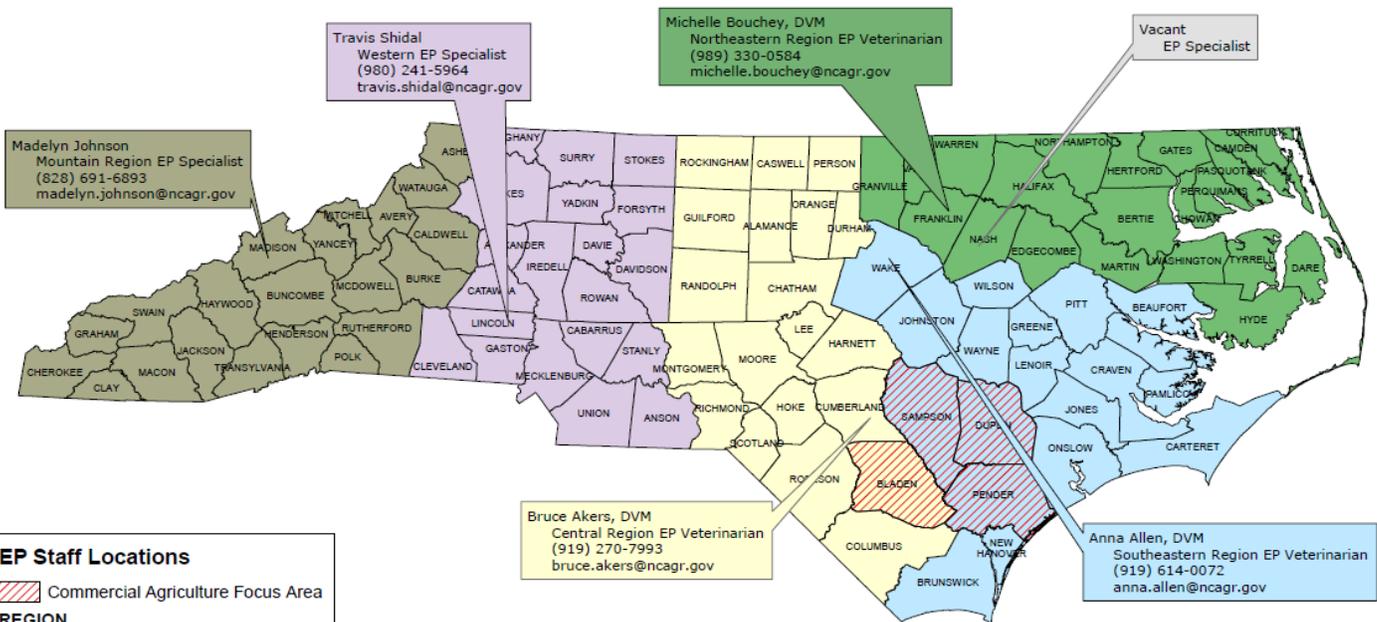
NCD&CS Emergency Programs Organization and Field Staff Map

Emergency Programs Division

Organization Chart
as of May 2020



North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services Emergency Programs Regions

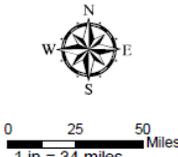


EP Staff Locations

- Commercial Agriculture Focus Area

REGION

- Mountain (21)
- Western (20)
- Central (20)
- Northeast (21)
- Southeast (18)



Steve Troxler, Commissioner
John Howard, Director of Emergency Programs

NOTICE: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, but errors and omissions originating from physical sources used to develop the database may be reflected in the data supplied. The requester must be aware of data conditions and ultimately bear responsibility for the appropriate use of the information with respect to possible errors, original map scale, collection methodology, currency of data, and other conditions specific to remote data. Source: NCD&CS Emergency Programs Division. This map is stored in \\V:\PRODUCTS\NCD&CS\Emergency_Programs_Srv\Hatchout_Map Updated: April, 2020