



CODE OF CONDUCT

Volunteers may participate in Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team (VDART) activities only if they pledge to know and abide by this Code of Conduct. Supervisors have the authority to immediately deactivate any VDART representative for behavior that is contrary to any of the following rules:

1. Volunteers shall report to, and remain in contact with, the appropriate Incident Command System (ICS) authority and confine their activities to the stated mission and directives of the Incident Action Plan. VDART volunteers shall not self-deploy.
2. Volunteers shall identify any assignments that are beyond their capabilities and notify their supervising authority of this limitation.
3. While representing VDART, volunteers shall not advocate or otherwise promote political, religious, organizational, financial, or ideological positions that do not conform to the official position of VDART.
4. All VDART volunteers shall wear their current identification, preferably a VDART identification badge, while on site for a disaster response.
5. While participating in any VDART related activities, volunteers shall project a professional manner and appearance. In particular, the following actions will not be tolerated:
 - Violation of any laws
 - Consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession, use, or selling of any illegal drugs
 - Illegal use or display of a firearm
 - Public outbursts or derogatory remarks about other organizations or individuals
6. Volunteers shall observe all safety rules and regulations and shall know and follow instructions for the proper use of equipment.
7. Volunteers shall not use or authorize the use of name, emblem, endorsement, services or property of VDART except in conformance with VDART policy. Information that is available solely as a result of the volunteer's affiliation with VDART is confidential and can be disclosed only with the express authorization of VDART.
8. Volunteers who suspect a conflict of interest (for example, between a VDART assignment and their own personal, professional, or financial interest) shall, upon becoming aware of it, disclose such potential conflict to the VDART shelter manager. Volunteers shall absent themselves during deliberations about such potential conflict and shall refrain from participating in any decisions or voting in connection with the matter.

9. Volunteers shall not accept personal gratuities and shall direct all offers of donations to an officer of VDART.
10. Volunteers shall not enter private property to perform VDART duties without written permission from the owner and a supervising authority, or without a law-enforcement escort.
11. Volunteers shall be required to document, or participate in the documentation of, each rescue in a timely manner and to submit said documentation to the supervising authority.
12. Volunteers shall transport animals only to facilities that have been designated by the supervising authority.
13. Volunteers shall not take or post any photographs in the emergency pet shelter or during field rescues during their activation.
14. When an animal(s) is rescued and transported from a property without prior permission of the owner of the animal(s), the rescuer shall leave written notification of the removal readily visible on the property.

I hereby certify that I have read and understand this *VDART Code of Conduct* and that I agree to comply with it, and will all applicable laws affecting VDART, at all times.

Print Name

Sign Name

Date