



Dear Disaster Responder,

The Kansas State Animal Response Team and the Kansas Veterinary Medical Reserve Corp are hosting a tabletop exercise on *Companion Animal Decontamination Techniques*. Past experiences have proven that many disaster responders do not possess the animal handling skills required to safely decontaminate frightened, injured and displaced animals, leading to potential injury to both the responder and the animal.

Our goal is not to build a full animal hazmat team in Kansas, but rather increase the knowledge base of the disaster responders that deal with people primarily so that they can more safely and confidently handle animals that they might encounter during disasters. We also will include veterinarians and technicians, animal control officers, CERT members, and a select group of County Animal Response Team volunteers in our training so as to increase the knowledge base of individuals primarily tasked with animal disaster response by Emergency Management.

We are dedicated to working within the confines of the Incident Command System and will not allow our volunteer members to self deploy to disasters. We work completely at the pleasure of local Emergency Management and are supported by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management and the Kansas Animal Health Department.

This tabletop is planned to provide basic information on animal decontamination (including medical considerations), animal handling and how animal responders might integrate with human responders. Funding is provided by the Kansas Highway Patrol through the Department of Homeland Security. We will be holding three trainings over the next several months in Wichita, Topeka and Russell.

Please join us on **April 11, 2010** from 10-2 (lunch provided) in at the 4H building, 702 Fairway Drive in Russell, KS.

Registration should be made to Elizabeth Ablah at eablah@kumc.edu. Please indicate which exercise you will be attending. Call 316-619-1723 for information on the day of the exercise.

We look forward to seeing you! Please call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Christen L. Skaer, DVM
Pres/Director KS State Animal Response Team
Pres/Director KS Veterinary Medical Reserve Corp
316-619-1723