



Emergency Pet Sheltering for Massachusetts Volunteers Level 1 & 2

When Disaster Sheltering is necessary, by law, our emergency preparedness partners must make provision for citizens whose family includes household pets.

Emergency Pet Sheltering for Massachusetts Volunteers is a two level training program. The primary objectives are to learn the organization, needs and skills required for disaster animal sheltering and prepare Medical Reserve Corps and other credentialed volunteers to assist our emergency preparedness partners.

- Funded by the National Association of City and County Health Officers (NACCHO), the training program is a collaborative effort of the Brockton Area Medical Reserve Corps, the State of Massachusetts Animal Response Team (SMART) and Preparedness Specialty Services.
- Emergency Pet Shelters need to be staffed, in most cases by volunteers under the supervision of Emergency Management in cooperation with local Animal Control Officers and/or other pet care specialists.
- Specialized Volunteers to support animal sheltering efforts are essential to supporting the community during an emergency response.
- Both Level 1 & 2 trainings, while based on the SMART emergency animal sheltering plan, are designed for all skills to be easily transferable to any *local* plan.
- Emergency pet shelters need to be safe for the animal(s), their owners, and the shelter staff and volunteers.
- The Level 1 training focuses the basics of emergency animal sheltering and how to assist the Owners with the safety and security of their Pets. It covers the basics of: Mobilization, Administration, Communication and Demobilization
- Level 2 continues on the themes of safety and security, adding the skills required for the appropriate levels of interaction with Owners and their Pets. It reviews: Safe methods for working with animals, *Assisting* with Owner and pet transitions, animal care, maintaining care records,
- Who is this training for?
 - *Any credentialed volunteer who has completed NIMS 700 & ICS 100 and has an interest in learning the skills necessary to safely support Owners and their Pets in an emergency shelter environment
 - * Anyone involved in organizing and running an emergency animal shelter who needs to know the skills and parameters their volunteer pool has been trained to provide in an emergency shelter environment.