

# Broome County Animal Response Team – “BCART” Ready to Respond to Emergencies Involving Animals



Members of the Broome County Animal Response Team spoke at September meeting of the Broome County Firefighters Association meeting.

This is a small group, just formed in 2010, that is ready to respond to emergencies that involve animals such as – pets– cats, dogs, birds, ferrets, snakes, etc.– companion animals, service animals, horses and other animals.

The group was put to the test during the 2011 floods when 265 animals were sheltered for their owners during the floods. Many families lost everything but were happy to be reunited with their pets.

After Hurricane Katrina, Federal and State legislation was passed mandating that states and counties have an emergency response plan in place for animals so that they can be evacuated along with their owners. Broome County is one of just a few counties in New York to already have an Emergency Response Team already in place.

Members of the team are continually training to deal with a large variety of animals including horses, snakes, alpacas, etc.

The team can provide care for animals not only during large scale emergencies, like flooding, but also during other emergencies. For a house fire or apartment fire where a family or multiple families are displaced, they can provide shelter and care for pets until the family has a new place to live. Or for a motor vehicle accident that may involve pets, horses or other animals, the team can be called out to help with the animals. Fire departments who need the team to respond for a fire or other emergency should contact Broome County Communications and request the Animal Response Team.

You can find out more about the team on their Facebook page –

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Broome-County-Animal-Response-Team-BCART/152873168082648>

The team currently has a great need for two things. VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS!!

If you would like to volunteer, please contact them through their facebook page, or e-mail us at [broomecofire@stny.rr.com](mailto:broomecofire@stny.rr.com) and we will forward your contact information to them.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the team should make the check payable to “Broome County Animal Response Team” and mail it to: BCART, c/o Broome County OES, 153 Lt. Van Winkle Dr., Binghamton, NY 13905.