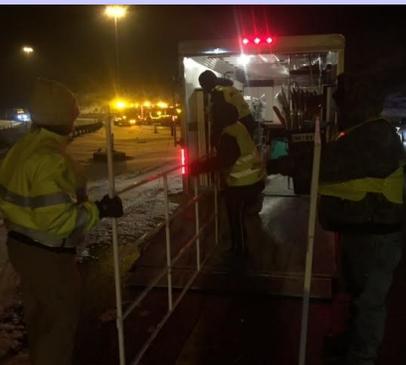
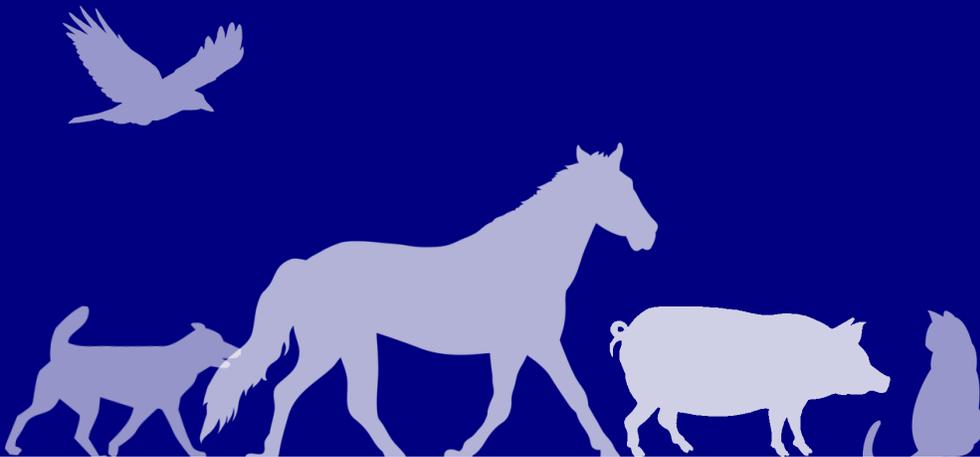




# Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team

A Return on Investment

2018



*Any Animal, Any Disaster, Anytime*

## IMPACT

*Our measure for success is not a glossy publication or a splashy headline, it is IMPACT.*

*We reduce the emotional and economic impact to families and businesses by protecting animals during and immediately after a disaster.*



### A Lesson Learned

The Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team (PASART) was founded to address the needs of domestic animals in large scale disasters. In 1999, Hurricane Floyd struck the coast of North Carolina then tore a path up the east coast into New England with damaging winds and torrential rainfall. For the first time, the plight of animals in disasters reached the national consciousness. PASART and similar organizations across the country were formed to address this need.

Hurricane Katrina thrust the plight of pets and their owners into the national spotlight. The heart wrenching photos of pets trying desperately to save themselves and distraught pet owners refusing to evacuate and leave their beloved animals behind prompted the passage of the federal PETS Act. This legislation requires states to consider animals in their statewide disaster plans and that pet owners be permitted to evacuate with pets. **Pennsylvania has been recognized as a national leader in the design and implementation of the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team.**

PASART provides animal handling, emergency sheltering, and temporary foster care, all available to assist law enforcement and emergency responders with a simple call to 911. PASART has hundreds of fully trained and insured volunteers who assist in cruelty cases, animal fighting, dog law matters, as well as natural disasters and other emergencies.

### Saving a family pet or service animal is priceless



*County Animal Response Teams (CART) respond to disasters large and small. CART specializes in temporarily sheltering animals, operation of rescue equipment and training that saves the lives of pets. The Pet Oxygen Mask Donations and Trainings program in Westmoreland County encourages individuals or businesses to sponsor a Pet Oxygen Mask Kit. CART delivers the kits to local fire departments and provides training on pet first aid/CPR, as well as how to engage the CART in the fire response.*

# FILLING A CRITICAL VOID

## A Whole Community Approach

Every state is required to incorporate animal safety in their emergency response plans. In Pennsylvania, multiple jurisdictions, agencies, and disciplines work together, coordinated by the PASART, protecting both companion and farm animals. PASART oversees all volunteer County Animal Response Teams (CART) and:

- Maintains a network of animal and agricultural resources for planning, prevention, protection, mobilization, response and recovery related to emergency incidents within the community.
- Provides specialized planning and training not available anywhere else.
- Delivers uniform policies and procedures, insurance for volunteers.

Investing in PASART is an investment in protecting local emergency responders and law enforcement. Any responder can call 911 at any time to request a CART Team member who is trained to handle the animals, protecting everyone's safety.

## Any Animal, Any Disaster

*Somerset CART (right) responds to an overturned livestock hauler carrying 32 head of cattle on I-76 eastbound. Protecting the animals—and the livestock owner's investment—the CART Team worked through the night assisting with cutting open the trailer to free the trapped animals, unloading live animals, and loading chute for animals removed from the trailer alive.*

*CARTs are prepared to respond to accidents involving animals on all of Pennsylvania's 120,00 miles of state and federal highways.*



## By the Numbers: Investment in Capabilities Statewide

500

Number of fully trained CART volunteers throughout Pennsylvania's 67 counties, who are ready to respond 24/7.

400

Number of CART members trained annually. PASART hosts at least three statewide trainings a year. CARTs also provide training as needed.

153

Pieces of specialized rescue equipment located in PA and available to every county. Includes trailers, generators, and portable corral systems.

322

Total number of emergencies CART teams have been deployed to in the past five years.

81

Average number of emergencies per year, CARTs are deployed to assist emergency responders and public safety officers.

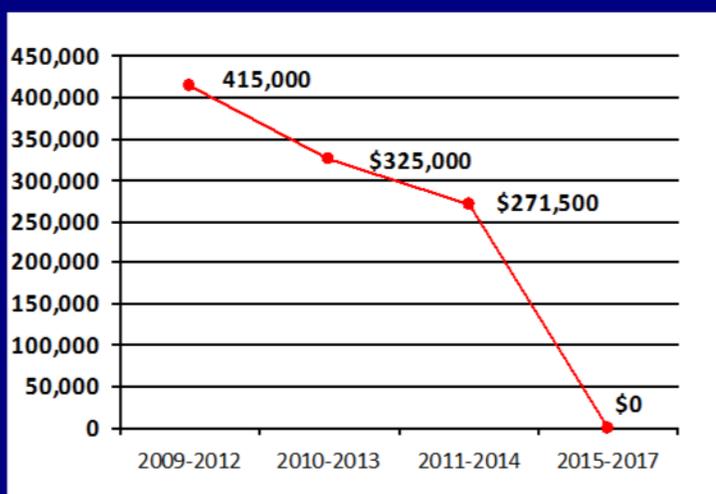
# A Resource We Cannot Afford to Lose

## Major Deployments for PASART

The PASART responds to state-wide events, or when an event requires resources beyond the capability of a CART. In addition to the seizure of 298 dogs from an illegal kennel in 2009, major deployments include:

- Opening 23 pet-friendly shelters during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in 2011.
- Operating a mega-shelter at West Chester University adjacent to the Red Cross shelter during the ice storms of 2014 providing care for six different species.
- Operating 4 emergency companion animal shelters during Hurricane Sandy and had 27 shelters ready, if needed. When it became clear that New Jersey would bear the brunt of the storm, PASART sent three search and rescue teams to support the Monmouth County emergency shelter.

## Drastic Cuts to Homeland Security Grant Program Funds (HSGP) Supporting PASART



*Due to consistent, drastic cuts in federal HSGP funding, all states are faced with the challenge of cutting funds to critical state programs.*

Without support, PASART will be forced to cut capabilities and Pennsylvania will lose:

- **Management of the state-level program.** Loss of strategic planning, private-public relationships and ability to secure private funding.
- **Critical Training/Responder Safety.** Loss of training plans and training for local responders and CART team members.
- **Essential Equipment Maintenance.** Loss of critical maintenance of specialized equipment used to safely rescue animals ranging from family pets to valued livestock.

## Saving Danny

Danny didn't have much time. Trapped in a sink hole for 24 hours, if not rescued soon, he would die. Danny was a horse. And he required a skilled, experienced rescuer. The Avella Fire Department called the Washington County Animal Response Team (WaCART) for help. *"In emergency situations, we focus on the animals, so other first responders can focus on their jobs,"* said Ed Childers, coordinator for WaCART.

It took four hours to get Danny to safety. Responders from WaCART, the Avella Fire Department, Washington County Department of Public Safety, and other first responder organizations assisted with Danny's rescue, as well as a volunteer veterinarian.



*"The drive and dedication of the WaCART team was what led to this successful Operation. It truly was impressive."*

*—Danny's Owner*