



North Valley Animal Disaster Group Standard Operating Guidelines

Title: VOLUNTEER BEHAVIOR

Objective: To provide a brief description of expectations and conduct

Description:

- How volunteers are used will be dependent on their training and experience.
- Any person may be expelled as a volunteer for behavior that is dangerous, disruptive or illegal.
- Volunteers are responsible for maintaining their certifications for driving vehicles and performing functions.
- Volunteers should not expect reimbursement for personal expenses.
- Volunteers interested in working with partner organizations (IFAW, BCSAR) will need to meet the unique requirements of the partner.
- Volunteers must sign in and out on the NVADG attendance roster to be recognized as an active Disaster Service Worker. This applies to training, incidents and many educational outreach events.
- If your attire is inappropriate for a task, you will be reassigned to a safer position. This is for you and your coworker's safety. Please do not wear open-toed shoes or orange outer garments.
- If you are not in robust health, do not attempt front-line duty. There are many positions where only a healthy mind is required. Specifics of your health status do not need to be disclosed, but it is your responsibility to be sure that your work assignment is appropriate to your health status. As an incident wears on, medical problems that are not usually limiting become significant. If you begin to have difficulty, please notify your immediate supervisor promptly to be reassigned or excused. Please remember that blood on the surface of an animal may not have originated from that animal; i.e. it may be human blood inadvertently spilled on the animal's coat during a disaster or an attempted rescue. Due to certain blood-borne viruses, such as hepatitis or AIDS, your potential exposure to human blood - especially if you have any open sores that contact the blood - is generally a

much greater risk than exposure to animal blood. Please use rubber gloves, CPR masks, and other appropriate measures to protect yourself from exposure to human blood. Please keep your tetanus vaccines up to date and carry a doctor's certification of your most recent inoculation. Rabies is a very serious risk in a disaster situation, especially in Butte County. It is strongly recommended that all volunteers get pre-exposure rabies vaccinations. All Volunteers on the Evacuation Team are required to have pre-exposure rabies vaccinations. Take proper precautions to avoid animal bites, and if bitten, please report immediately to your supervisor.

- Exemplary behavior from all volunteers is expected at all times. The command structure is to be respected and neither usurped nor ignored at any time. The on-duty supervisor is the ultimate on-site decision-maker for all situations within the animal response program. If a duty schedule is in force, and if you are working outside your assigned time slot or work position, you may be sent home. Fatigue can cloud judgment, shorten tempers and affect quality of work on subsequent shifts. Any confrontational behavior, evidence of illegal drug use, alcohol consumption, inappropriate smoking, willful failure to follow instructions, interference with others' work or evidence of theft may incur reassignment, surrender of badge or relief of duty for a period of time. Any other obviously inappropriate behavior will be handled similarly.
- You are expected to bring all necessary clothing, food, drinking water, medication, bedding, and personal care supplies needed during the first 48 hours of a disaster incident. If appropriate and feasible, bring your own shelter from rain or sun. You may not be able to return home or leave the facility to purchase necessary items.

Related Documents Attached: n/a