

Wisconsin Animal Response Corps

To receive an application and information about training opportunities, please complete this form and mail it to:

Darlene Konkle, DVM
DATCP-Division of Animal Health
P.O. Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-6777

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____

Landline (_____) _____ Cell phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Please check all that apply. I am, or have had experience as, a/an:

- Veterinarian – large animal
- Veterinarian – small animal
- Veterinary technician
- Veterinary assistant
- Veterinary student
- Livestock producer
- Animal handler
- Animal caregiver
- Other

For more information, contact:

Dr. Darlene Konkle ♦ 608-224-4902 ♦ darlene.konkle@wisconsin.gov

The **Wisconsin Animal Response Corps**, or WARC, is a group of volunteers who can help during emergencies involving animals. A unit of the Medical Reserve Corps, this group is an expansion and revitalization of one formerly called the Wisconsin Veterinary Corps. Members of WARC will work with veterinarians and animal health inspectors from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

WARC is an “all-hazards” organization, but initially will focus on responding to animal disease outbreaks. Eventually, members may also respond in natural disaster and accidents.

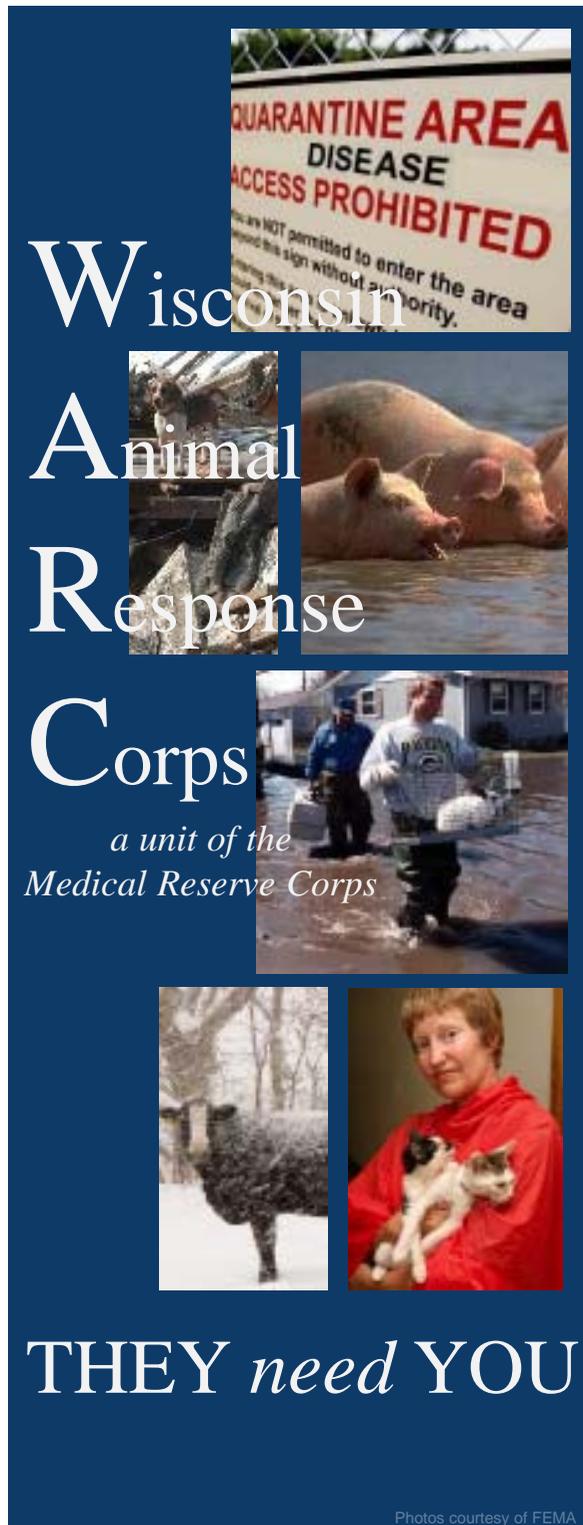
As a WARC participant, you'll get:

- ♦ Training
- ♦ A chance to meet and work with others interested in animal care
- ♦ The opportunity to help your community

We have very limited numbers of state and federal employees to cover the state in animal emergencies. We would run out of people very quickly in a real crisis.

That's why ***we need you.***

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade & Consumer Protection
Division of Animal Health
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Madison, WI 53718-6777
608-224-4872
www.datcp.state.wi.us



The graphic features the text 'Wisconsin Animal Response Corps' in a large, white, serif font against a dark blue background. Below the text, it says 'a unit of the Medical Reserve Corps' in a smaller, white, italicized font. There are several photographs: a 'QUARANTINE AREA DISEASE ACCESS PROHIBITED' sign, a pig in a pool, a person in a white shirt holding a white dog, a sheep in a snowy field, and a woman in a red jacket holding a black and white cat. At the bottom, the text 'THEY need YOU' is written in a large, white, serif font.

Animal emergencies by the numbers

We have a large area ~

- ◆ 55,781 square miles

We have millions of domestic animals ~

- ◆ 3.3 million cattle
- ◆ 540,000 swine
- ◆ 80,000 sheep
- ◆ 35.87 million chickens
- ◆ 37,000 farm-raised deer and elk
- ◆ 1.39 million pet dogs
- ◆ 1.57 million pet cats
- ◆ 138,000 horses

We have hundreds of thousands of locations ~

- ◆ 59,066 premises with livestock
- ◆ 818,400 homes with dogs
- ◆ 712,800 homes with cats

And we have 41 state and federal veterinarians, inspectors and compliance officers

Animal disease outbreaks

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection does not become involved in every animal disease outbreak. Our veterinarians respond only when the disease strikes domesticated animals, usually livestock, **and** is a foreign animal disease, poses a public health threat, or has broad economic significance. These are diseases that strike many producers simultaneously and close market doors to our animals and products. They are contagious diseases that make headlines, such as pseudorabies, foot-and-mouth disease, and monkey pox. Often they are foreign animal diseases.

Disasters

Wisconsin is developing plans for dealing with animals in emergencies, whether natural disasters like flooding or tornadoes, or manmade disasters such as a nuclear accident or a chemical spill. We have all seen the photos of cows gathered on front porches and pets trapped on the second floor of houses after Hurricane Katrina. Here in Wisconsin, the Weyauwega train derailment in 1996 showed the need almost as dramatically. Pets were left in homes for what was originally to have been a short evacuation, livestock needed feeding and watering, and cows needed milking.

What you would be doing To quickly contain such diseases, we need many people to respond quickly. We need people to:

- ◆ Visit farms and other premises around infected premises to find where susceptible animals are kept
- ◆ Round up animals for testing and handle them during testing
- ◆ Collect samples for testing
- ◆ Disinfect vehicles and other equipment
- ◆ Assist in vaccination, treatment or euthanasia
- ◆ Other duties, depending on the nature of the disease

What you would be doing As we develop these plans, we will incorporate roles for the Wisconsin Animal Response Corps, working with local emergency managers.

Your role could include:

- ◆ Rescuing animals
- ◆ Providing foster care
- ◆ Providing veterinary care
- ◆ Milking in evacuated areas
- ◆ Other duties, depending on the situation

We need

- ◆ Veterinarians
- ◆ Veterinary technicians
- ◆ Veterinary students
- ◆ Livestock producers
- ◆ Animal caregivers
- ◆ Animal handlers
- ◆ Anyone skilled in handling animals in difficult situations

Training

We will train you in emergency management, including the incident command system, or ICS, used to organize emergency response staff and resources. This will be both classroom training and participation in emergency exercises.

Other training may involve topics such as:

- ◆ Foreign animal disease recognition
- ◆ Sample collection
- ◆ Surveillance
- ◆ Emergency response
- ◆ Rescue techniques

All training will be provided to you free. Veterinarians and veterinary technicians may receive continuing education credits for training.