STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH

MISSISSIPPI ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM
SERVING • PROTECTING • EDUCATING

Code of Conduct

Personnel working for or representing MART, under the authority of the State Veterinarian, shall adhere to the following policies. All volunteers responding to animals in disasters (whether from Mississippi or other states) will be working for MART during their duty time, will become members of MART, and subject to the following policies. All MART members will sign this document to indicate that they understand and agree to abide by the codes identified within this document. Incident Commanders will have authority to deactivate any activated MART representative for behavior(s) that is contrary to the code of conduct based on their discretion:

1. Individuals shall project a professional manner and appearance while participating in any MART- related activities. The following will not be tolerated while on site at a disaster, conference or other MART activity:
a. Consumption of alcoholic beverages while on duty or any display of public drunkenness
b. Possession, use or selling of any illegal drugs
c. Violation of any laws
d. Public outbursts, public derogatory remarks about other organizations or individuals
e. Illegal use or display of a firearm

2. Individuals shall identify operations that are beyond their capabilities based on their experience, training and knowledge, and will provide and carry professional credentials during activation. Individuals shall observe all safety rules and regulations and be familiar with proper usage and operation of all equipment.

3. Individuals shall be expected to accept assignments and/or orders as directed by the supervising authority (ICS Incident Commander), or if required, make discretionary decisions based on appropriate intent and good judgment.

4. Individuals while representing MART will not participate otherwise in operations that serve to promote personal gains or ideologies.

5. Individuals shall not enter private properties to perform search and rescue duties without permission from the owner, supervising authority or without a law enforcement escort.

6. Individuals shall remain in contact with the appropriate supervisor, and confine their activities to the stated mission and directives.

7. All individuals shall wear current identification, preferably ESF-11 badge, while on site for a disaster. All individuals will wear MART/MVMRC/MBAH shirts while on site.

8. Individuals will be required to document or participate in documentation in a timely manner, and submit documentation as directed or required.

9. Individuals shall not transport animals to facilities other than the ones that have been assigned by the supervising authority without permission from the supervising authority.

10. Individuals shall refrain from taking photographs out of respect of the privacy of the owner. Any photos that are made will not be used for public display without the expressed written permission of the owner and/or the State Veterinarian.

11. In situations in which an animal(s) is rescued and transported from a property without prior permission, individuals participating in such rescue must leave notification of the removal of the animal or disturbance of the property on the property in the most visible area possible.

12. Individuals shall not accept personal gratuities. All personal donations shall be directed to the Mississippi Animal Disaster Relief Fund.

13. Responders will not remove any items from the site.

14. Animals will not be adopted from this incident. Unauthorized removal of animals from MART premises will constitute theft.

15. Individuals will adhere to established standard operating procedures for the incident, unless directed to do otherwise by the Incident Commander.

16. Individuals will refrain from speaking with the media. All media inquiries should be directed to the Incident Commander or Public Information Officer, as indicated for the incident.

If you are unable to sign the MART Code of Conduct because you are replying electronically and you are willing to adhere to its polices, please type "YES" in the blank below and type your name and date on the Responder line:

_____ I have read the Mississippi Animal Response Team Code of Conduct and will adhere to its policies.

Responder (Print Name) **Date**

Signature of Responder **Date**

Signature of Witness **Date**