



**Knox County Emergency Management Agency**  
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### **MEMBERS SOUGHT FOR COUNTY ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM**

Would you like to be part of a team whose mission includes animal welfare in emergencies? The Knox County Emergency Management Agency and the Humane Society of Knox County will be hosting an organizational and information meeting on Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Hearing Room located on the ground floor of the courthouse.

Among a very short list of teams becoming active in Maine, the Knox County Animal Response Team, or "Knox CART" for short, is looking for a select group of interested individuals who are willing to learn what it takes to help care for people and their pets during emergencies. Prospective team members will be trained to the U.S. Citizens Corps "Community Emergency Response Team" standards followed by specialty training incorporating best practices from the Humane Society of the United States and United Animal Nation.

The team is intended to compliment existing facilities and services which could be easily overwhelmed in a large scale emergency while also providing emergency planning and information to area residents. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, federal officials learned many Gulf Coast residents refused to evacuate without their pets, and those who did found "people shelters" unprepared or unwilling to accept the influx of domestic animals. This prompted Congress to pass the "Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act" or PETS Act for short. This act requires state and local emergency management officials to incorporate household pets and service animals into disaster preparedness programs.

For more information and a team application contact the Knox County Emergency Management Agency at 594-5155.



According to the Humane Society of the United States, pets are found in nearly 65% of all homes in America and some 60% of those pet owners would refuse to evacuate in an emergency without their pets.