

National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT)

Description: The National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT) is an asset of the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). It is the primary Federal resource for the provision of veterinary medical care to ill or injured pets, service animals, working animals, laboratory animals, and livestock for augmenting the states' capabilities after a disaster. The NVRT is composed of 160 professional and para-professional veterinary medical personnel, supported by a logistical and administrative staff. The NVRT is made up of modular person teams of as few as 3 members, which are designed to assess veterinary medical needs of animals and communities, provide medical treatment to ill, injured, and sheltered animals and stabilize animals for evacuation. Its deployable packages include: Small Animal Medical Treatment Squads, Large Animal Medical Treatment Squads, Working Dog Treatment Squads, and Multi-Squad Treatment packages, which can be customized to ensure adequate personnel to accomplish the mission. The teams are supported with 3 regional caches and 2 mobile veterinary clinics.

Accessing the Capability: The State, Local, Tribal, or Territorial (SLTT) point of contact to coordinate a request for NVRT support assessments are the ASPR Regional Emergency Coordinators (REC). They will assist the requestor in articulating the requirement and identifying the number and type of NVRT team(s) needed for the response. Contact information for RECs is at: <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/rec/Pages/contacts.aspx>. The NVRT is officially requested by states through their emergency management agency, which fills out the FEMA Resource Request Form and submits the RRF to FEMA for approval. Once FEMA approves the RRF, FEMA will generate a mission assignment to HHS /ESF 8 for activation and deployment of the NVRT

Average Time to Respond: 12-18 hours (varies dependent on Assessment Team's findings).

Past Customers or Events when capability was deployed: Hurricane Sandy 2012; UN General Assembly 2013-15, July 4th, Super Bowl 2014, Concert for Valor 2014, Papal Visit 2015

Contact Agency or Subject Matter Expert: Further information on veterinary assets within NDMS can be found at <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ndms/teams/Pages/nvrt.aspx>. If you have further questions or inquiries please contact the Program Support Branch of NDMS: NDMSHelpdesk@hhs.gov.

Additional Information:

SMALL ANIMAL MEDICAL TREATMENT SQUAD - This squad is deployed to an affected area to provide primary and acute veterinary medical treatment to ill and/or injured companion animals including pets and service animals and to stabilize animals requiring secondary or tertiary care for evacuation. Provide veterinary medical care on an area basis to 100 animals per day Provide veterinary medical support to 100 sheltered animals and stabilizes severely injured or ill animals for evacuation.

LARGE ANIMAL MEDICAL TREATMENT SQUAD - This squad is deployed to an affected area to provide primary and acute veterinary medical treatment to ill and/or injured large animals (primarily horses), to examine and treat working horses for return to duty, and to stabilize animals requiring secondary or tertiary care for evacuation. It provides veterinary medical care on an area basis to 100 animals per day, veterinary medical support to working horses, and stabilizes severely injured or ill animals for evacuation.

WORKING DOG MEDICAL TREATMENT SQUAD – This squad is deployed to an affected area to provide primary and acute veterinary medical treatment to ill and/or injured working dogs for return to duty and to stabilize those requiring secondary or tertiary care for evacuation. It provides initial and ongoing care to 10-50 working animals depending on working conditions, and stabilizes severely injured or ill working dogs for evacuation.

MULTI-SQUAD TREATMENT PACKAGE – This package is designed to deploy multiple treatment squads to an affected area to provide primary and acute veterinary medical treatment to ill and/or injured companion animals including pets and service animals, and horses and to stabilize animals requiring secondary or tertiary care for evacuation. The squads may be deployed together or remotely and operate under NVRT leadership and support. It may be augmented by a working dog medical squad or squads and provides veterinary medical care on an area basis to 100 animals per day, veterinary medical support to 100 sheltered animals, and stabilizes severely injured or ill animals for evacuation.

MOBILE VETERINARY CLINICS (x2) – These assets are deployed to an affected area as a platform for community-based practice in an area with damaged veterinary medical infrastructure in a disaster or other public health emergency and to support working animals in disasters or planned events. The mobile veterinary clinics serve as platforms for community-based practice in an area with damaged veterinary medical infrastructure in a disaster or other public health emergency and support the veterinary medical care of working animals in disasters or planned events. These assets include a driver/logistics specialist only and are not fully functional without veterinary personnel to staff it and supplies and pharmaceuticals to equip it.

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