

April, 2005

Dear Veterinarian/ Veterinary Technician:

The Maryland Department of Agriculture Animal Health Program and the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners are jointly organizing the Maryland Animal Health Emergency Volunteer Corps. This volunteer program will be called on to augment State personnel during times of extraordinary need resulting from a natural disaster or animal disease emergency. Volunteers will assist with such tasks as treating sick and injured animals, euthanizing infected or exposed animals, performing necropsies, administering vaccines, collecting lab specimens, and monitoring the health of susceptible animal populations.

The MDA Animal Health Program intends to provide volunteers with free disaster response training, and other related courses, which will qualify for continuing education credits. Any supplies which are needed by volunteers during an emergency will be provided or replaced as appropriate. Whenever possible, volunteers will be assigned to locations near their home or office.

We encourage you to consider this opportunity to contribute your knowledge and skills to assist our citizens during times of need. Should you wish to be part of the Maryland Animal Health Emergency Volunteer Corps, please fill out the attached registration form and return it to Dr. Jacob Casper at the address on the bottom of the form.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider this request. Please feel free to contact Dr. Jacob Casper at 443-394-1449, or jarucasper@comcast.net should you have any questions about this program.

Sincerely,

Lewis Riley
Secretary of Agriculture

Chris H. Runde, D.V.M.
State Board of Veterinary Medical
Examiners