



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Office of Marketing, Animal Industries
and Consumer Services

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Dear Volunteers:

Thank you for volunteering to be a member of the Maryland Animal Health Emergency Volunteer Corps. Please consider this letter as your formal acceptance into the program. We hope you will find your experience interesting and rewarding, and that it will not take too much time away from your busy schedules. We will be holding an orientation meeting on Thursday November 3, 2005 from 1- 5:00 PM at a location to be announced later. Please set this date aside so you can attend. We will contact you with the location and agenda when it is finalized. Also, at this meeting we hope to take your picture for your official identification card.

In the interim, to be better prepared and trained to respond to disasters in Maryland there are certain disaster oriented courses that members of the volunteer veterinary/registered animal technicians corps should complete. Some of the courses/training are offered free on line by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Emmitsburg MD. To access the courses offered on line go to: <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/>, click on "Our Courses", then click on the course you wish to take and follow the instructions to take the course.

Each course is worth so many CEU credits. A 1 CEU credit course should take 10 hrs to complete whereas 0.3 CEU credit course should take 3 hrs to complete. Upon completing the course you take an examination on line. When you pass the examination, you will receive credit for completing the course by mail. The Maryland State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners has agreed to award continuing education credits toward license renewal compatible with the number of hours it should take you to complete the course to members of the Maryland Animal Health Emergency Volunteer Corps who present to them the documentation of course completion they receive from EMI. When taking the course you can take it at any time that suits your schedule, and return to it as often as necessary to complete the work.

The courses we initially would like you to take and the number of CEU credits for each:

IS 10- Animals in Disasters- Module A -- Awareness and Preparedness - 1 CEU

IS 11- Animals in Disasters- Module B- Community Planning- 1 CEU

IS 111- Livestock in Disasters- 1 CEU

IS 800- National Response Plan - An Introduction- 0.3 CEU

IS 700- National Incident Management System- (NIMS) An Introduction- 0.3 CEU

IS 100- Introduction to Incident Command System- 0.3 CEU

IS 200- Incident Command System- Basic- 0.3 CEU

As we identify other on line or formal lecture type courses worth taking in the future, we will notify you accordingly. Should you have any questions about the upcoming fall meeting, the identification pictures, or these initial on line courses, please contact me.

Sincerely,

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