



## Rhode Island Disaster Animal Response Team CODE OF CONDUCT

Volunteers may participate in RIDART activities only if they pledge to know and abide by following the code of conduct. Supervisors will have the authority to immediately deactivate any RIDART representative for behavior that is contrary to the following:

- Individuals shall report to and remain in contact with the appropriate ICS authority and confine their activities to the stated mission and directives of the Incident Action Plan. RIDART volunteers must agree not to self-deploy.
- Individuals shall identify any assignments that are beyond their capabilities, and notify their supervising authority of this limitation.
- While representing RIDART, volunteers will not advocate or otherwise promote positions – political, religious, organizational, financial, or ideological – that are not in conformity with the official position of RIDART.
- All RIDART volunteers must wear their current identification, preferably a RIDART identification badge, while on site for a disaster response.
- While participating in any RIDART-related activities, volunteers shall project a professional manner and appearance. In particular, the following will not be tolerated:
  - Violation of any laws;
  - Consumption of alcoholic beverages and possession, use or selling of any illegal drugs;
  - Illegal use or display of a firearm.
  - Public outbursts or derogatory remarks about other organizations or individuals;
- Individuals shall observe all safety rules and regulations and shall know and follow instructions for proper use of equipment.
- RIDART members must not use or authorize the use of the name, emblem, endorsement, services, or property of RIDART, except in conformance with RIDART policy. Information that is available solely as a result of the volunteer's affiliation with RIDART is confidential and can be disclosed or used only with the express authorization of RIDART.
- Volunteers must in no way influence the conduct of RIDART so as to confer financial benefit on any person, corporation, or entity in which the individual has a significant interest or affiliation. Individuals shall not accept or seek on behalf of anyone else, any financial advantage or gain, other than the nominal value of affiliation with RIDART.
- Individuals who suspect a conflict of interest (e.g., between a RIDART assignment and their own personal, professional, or financial interest) shall disclose such potential conflict to the RIDART point of contact upon becoming aware of it. The individual shall absent him or herself during deliberations and shall refrain from participating in any decisions or voting in connection with the matter.
- Individuals shall not accept personal gratuities. All offers of donations shall be directed to an officer of RIDART.
- Individuals shall not enter private property to perform RIDART duties without verbal permission from the owner and a supervising authority or without a law-enforcement escort.
- Individuals will be required to document or participate in documentation for each rescue in a timely manner, and submit documentation to a supervising authority.
- Individuals shall transport animals only to facilities that have been designed by the supervising authority.
- Individuals shall refrain from taking photographs of people without their written permission. Any photos that are taken will not be used for public display without the expressed written permission of the owner.
- In situations in which an animal(s) is rescued and transported from a property without prior permission of the animal's owner, the rescuer must leave readily visible, written notification of the removal on the property.

I hereby certify that I have read and understand this RIDART Code of Conduct and agree to comply with it, as well as applicable laws that impact the organization at all times.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of RIDART volunteer (please print your name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date:\_\_\_\_\_