



## **Disaster Animal Response Team of Nova Scotia Code of Conduct Policy**

It is the policy of DARTNS to require the following of all volunteers or representatives. Incident Commanders will have authority to deactivate any activated volunteer or representative for behaviour that violates this Code of Conduct. Additionally, it is the policy of DARTNS to deny membership to any individual who has been convicted of a Criminal Offence

**All current and prospective responder members and/or volunteers shall furnish to DARTNS proof that he/she has not been convicted of any such offence. This proof shall be in the form of an official Criminal Background Check. All current responder members of DARTNS must furnish this proof within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this policy. Prospective responder members must furnish this same proof within thirty (30) days of the submission of their membership application. Proof shall be supplied to the DART Response Coordinator. The DART Response Coordinator shall submit his/her proof to the DARTNS Executive. All members shall furnish Criminal Background Checks to the DARTNS Executive once every three (3) years. Non compliance with this section will result in termination of the individual's response membership in DARTNS.**

It shall be the responsibility of the prospective responder member, or prospective volunteer, to arrange and pay for the Police Criminal Background Check in order to establish that he/she has not been convicted of a criminal offence, as set forth in the preceding paragraph. Further, any potential member may be denied membership for any reason at the sole discretion of DARTNS.

All DART volunteers or representatives shall:

1. Refrain from speaking to members of the media without permission from the appropriate supervisor.
2. Project a professional manner and appearance while participating in all related activities.
3. Immediately, or as soon as reasonably possible under the circumstances, identify operations or activities that are beyond their capabilities based on their individual qualifications, experience, training, and knowledge.
4. Provide and carry current and relevant professional credentials and display badge at all times during activation.
5. Observe safety rules and regulations and proper usage and operation of all equipment at all times during activation.
6. Accept assignments and/or orders as directed by the DART Incident Commander, or if required, make discretionary decisions based on appropriate intent and good judgment.
7. Not participate otherwise in operations that serve to promote personal gains or ideologies while serving as a volunteer or representatives.
8. Not enter private properties during activation or in connection with any DART activity to perform duties without the express permission from the owner, supervising authority or without a law enforcement escort.
9. Remain in contact with the appropriate ICS authority at all times during activation, and confine activities to the assigned mission and directives of the Incident Action Plan.

10. During activation, document or participate in documenting each rescue in a timely manner and submit documentation to the Incident Commander in the time period established by the Incident Commander.
11. Not transport animals to facilities other than those that have been previously approved by the supervising authority during activation.
12. Refrain from taking photographs out of respect of the privacy of the owner during activation or other DART Activity. In the event it becomes necessary to take photographs during activation or while otherwise engaged in DART Activities, photographs will not be used for public display without the expressed written permission of the owner. All photographs taken while activated or otherwise engaged in DART activities shall become the property of DARTNS.
13. Shall not at any time accept any personal donations on behalf of DARTNS and shall direct all such donations to the appropriate person.
14. Shall not behave in such a manner or otherwise engage in conduct that will have a negative impact on DARTNS.

In addition, the following will not be tolerated while on site at a disaster, conference or other DART activity:

- Consumption of alcoholic beverages while on duty;
- Display of public drunkenness;
- Possession, use or selling of any illegal drugs and/or improper use or distribution of prescription drugs;
- Violation of any laws;
- Public outbursts or derogatory remarks about other organizations or individuals;

A volunteer may be removed from the membership rolls if it is determined by DARTNS that their behaviour or membership, in general, does not serve the interests of DARTNS. Removal can be for violation of any of the items included in this Code of Conduct or other behaviours which are not listed but judged to be detrimental to DARTNS. DARTNS reserves the right to remove any member or volunteer from membership for violating any of the terms set forth above or for the convenience of DARTNS.

#### CERTIFICATION:

I have read the Code of Conduct and agree to abide by the rules set forth herein.

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NAME (print)

SIGNATURE

DATE