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## Emergency Response Animal Care Specialist

**Reports to:** Volunteer Team Lead(s); and as directed, Best Friends Animal Society (BFAS) Emergency Services (ES) Department

**Organizational Impact:** Provide direct animal care during shelter support and/or disaster deployments. The Animal Care team works closely with either BFAS or a partner agency's leadership to ensure the overall care, health, and well-being of animals in emergency situations in partner shelters.

### Position Function/Goals/Deadlines:

- Support various needs within the emergency shelter environment and the overall response operation, to include setting up, supporting, and tearing down temporary emergency animal shelter operations during disaster deployments in support of county/municipality or other disaster organizations.
- In addition to disaster deployments, there are shelter support deployments in shelters suffering from disease outbreaks, staffing shortages, or other issues leading to the request for additional animal care staffing support.
- May also be requested to support distribution of supplies – either at pet pantries or elsewhere to impacted community members.

### Time Commitment and Location of Work:

- Work will be performed in the field at the shelter location requesting assistance, at a temporary emergency shelter, or other emergency deployment location. Will often require travel (sometimes long distances) on short notice.
- Typically, 7+ days of deployment, including travel days, is needed. Must be available to deploy at least once per year if opportunities arise and remain actively engaged in the program.

### Core responsibilities:

- Follow all protocols set forth by BFAS team leads and/or local shelter staff
- Cleaning and sanitation of animal housing areas, other specified areas of facility
- Cleaning and sanitation of dishes, toys, laundry, etc.
- Preparation and provision of meals and clean water for animals in care
- Preparation and provision of enrichment to animals through sensory/feeding enrichment building, socialization, and physical exercise of animals
- Recognizing and reporting signs of disease, stress, or other maladies to BFAS team leads and/or local shelter staff
- Provide post-deployment feedback to Emergency Services team
- Tracking and submission of deployment-related expenses for reimbursement



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- Participate in virtual trainings and engagement sessions held by Emergency Services team
- Track and input hours into the volunteer database
- Other duties as assigned

**Qualifications/Requirements:**

- Read and sign the Emergency Response Volunteer Commitment Letter
- Must complete all required training to become an ER Ready to Deploy volunteer in a timely manner following onboarding
- Ability to work alongside other ER volunteers and key staff in a positive, professional manner at all times
- Basic animal handling skills
- Be a self-starter who can troubleshoot and improvise (when needed)
- Have regular access to email and online BFAS volunteer profile
- Flexibility to deploy on short notice and adapt to changes throughout the response process
- Comfortability working in disaster situations where there may be emotionally challenging situations
- Prior animal care experience in a sheltering environment preferred

***Please email [nationalvolunteers@bestfriends.org](mailto:nationalvolunteers@bestfriends.org) if interested in volunteering***