

Animal-Assisted Crisis Response

Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Need



About AACR

Animal-Assisted Crisis Response (AACR) is a type of animal-assisted activity (AAA) that brings comfort to people during times of crisis. These crises can be natural (like wildfires or hurricanes), human-caused (like a mass shooting), or technological disasters (like transportation accidents). AACR works because animals can help comfort people, and helps build trust with people affected by a crisis.

For more information on receiving AACR visits, email aacr@petpartners.org

Deployment Examples

- Spending time with **migrant children** experiencing long-term separation from their families.
- Deploying to a **school community** that recently experienced gun violence as part of the district's grief support offerings.
- Engaging with **victims of natural disasters** as they navigate reconstruction in the weeks following floods and fires.
- Visiting with **military members** and their families before, during, or after deployment.
- Bringing relief to **frontline staff** such as first responders, healthcare workers, police officers, and 911 operators.

Insurance

All teams are covered by a \$2 million general liability insurance policy, provided by Pet Partners at no cost to you.

Deployment Information

Our AACR teams deploy in local settings and partner with national entities like the U.S. Department of State, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

We respect that there is a time and place for AACR and only deploy upon request. This ensures that AACR deployments provide a targeted response, reduce complications, and are considerate of a community or location already dealing with crisis.

Program/Training

AACR-credentialed teams complete an advanced training course that addresses skills needed for crisis response:

- ✓ Basic disaster concepts
- ✓ Best practices for animal-assisted activities
- ✓ De-escalation techniques
- ✓ Stress management
- ✓ Incident Command System (ICS) training provided by FEMA

