

A brief history

The WSDA Reserve Veterinary Corps was created to provide WSDA with a ready supply of skilled professionals willing to assist in animal emergency response.



The RVC was first activated in April 2014 to help in the response to a devastating landslide on State Route 530 in Snohomish County. The RVC members and WSDA veterinarians provided care and treatment for rescue dogs working at the disaster site.



To learn more

Visit www.agr.wa.gov/foodanimal/AnimalHealth and click on the "Reserve Vet Corps" link for more information.

Or call 360-902-1835.



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

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AGR PUB 406-218 (R/3/16)

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RESERVE VETERINARY CORPS

Protecting livestock, caring for
animals, and making a difference



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

RESERVE VETERINARY CORPS

Responding to animal health emergencies

What is the Reserve Veterinary Corps?

The Reserve Veterinary Corps (RVC) is a body of volunteers willing to help WSDA respond to a crisis affecting animals in our state.

Washington State has a large and robust livestock industry with more than a million head of cattle, 400 dairies, and nearly 12,000 ranches statewide. The animals handled by RVC members, however, could range from large farm animals to small, household pets.

Members of the RVC commonly include veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and animal health professionals, but other skills, such as foreign language skills or experience in public health, law enforcement, incident command structures or the military are also sought.

Anyone willing to help animals in time of need is welcome to join.



When is it used?

The mission of the RVC is to assist the WSDA Animal Services Division respond to natural disasters, such as a wildfire or flood, an animal disease outbreak such as avian influenza, or any large scale incident that requires caring for animals.

Members may be needed to help with evacuations, vaccinations, collecting specimens, decontamination, education and outreach, or, in some cases, even euthanasia and necropsies.

Membership

Participation in the RVC is completely voluntary, but members are required to be trained on the Incident Command System, a method of organizing and managing large scale emergency responses. The training is free and provided by WSDA.

Members are also invited to other trainings that could assist when responding to an animal health emergency, including:

- Foreign animal disease response
- Hazardous materials awareness
- Animal decontamination

On average, there are four training events each year. In some cases, members may be paid to attend depending upon the training or incident.

Make a difference to the livestock of Washington

