

The National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) Application for Membership

The overwhelming response to Hurricane Katrina by so many animal rescue groups brought to light the importance of coordination and collaboration among the groups and for a standardized approach to incident management. From that experience, the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) was formed to address some of the critical issues that faced us following Hurricane Katrina such as credentialing, training, incident command, incident management, resource typing, and standardized sheltering forms to name a few.

The founding members of NARSC included the American Humane Association (AHA – Now “American Humane”), the American Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), Best Friends Animal Society (Discontinued 2018), Code 3 Associates (Code 3), The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS – Discontinued 2009), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), National Animal Control Association (NACA – Now “National Animal Care and Control Association”), Society of Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA – Now “The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement”), and United Animal Nations (UAN – Now “Red Rover”). The first face-to-face meeting of the group occurred in Boston in June of 2006 and the group continued to meet every two months for the next two years. Today, NARSC meets via conference call monthly; and in-person meetings bi-annually. The in-person meetings rotate among the members and locations. For more information on current NARSC members please go to www.thenarsc.org.

Each member agency has one designated voting member and these individuals make up the NARSC Steering and the Membership Committees. In addition, NARSC has an Executive Committee comprised of Past-Chair, Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. The three Chair positions are each held for a two-year term and the Secretary and Treasurer positions are reviewed annually. The current executive committee is:

Chair: Josh Cary (AH)
Past-Chair: Eric Thompson (Code 3)
Chair-Elect: Kelly Johnston (IFAW)
Secretary: David Chico (NASAAEP)
Treasurer: Dick Green (ASPCA)

Current NARSC Membership:

Voting Members: American Humane, ASPCA, Code 3, IFAW, National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP), NACA, and Red Rover

General Members: American Red Cross, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Petfinder Foundation, PetSmart Charities, and The Association for Animal Welfare Advancement

In 2009, NARSC decided to open its membership to new groups that shared a similar mission or worked in a supportive role to provide support for animals impacted by disaster. Two categories were added to its membership: General and Affiliate Members. Descriptions, criteria, benefits for each level of membership, and a registration form follows.

Voting members

National animal rescue organizations that meet the following criteria:

- Must be national in scope and provide significant resources for animals affected by a disaster;
- Must show proof of five years history successfully responding to animals affected by a disaster by providing two letters of recommendation from different communities worked with - preferably from Authorities Having Jurisdiction - and two sponsor letters from current NARSC members;
- Must have broad national and/or international funding base;
- Must be non-profit under IRS regulations and provide determination letter with application;
- Must be law-abiding with no record of “legal decisions” jeopardizing their nonprofit status or any record of infractions working with local jurisdiction related to their animal-related disaster work;
- Must provide training and credentialing of their members to conform with NIMS and NARSC approved systems;
- Must have sufficient leadership and funding to allow for participation in all NARSC meetings and committee work; and
- Must comply with NARSC Code of Conduct.
- Must pay \$250.00 annual dues.

The specific rights and privileges are:

- Eligibility to vote in all Board of Director elections and other matters that may come before the Membership;
- Eligibility for nomination and service on the Executive Committee; and
- Eligibility for nomination and service on all NARSC Committees.

Application and Approval

- A minimum of one year as an General Member;
- Completed letter of intent with sufficient proof of membership requirements as listed above; and
- Acceptance of new member confirmed by majority vote of all voting NARSC members.

General Members

National animal welfare organizations that meet the following criteria:

- Must be national in scope and provide significant resources for animals affected by a disaster;
- Must have broad national funding base;
- Must be nonprofit under IRS regulations and provide determination letter with application;
- Must be law-abiding with no record of “legal decisions” jeopardizing their nonprofit status or any record of infractions working with local jurisdiction related to their animal-related disaster work;
- Have been in the animal rescue field for less than five years at a national level, or;
 - do not meet the qualifications of Voting membership, or;
 - are not interested in Voting membership;
- Must remain at that level for a minimum of two years before applying for status as a Voting Member; and
- Must abide by the NARSC Code of Conduct.
- Must pay \$250.00 annual dues.

Section 3. Application and Approval

- a. Completed application with sufficient proof of membership requirements as listed above, including two sponsor letters from voting members submitted to NARSC;
- b. NARSC shall vote on new member application at the first meeting after an application is forwarded to the membership from the Membership Committee;
- c. Acceptance of a new member is confirmed by majority vote of all NARSC voting Members.

The specific rights and privileges are:

Participate on Committees other than Executive and Steering Committees; and attend general meetings of NARSC;

General Members shall NOT have the following rights and privileges:

Eligibility to vote in elections of the Executive Committee and other matters that may come before the Membership;
Eligibility for nomination to and service on the Executive Committee; and
Eligibility for nomination to and service on Steering Committee;

Affiliate Members

Affiliate Members are allied agencies/organizations/foundations engaged in a business that supports NARSC's mission.

Affiliate Membership is open to Corporations, Non-Profits, Government Organizations, Educational Institutions and other affiliated groups that would like to participate in NARSC activities and help guide the future direction of NARSC. Members can participate in Ad-hoc Committees but would not be able to hold Chair positions.

The specific rights and privileges are:

- Eligibility to participate in Committees and attend bi-annual NARSC meetings;

Affiliate Members shall NOT have the following rights and privileges:

- Eligibility to vote in elections of the Executive Committee and other matters that may come before the Membership; and
- Eligibility for membership on a Steering Committee
- Annual dues TBD

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NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Name of group: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
Website: _____

Organizational structure:

President: _____
Other Executive Committee positions: _____

Date of inception for group (please attach 501(c)(3) Determination Letter): _____

Annual operating budget (please attach latest 1099): _____

History of responses for last five years (please attach two letters of recommendations from two different communities): _____

Number of staff: _____ Number of volunteers: _____

Required training of responders: _____

Name: _____
Contact Information: Phone (O) - _____ (C) - _____
Email: _____

NARSC Sponsorship (please attach two sponsorship letters from current NARSC members): _____

Attachments:

- 501(c)(3) Determination Letter
- Latest 1099
- Letters of Recommendation for two communities assisted in the last five years
- Letters of Recommendation from two current NARSC members

National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC)

Code of Conduct

The mission of the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) is to identify, prioritize, and find collaborative solutions to major human-animal emergency issues.

NARSC recognizes that the environment in which we work is complex and unique. Therefore, the members have established the following standards of integrity as well as professional and ethical conduct that we are expected to maintain. Each of the NARSC Member Agencies will be responsible for monitoring compliance within their organizations and agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct:

- *Comply with all local, state, federal, and tribal laws;*
- *Comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS¹);*
- *Comply with recognized state/national² safety standards and safety guidelines established by Safety Officer and/or Incident Command;*
- *Act with integrity³;*
- *Comply with NARSC mission and standards⁴;*
- *Respect the community and NARSC members when dealing with the media;*
- *Respect impacted community's financial support base by not fundraising in impacted area;*
- *Treat all members and partners with dignity and respect;*
- *Respect member and partner property or equipment;*
- *Respect members' public information policies⁵;*
- *Maintain and provide accurate situation reports; and,*
- *Agree to not self-deploy and to conform to NARSC Standards for Assessment, Activation and Deployment.*

Name/Title

Date

Agency

¹ <https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system>

² <http://www.osha.gov/>

³ Concept of consistency of actions, values, methods, measures, principles, expectations, and outcomes; adherence to a code of moral values

⁴ NARSC Bylaws 7/7/17; NARSC Policies, Standards, and Procedures 7/7/17

⁵ NARSC Policies, Standards, and Procedures 7/7/17

July 7, 2017