

Metro DC Residents Are Encouraged To Participate in Training To Assist Pets in Disasters

Release Date: February 24, 2010

Washington, D.C. – Poll results say that more than 63% of American households have companion animals and that people consider their pets as family. Emergency Management officials are reminding citizens to be prepared for disasters, including making provisions for their own pets.

For those who also want to help animals in the community, The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Animal Services Committee, Humane Society of the United States and Your Dog's Best Friends, Alexandria, are sponsoring NOVA location training for individuals to assist animal victims of disaster. The goal is the creation of a comprehensive network of trained volunteers and staff to assist in a disaster where Emergency Animal Response and Sheltering is needed in the National Capital Region.

FREE TRAINING!!

**DISASTER ANIMAL RESPONSE (DART) & EMERGENCY ANIMAL SHELTERING (EAS)
SIGN UP NOW AND PASS ON TO OTHERS WHO MAY BE INTERESTED!!**

Who Should Attend: Human & Animal Sheltering Staff, First Responders, Animal Welfare Organization Staff, Animal Medical Personnel, Interested Volunteers residing in Metro DC/MD/VA with a goal to assist the National Capital Region in a disaster

1. What: Disaster Animal Response Training (DART) Provided by Humane Society of the United States

DART is the first of a two course training. (Second course is Emergency Animal Sheltering/EAS. See #2 below.)
DART is a three-day introductory animals in disaster course that covers these key topics:

- Emergency management system; the Incident Command System (ICS)
- Community animal needs/damage assessment
- Disaster preparedness for individuals and households, animal facilities, and communities
- h animal shelters w/ essential supplies & equipment, Animal care & handling
- Responder health and safety, including stress management

Participants will utilize Table-top exercises to practice the skills learned during the training, including implementing ICS, communications; equipment; damage assessment; establishing & organizing a response, media relations, responding to changing needs, and managing disaster resources, including volunteers.

Where: Alexandria, VA @ Your Dog's Best Friends, www.yourdogsbestfriends.com

When: March 9 - 11, 2010 (Mar. 9, 8:30 am check-in)

March 9 -10, 2010 (9:00am-5:00pm)

March 11, 2010 (8:00am-3:00pm)

How: Register online by using the link below. Registration can only be done through this link.

<https://gateway.hsus.org/hsuworkshops/workshopDetail.cfm?id=1228>

2. What: Emergency Animal Sheltering (EAS) Provided by Humane Society of the United States

EAS is a one and a half day training that continues where DART leaves off, and goes into more detail regarding animal sheltering as well as providing experience with a practical exercise.

Where: Alexandria, VA @ Your Dog's Best Friends, www.yourdogsbestfriends.com

When: March 16 – 17, 2010 (Mar. 16, 8:30 am check in)

March 16, 2010 (9:00am – 5:00pm)

March 17, 2010 (8:00am – 3:00pm)

How: Register online by using the link below. Registration can only be done through this link.

<https://gateway.hsus.org/hsuworkshops/workshopDetail.cfm?id=1229>

REGISTRATION

Registration is **FREE** for all students, thanks to a generous grant from Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) for Metropolitan Washington/National Capital Region with the provision that registrants reside in Metro DC/MD/VA and commit to being a responder to animals in disaster and/or to staff emergency animal shelters, in future disaster situations occurring in this Region. This will be covered in greater detail at the beginning of DART and EAS sessions.

Register NOW! Space is limited to 50 (a minimum of 35 registrants is required).

Students planning to attend workshops should complete the following reading and courses:

- Suggested to read the Animals & Society Institute's [Animals in Disasters: Responsibility and Action](#)
- At minimum, the following free, self-paced online FEMA Courses that are short and easy to complete:

IS-10 [Animals in Disaster, Module A: Awareness and Preparedness](#)

IS-11 [Animals in Disaster, Module B: Community Planning](#)

IS-100 [Introduction to Incident Command System, IS-100](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COURSES

Please call HSUS University: Frances Gaeta at 301-548-7731, e-mail fgaeta@hsus.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TRAINING VENUE

Your Dog's Best Friends

703 566 1111

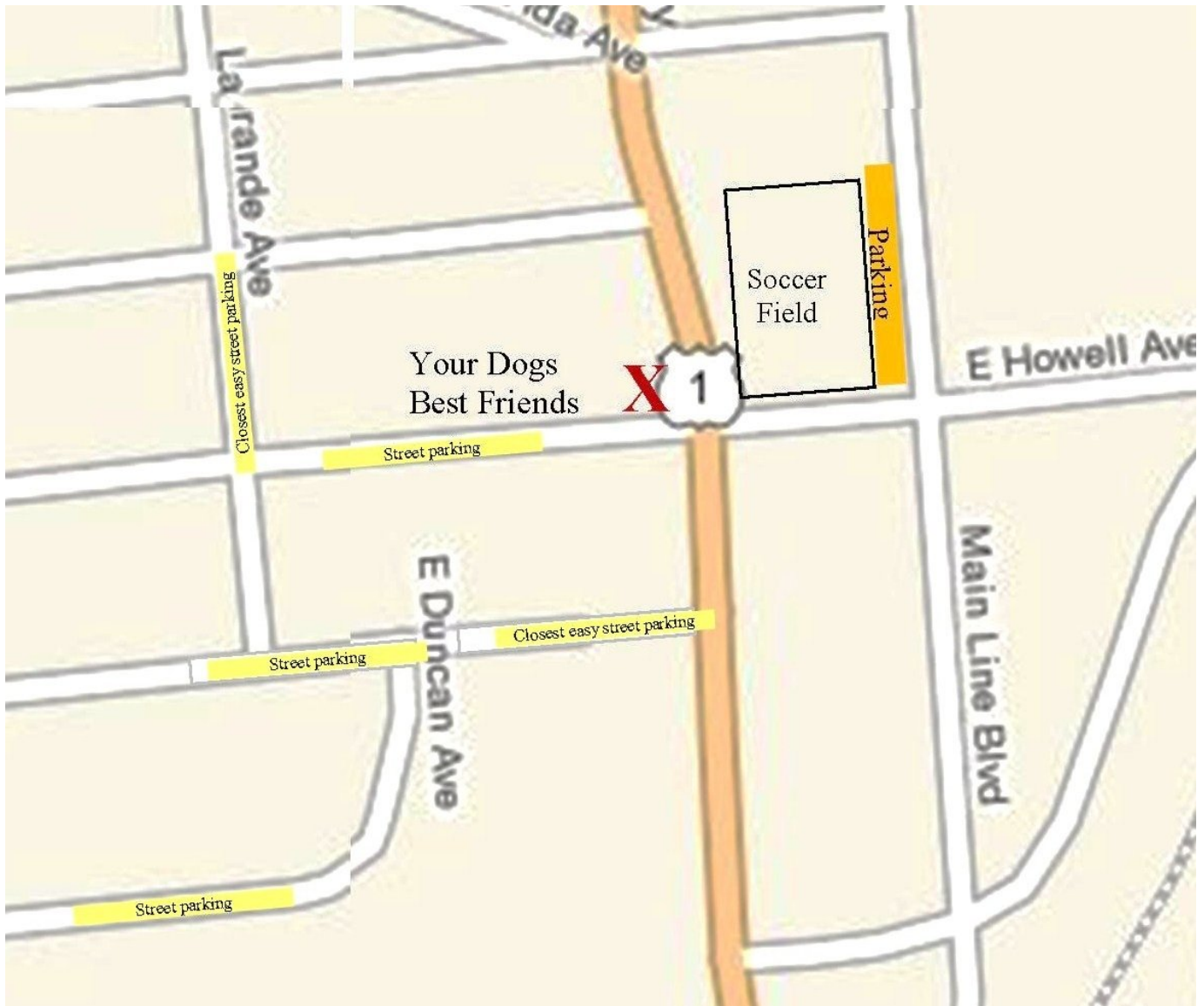
2000 A Jefferson Davis Hwy

Alexandria, VA 22301

admin@yourdogsbestfriends.com

www.yourdogsbestfriends.com

PARKING: See Parking Map Attachment, accompanying this Release



Your Dogs
Best Friends

Soccer
Field



Closest easy street parking

Street parking

Parking

Street parking

Closest easy street parking

Street parking

La Grande Ave

E Duncan Ave

E Howell Ave

Main Line Blvd

ida Ave