

BACKGROUND CHECKS

The VASART Board of Director highly recommends background checks for CART members. See www.vsp.state.va.us/CHS_Criminal_Record_check.shtm. The decision to require background checks should be made locally in coordination with the emergency managers and the city/county attorney. That discussion should be based on but not limited to the following considerations:

1. If the pet shelter is co-located with the human shelter the CART members may be required to have the same level of background checks as the human shelter staff.
2. Leaders and anyone working independently should have background check.
3. The VA Dept of State Police Criminal History Records Search Form SP-167 will not cover animal abuse or neglect cases which would be a concern for CART's.

Other requests:

- i. SP126 Request for Fingerprints.
 - ii. SP 24 National Criminal Background Checks for Employees or Volunteer Providing Care to Children, the Elderly and Disabled.
4. CART member who deploy to another jurisdiction or with another organization must meet the background check requirement of the joining locality or organization.
5. Code of VA 3.2-6548B requires that Private Animal Shelters obtain a signed statement all staff specifying that the individual has never been convicted of animal cruelty, neglect, or abandonment.
 - a. The same applies to all staff of a releasing agency 3.2-6549B
 - b. The same applies to Humane Investigator 3.2-6558B2
6. Background checks maybe required by insurance underwrites if the CART is covered/included in liability insurance by the jurisdiction or indenities.
7. The VSP-167 form will give any criminal animal abuse or neglect convictions but not the civil seizure judgments.

The CARTs can check those judgments by going to

<https://eapps.courts.state.va.us/gdcourts/caseSearch.do?welcomePage=welcomePage>

Going to the county where the judgment was obtained and researching the person's name, if a civil seizure judgment is found it will be marked as "other" and the CART would have to go to the county court house and pull the judgment to see what it is for.