

## **Guidance on the Composition of Initial County Dangerous Wild Animal Response Teams**

The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 935.28 requires Dangerous Wild Animal Response Teams (DWARD) to be formed in each county. The State of Ohio Dangerous Wild Animal Emergency Response Commission (DWAERC) is charged with approving these county teams.

### **Team Nomination Form**

The DWAERC asks counties to submit the initial slate of team members **no later than July 1, 2013**, using the *Initial Dangerous Wild Animal Response Team Nomination Form*.

### **Composition of DWARD**

The ORC requires that DWARDs be comprised of at least one representative from each of the following local disciplines:

- Law Enforcement
- First Aid
- Health
- Elected Local Official
- Fire
- Emergency Management
- Broadcast and Print Media
- Dangerous Wild Animal Owner

In addition, the DWAERC requests that counties consider adding the following representatives to their teams:

- Veterinarian
- Public Health

### **Policies Clarifying Membership**

- Broadcast and Print Media may be represented by a member from broadcast and/or print media, depending upon availability. Media members may serve on any board in their viewing or distribution areas.
- Dangerous Wild Animal Owners may serve on several DWARDs and/or across counties. Owners do not have to be registered with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Office of Dangerous Wild Animals (i.e., they may be rescue representatives).
- Public Health may be represented by a public health department and/or a health or medical care provider.
- If a Dangerous Wild Animal Owner or Broadcast and/or Print Media representative cannot be found within the county, representatives from neighboring jurisdictions may be considered. If representatives are not found in neighboring counties, please indicate "not available" and provide a brief explanation.

- DWART membership is not limited to the disciplines listed above. Additionally, more than one representative from each discipline may serve on the team (e.g., a representative from the sheriff's office and police office may serve concurrently, or teams may have multiple elected officials).
- Membership to DWARTs is not to exceed three years. After initial approval, should members need to be added or removed from each county's DWART, please notify the DWAERC. New members may be added to the DWART by submitting an *Application for Membership to a Dangerous Wild Animal Response Team*.

### **County Commissioner Approval of Nominations**

The county commissioners must sign team nomination forms. A quorum is required for county commissioners' signatures to be accepted.

### **Submitting Team Nomination Form**

All documents must be submitted via one of the following contacts to:

Ohio Department of Agriculture  
 Dangerous Wild Animal Office  
 8995 East Main Street  
 Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068  
 Fax: (614) 728-6310  
 Email: [animal@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:animal@agri.ohio.gov)

### **General Timeline**

- Nomination forms must be submitted to the DWAERC **no later than July 1, 2013**.
- Teams must be approved by the DWAERC and in place by July 31, 2013.
- Response plan development may begin on August 1, 2013. After initial team approval, the DWAERC will provide a basic template to assist counties in development of their plans.
- Response plans must be submitted to the DWAERC for approval no later than February 28, 2014.
- Response plans must be approved by the DWAERC and in place by July 1, 2014.

### **Additional Information**

More information may be found on the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Dangerous Wild Animal Office's website. Please direct any questions to Candice Miller at (614) 728-6285 or [candice.miller@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:candice.miller@agri.ohio.gov).