

Good Samaritan Law: Care for Animal

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When an emergency declaration is in effect or at the scene of an accident, an individual who, without compensation, provides care to an animal during will not be held legally responsible. They can be held legally responsible if acting with extreme carelessness or intent to cause harm.

Generally, Good Samaritan laws only offer protection for those individuals who provide care during spontaneous emergencies unrelated to volunteer deployment.

Immunity from liability for good samaritan acts

(a) For purposes of this section, an "emergency" shall include a fire, flood, storm, or other natural disaster, hazardous chemical or substance incident, vehicular collision with an animal, or other transportation accident where an animal is injured or in need of assistance to protect its health or life.

(b) A veterinarian licensed by the board or any other person who, in good faith, provides care and treatment to an animal during an emergency shall not be held liable for civil damages by the owner of the animal, unless his or her acts constitute gross negligence or unless he or she will receive or expects to receive remuneration.

(c) Nothing contained in this section shall alter existing law with respect to tort liability of a practitioner of veterinary medicine for acts committed in the ordinary course of his or her practice.