

## Top ten things to remember when you deploy

By Barbara Marrow, EARS volunteer, August 2009

1. **Come prepared.**
  2. **Pay attention.**
  3. **Trust your leader(s) and follow directions.**
  4. **Take care of yourself.**
  5. **Remember why you are there.**
  6. **Be flexible.**
  7. **Be a team player.**
  8. **Be creative. Find solutions.**
  9. **Be safe.**
  10. **Keep your sense of humor.**
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1. **Come prepared.**
    - a. Supplies and equipment. If nothing else, bring pens!!!
    - b. Training – you'll actually use what you learned in the EARS workshop.
    - c. Health and fitness – deployments are typically physically demanding
    - d. Attitude – this one trumps most everything else.
  2. **Pay attention.**
    - a. to the task at hand.
    - b. to what is going on around you.
    - c. to instructions.
    - d. to details.
  3. **Follow directions** – protocols are critical for legal, logistical and safety reasons.
    - a. Balance this with common sense.
    - b. Trust your leader(s). They have their reasons. Ask why/make suggestions during down time.
    - c. That said, be willing to step up and lead if needed.
  4. **Take care of yourself.**
    - a. Eat.
    - b. Hydrate.
    - c. Rest.
    - d. Know your limits.
  5. **Remember why you are there.**
    - a. Leave your ego at the door.
    - b. Keep your eye on the prize.
    - c. Loose lips sink ships. Consider who might be listening.
    - d. Avoid tacky platitudes like (a), (b), and (c) above...
  6. **Be flexible.**
    - a. When it comes to food and accommodations.
    - b. When it comes to work schedules, tasks, and changes to those schedules and tasks.
  7. **Be a team player.**
    - a. All jobs are important
    - b. Support each other – especially when you least feel like it...
    - c. Learn from those more experienced, pass on your knowledge to newcomers
    - d. Expect a range of emotions from yourself and your co-workers. It's ok...

**8. Be creative. Find solutions.**

- a. Expect the unexpected.
- b. Failure is not an option!

**9. Be safe.**

- a. Monitor your surroundings. Look out for your coworkers, the animals.
- b. See Items #1 to #4 and any others that apply...

**10. Maintain your sense of humor.**

- a. Keep it appropriate.
- b. Expect giddy and silly as the day (and the deployment) wears on. This is a good thing. Do your part...

*Barbara Marrow has been a volunteer with United Animal Nations' Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS) since 2008. She has deployed with EARS to temporary emergency animal shelters for Hurricane Ike in 2008; and criminal seizures for a hoarding situation in Adair County, Kentucky; a puppy mill in Wayne County, North Carolina; and a hoarding situation in Dane County, Wisconsin in 2009.*