Leadership
• Veterinary professionals may be able to contribute effectively to the leadership of local MRC units

Animal Care
• Companion animal and service animal care at evacuation shelters, service at the local animal control, or humane societies during disasters
• Large animal or poultry support during disasters, including potential animal disease emergencies

Epidemiology Expertise
• Able to identify and track disease patterns, identify case definition
• Unique knowledge of "herd health" principles (people and animals!)

Bioterrorism – Zoonosis Expertise
• Knowledge of most bioterrorism agents including agent, modes of transmission, signs and symptoms, animal treatment protocols

Decon
• Ability to perform animal decon and human decon as needed (including at hospitals and shelters, first receivers)

Search and Rescue
• Ability to assist with the search and rescue component, unique requirements of animal handling, addressing the issue of people failing to evacuate if not allowed to take their animals

Human Care
• Under appropriate medical direction, able to perform support procedures

Source of Medical Equipment and Supplies
• Large number of veterinary drugs are human labeled
• Equipment is largely the same (bandages, syringes, surgical instruments)

Community Planning, Outreach, and Education
• Disaster preparedness for pets and their owners

Animal Vaccination Clinics
• Public health importance

Mental Health
• Therapy pets are quite useful in many situations

These are only a few examples of how veterinarians can be utilized in an MRC unit. The easiest way to get started is to contact your local veterinary association or your state veterinary association.