



Why is the Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation involved in animal emergency management?

The Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation (CVMF) was created to support programs that address key animal health and welfare issues within our state. Animal issues in disasters are a substantial concern, impacting public health and safety, animal health and safety, our agricultural industry, our environment (wildlife) and our economy. Through the CVMF Animal Emergency Management Program, CVMF partners with state agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental associations, the private sector and volunteers to use our charitable status, staff resources, voluntary programs and the strength of the veterinary community to help build Colorado's capacity to respond to animal issues during disasters. In this manner, we can all help build resources and capacities that might otherwise not be available through governmental efforts alone.

What are the CVMF Animal Emergency Management Program initiatives?

1. Provision of training, resource development, community planning assistance and support for local, regional and specialized team development. A core mission of the Animal Emergency Management Program is the training and support of Community Animal Response Teams (CART).
2. Coordination of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CO VMRC), a unit of the Colorado Medical Reserve Corps, which provides veterinary professionals and animal emergency responders with the training and credentialing necessary to support animal health and public health emergency response.
3. Support of animal issues at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) during disasters. CVMF provides staff to lead support efforts related to animal issues during disasters and provides support to state agencies on other animal issues. CVMF staff and volunteers also support volunteer- and donation-management issues related to animals in disaster.
4. CVMF works through each of these initiatives to promote personal preparedness and business disaster planning.
5. CVMF networks and collaborates with similar state programs in a growing national alliance of such state programs.

Who are the partners in the CVMF Animal Emergency Management Program?

CVMF Animal Emergency Management Program is guided by an Advisory Council composed of representatives of:

Colorado Association of Animal Control Officers
Colorado Association of Certified Veterinary Technicians
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
Colorado Division of Emergency Management
Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies

Citizen Corps / Medical Reserve Corps
Colorado Department of Agriculture
Colorado State University
Colorado Veterinary Medical Association
United States Department of Agriculture

What are the goals of the CVMF Animal Emergency Management Program?

1. Facilitate planning for a prompt and effective response to animal emergency issues in Colorado in a manner consistent with the National Incident Management System and the Colorado Emergency Operations Plan
2. Reduce threats to the health and safety of people and animals
3. Minimize the economic impact of animal issues during emergencies
4. Maximize resources available for recovery efforts related to animals and animal agriculture

CART programs should involve all community animal or agricultural resources, including:

- Local emergency managers
- Animal control and shelters
- CSU Cooperative Extension
- Fairgrounds
- Brand inspectors
- Livestock associations
- Veterinary professionals
- Kennels and pet groups
- Commercial livestock producers
- Community public health
- Law enforcement, fire and EMS
- Wildlife officials and zoos
- Concerned businesses and individuals

What are Community Animal Response Teams (CART)?

CARTs are a core element of animal response. Every emergency is ultimately a local event, requiring effective planning, mobilization and response at the local level. CARTs serve both to support planning and training efforts and to create a pathway for citizen participation.

How can I become involved?

1. Ensure that your family has an emergency plan that includes family pets and livestock
2. Make sure your workplace has an emergency plan
3. Volunteer with community animal or agricultural organizations, local or regional CARTs, the CO Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps, community Citizen Corps programs, or other voluntary organizations active in disasters
4. Support the Animal Emergency Management Program through the Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation

Personal preparedness and citizen participation internet resources:

- www.ReadyColorado.gov- Colorado's preparedness site
- www.Ready.gov, www.Disasterhelp.gov- US Department of Homeland Security
- www.preparecolorado.org- Mile High Chapter of the American Red Cross
- www.CitizenCorps.gov- Citizen Corps program information
- www.pandemicflu.gov- CDC site concerning potential pandemic influenza

For more information, contact the Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation

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