

## Supporting a critical need

The last decade has demonstrated an overwhelming need to create a direct link between our nation's veterinary and animal emergency response resources and local, state and national emergency management systems. Recent emergencies that required support include:

- 2000-2001: Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in Great Britain.
- 2001-2002: Exotic Newcastle Disease Virus in U.S. poultry required 15,000 responders in 5 states.
- 2002: Colorado wildfires result in some of the largest evacuations in recent Colorado history.
- 2005: Gulf Coast hurricanes created catastrophic damage displacing hundreds of thousands of people and animals.
- 2009: California wildfires result in the evacuation of perhaps a million people along with their pets and livestock.

The threats of avian influenza, bioterrorism, catastrophic natural disasters, and emerging diseases necessitate a new era in our ability to address both animal health and public health needs during disasters.



Evacuated dogs arrive at midnight at Denver International Airport in October of 2005.



**Mission:** The Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CO VMRC) program provides veterinary professionals and animal emergency responders with the training and credentialing necessary to support animal health and public health emergency response.



### Program affiliation:

The CO VMRC is a **Medical Reserve Corps Unit**, affiliated with **the Office of the Surgeon General and Citizen Corps**. CO VMRC is supported by a broad multi-agency partnership, including:

- CO Department of Agriculture
- CO Veterinary Medical Foundation
- Colorado State University
- CO Veterinary Medical Association
- CO Department of Public Health and Environment
- CO Association of Certified Veterinary Technicians
- CO Division of Emergency Management
- US Department of Agriculture

## Benefits to participants

The Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps will provide substantial benefits to participants, including:

1. Training programs in:
  - Bio-defense, Zoonoses and emerging diseases
  - Emergency animal response, including sheltering, technical animal rescue and animal decontamination
  - General emergency management and response
  - Hazardous materials
  - Personal protective equipment
2. Credentialing
3. Networking and collaboration with Community Animal Response Team (CART) programs
4. Regular communications concerning issues and events related to animal and public health emergency issues
5. Opportunities to network with your peers in the CO VMRC and MRC programs across the state



"This is a responsibility we should aspire to!"

*Dr. Anthony P. Knight  
Colorado State University*

## USDA National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC) Affiliation

CO VMRC veterinary professionals will be encouraged to sign up for the USDA NAHERC program. Through NAHERC, veterinarians and technicians can be mobilized to help address an emergency event in our nation and throughout the globe. NAHERC personnel are paid as USDA employees during mobilization.

## Medical Reserve Corps

*The mission of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical and other volunteers.*

CO VMRC members will be encouraged to join the local MRC units (if present in your community). For more information, visit: <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov>

## Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer (CVM)

CO VMRC is also part of the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer program of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. CMV provides MRC Units with an online volunteer database for tracking and communicating with their volunteers. For more information, visit: <https://covolunteers.state.co.us/VolunteerMobilizer/>

## Program Contacts

### Unit Coordinator:

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To join the CO VMRC, contact the Unit Coordinator or visit the CO VMRC web page for more information.

[www.coaemp.org/covmrc](http://www.coaemp.org/covmrc)

### CO VRMC Steering Committee:

Colin Combs, DVM

Jamie Gaynor, DVM, DACVA, CVA, DAAPM

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**Protecting animal health  
and public health in  
times of need**

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*A Unit of the Colorado Medical Reserve Corps - supported by a broad multi-agency partnership*