



Creating a *Community Animal Response Team (CART)*

1. Given our potential resources (people and equipment) should we organize as a county or as a region?
2. Who should we invite to the table?
 - a. Emergency Management
 - Community and/or County Emergency Management Representatives
 - Colorado Division of Emergency Management (CDEM) Field Staff
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/dem/fieldservices/services.htm>
 - Homeland Security Region Coordinator
<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/GrantProgram-OHS/GOHS/1211361062933>
 - b. Animal Control and Non-Profit Shelters
 - c. Animal Professionals
 - Veterinary professionals
 - Kennels and pet groups
 - Equine groups
 - Livestock associations
 - Brand inspectors
 - Wildlife officials
 - County fairground personnel
 - Representatives from the CSU Cooperative Extension
 - d. Others
 - Community Public Health
 - Law enforcement, fire, EMS
 - Concerned businesses and individuals
3. Form a Steering Committee- those who will get the organizing and planning work done
4. Organize the CART membership.
 - What entity will have legal responsibility for our CART? *Note: Colorado has some of the strongest liability protections for volunteers that covers training, exercising and deployment*
 - Identify and address any legal liability concerns
 - Explore adding CART members to the volunteer liability policy of a local government agency
 - Establish credentials
 - Develop a database of members and other stakeholders with resources
 - Create an activation procedure
5. Create uniforms and badges that will clearly identify CART members during an emergency

6. Train your team
 - Command and communications
 - Safety
 - Liaison
 - Operations
 - Planning
 - Logistics
 - Finance and administration

7. Develop a plan. One tool is the *Template for Animal Emergency Response*
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/dem/plans/plans.htm>
 - Identify hazards, vulnerabilities, risks and resources
 - Draft a plan
 - Review the plan
 - Practice the plan
 - Revise the plan and go back to (d)

8. Training resources
 - FEMA on-line courses <http://training.fema.gov/IS/> (at a minimum IS 100 and 700)
 - AEMP's CART Introductory Training (webinar or classroom) is free
 - Courses offered in your Homeland Security Region are free (contact your Coordinator for details)
 - Courses offered in your emergency management region are free
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/dem/training/train.htm>
 - Courses approved by FEMA can be free (contact AEMP)
 - Courses not approved by FEMA can be free (contact AEMP)

9. Become a part of your region's homeland security structure by create a regional Animal Emergency Response Subcommittee to the region's Mass Care (ESF #6) Committee (this Emergency Support Function has the majority of technical capabilities related to animal emergency response)
 - Develop regional operating procedures
 - Share knowledge and resources
 - Identify needs and coordinate applications for homeland security grant funding
 - Participate in your region's annual Training and Exercise Planning Workshop (TEPW)- money and staff support can be approved through the Training and Exercise Plan (TEP)
 - Begin to plan, train, exercise and respond as part of your region's emergency management/ homeland security structure

10. What can AEMP do to help?
 - Provide or access need TRAINING
 - Facilitate PLANNING process
 - Offer TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE when questions or problems arise
 - Help bring various stakeholders to the table
 - Provide response support through the Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CO VRMC)
 - Provide response assistance through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)
 - Develop RESOURCES that help support local response operations

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