





# Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps Training

# Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (COVMRC)



- Animal emergency responders and veterinary professionals with the training and credentialing necessary to support animal care and animal health during emergencies and public health emergency response.
- Available to support local animal emergency response efforts, animal disease outbreaks, criminal seizures, emergency sheltering, and animal evacuation
- East (Front Range) and West Units

Who are we?



- Volunteers are required to complete IS100 and IS700, complete our COVMRC Animal Response Training, pass a background check and verification of credentials.
- Other trainings: Animal Behavior, animal disaster sheltering, technical animal response trainings, table-top exercises, full scale exercises.

## Trainings





Colorado  
Veterinary Medical  
Reserve Corps

- By **local emergency management** to provide veterinary and animal emergency response support during emergency situations.
- By the **State Veterinarian** during an animal health emergency or other state-level incident where veterinary and animal response personnel are needed.
- By the **Unit Coordinator** to support a local animal welfare shelter during a disaster or a law enforcement agency in need of assistance during a criminal seizure and follow up care for the animals seized. The West unit assists with the criminal cases.



## Deployment



# Animal Response and Emergency Management



- **People will risk their lives to protect animals**
  - Can put themselves and responders at risk
  - Redeployment of law enforcement resources and other first responders
  - This is not just a companion animal issue



An issue of public safety



# Hurricane Katrina

*Laid the foundation for current response operations*

- Pet Evacuation and Transportation Act (PETS Act), October 2006
  - Requires state and local plans for household pets and service animals
  - Allows FEMA cost-sharing for services in support of people with household pets and service animals
  - Allows FEMA director to make contributions for preparedness




Response Authority




# Colorado Floods 2013

Boulder County


# “No Pets Left Behind”

- ◆ Estimated 12,000 people evacuated and rescued
  - ◆ Estimated same number of pets
  - ◆ More people and pets were airlifted from the floods than in Katrina
  - ◆ Helicopters said they took more pets than people
  - ◆ People would not evacuate without their pets
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# PetAid & COVMRC's Roles

- ◆ Assessment of need by PetAid
  - ◆ Determined that SAR is needed in Boulder County disaster zones
  - ◆ American Humane and Code 3 Associates were requested for a technical animal response team
  - ◆ COVMRC-East deployed to Larimer County to assist the National Guard with the airlifts
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# Search and Rescue

- ◆ American Humane & Code 3 worked with the Boulder County Sheriff's Department Animal Control for 6 days, in the Lyons area and many different canyons
  - ◆ Rescued 200 animals, taking the pets to Boulder County Humane and Longmont Humane, livestock animals went to the Boulder Fairgrounds
  - ◆ Animals included, fish, reptiles, cats, dogs, chickens, ducks, turtles
  - ◆ Most people had gotten out with their dogs, many cats had spooked and gone into hiding
  - ◆ We also cared for many livestock animals in place, providing food water and making sure that they were not in danger
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# COVMRC-West

- ◆ Deployed on 9/21/2013 till 9/26/2013 to assist Longmont Humane Society with the care of 250 evacuated animals
- ◆ Primarily, we helped care for the evacuated and rescued cats
- ◆ We also assisted with decontamination, helping evacuees visit with their animals, reunifications, and getting donations to people needing supplies









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Contact

