

# Why is PetAid involved in animal emergency management?

Pet**Aid** Colorado supports 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 Pet**Aid** Disaster Services, we partner 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 PetAid Disaster Services initiatives?

- Provision of training, resource development, community planning assistance and support for local, regional and specialized team development. A core mission of PetAid Disaster Services is the training and support of Community Animal Response Teams (CART).
- 2. Coordination of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CO VMRC), units 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.
- Support of animal issues at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) during disasters. PetAid provides staff to lead support efforts related to companion and service animal issues during disasters. PetAid staff and volunteers also support volunteer and donations management issues.
- 4. Pet**Aid** works through each of these initiatives to promote personal preparedness and business disaster planning.
- 5. Pet**Aid** networks and collaborates with similar state programs in a growing national alliance of such state programs.

## Who are the partners with PetAid Disaster Services?

PetAid Disaster Services 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 PetAid Disaster Services?

- 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

# 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 is 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 Disaster Services through PetAid Colorado

## Personal preparedness and citizen participation internet resources:

- <u>www.ReadyColorado.gov</u>- Colorado's preparedness site
- <u>www.Ready.gov</u> FEMA
- <u>www.coloradoredcross.org/prepare-</u> American Red Cross Colorado Chapters
- <u>www.CitizenCorps.gov</u>- Citizen Corps program information

For more information, contact Pet**Aid** Disaster Services: *Debrah Schnackenberg, Director* Offices at the Harrison Center for Animals 191 Yuma Street, Denver, CO 80223 303.539-7633 (office), 303.318.0450 (fax) www.petaidcolorado.org

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