Appendix K

County Animal Response Team Plan

Eagle County Animal Emergency Response

Purpose

This plan provides a collaborative framework for prevention, protection, preparedness, response and recovery efforts related to management of companion animals, livestock, and other animals during emergency events."

Scope

This plan addresses emergency management issues for Eagle County related to companion, service/assistance animals, police or search and rescue animals, livestock and other animal species, including:
1. Multi-agency coordination and planning
2. Resource management
3. Communications and public information
4. Mission essential tasks pertaining to animal response:
    a. Rapid needs assessment
    b. Animal evacuation
    c. Transportation of animals and animal support materials
    d. Animal sheltering
    e. Animal food and water
    f. Animal control/stray management
    g. Animal search and rescue
    h. Veterinary medical care and services
    i. Animal decontamination
    j. Animal disease management
    k. Zoonotic disease management
    l. Animal mortality management
    m. Animal/owner reunion and recovery
5. Volunteer and donations management
6. Public outreach
7. Training and preparedness
8. Worker/volunteer health and safety

Situation
- **Authorities:**
    o ''Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006''. Section 613, subsection (g), of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196b) "In approving standards for State and local emergency preparedness operational plans pursuant to subsection (b) (3), the Director shall ensure that such plans take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency''.
    o Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-705 creates the Colorado Office of Emergency Management and C.R.S. § 24-33.5-707 charges each political subdivision with creation of a local emergency management agency.

- o The Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industry has statutory authority related to animal health (Livestock Health Act/State Veterinarian C.R.S. § 35-50-101 *et. seq.*), in the prevention of animal cruelty and neglect (Colorado Bureau of Animal Protection/Animal Protection Act, C.R.S. § 35-42-101 *et. seq.*), the regulation of companion animal industry (Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act, C.R.S. § 35-80-101 *et. seq.*) and the supervision of branded livestock identification, movement and ownership issues (Colorado State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners, C.R.S. § 35-41-100.3 *et. seq.*).
  - o The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (multiple sections under Title 25, C.R.S.) has authorities related to public health that will intersect with animal health and local jurisdictional public health authorities.

- **Activation:**
  - o This plan will be activated when a local incident commander identifies the need for the Eagle County Animal Response Team (ECART).
  - o The ECART mission coordinators will be notified by the Vail Public Safety Communications Center (VPSCC).
  - o The ECART Mission Coordinator will authorize activation to a response team as necessary.
  - o Team members will respond to the designated check-in location for briefing and assignment.

Planning Assumptions
- Prioritized concerns for emergency management include:
  1. Life safety for people
  2. Protection of property (with animals considered by many families and individuals as their highest property priority)
  3. Protection of the environment
- Inability to evacuate animals is a leading cause of evacuation failure in disasters.
- Failure to evacuate may both endanger citizens and the emergency responders who attempt to protect those citizens.
- The American's Disabilities Act mandates that service animals must be treated as an extension of a disabled person and must receive all needed services.
- Consideration for the care of search and rescue and law enforcement animals shall be incorporated this plan.
- While most owners of pets and livestock will take reasonable steps evacuate, shelter and provide for their animals, others cannot or will not take adequate actions for the protection of their animals due to many reasons as follows: senior citizens, limited mobility, large numbers of animals in their possession, language or cultural barriers.
- Some state agencies such as Colorado Division of Wildlife or Colorado Department of Agriculture may have certain statutory responsibilities and local emergency plans must be executed in cooperation with those agencies
- Animal populations should be estimated for each jurisdiction. An acceptable working number for Eagle County is:
  - The Estimated number of households with companion animals in Eagle County 16,400. The number of dogs, cats, and pet birds is approximately 18,000.
  - Other pets are harder to calculate but will include significant number of rabbits, rodents, ferrets, reptiles (snakes, lizards and turtles), amphibians, fish and other species.

- Livestock: CSU Extension Service should be helpful in estimating the numbers of equids (horses, ponies, mules and donkeys), Camelids (llamas, alpacas and vicunas), poultry, "backyard/non-commercial" livestock, and commercial livestock.

Concept of Operations
- County Animal Response Team (CART) Program
  - The ECART program is a network of community animal agencies, organizations, businesses and volunteers organized to assist the county/community in addressing animal issues during emergencies. The ECART program will assist the county through:
    - Planning assistance
    - Acquisition of equipment and supplies
    - Training
    - Participation in exercises
    - Community preparedness outreach
    - Response
    - Recovery
  - Eagle County Animal Control, Eagle County Humane Society and CSU Extension Service will serve as the lead agencies in the development and supervision of the ECART program and serve as the primary contact for ECART network resources by the local emergency operations center and incident command.
  - The ECART program will coordinate with other CART programs within the Northwest All-Hazards Emergency Management Region (NWAHEMR) and the Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation's Animal Emergency Management Program (AEMP) concerning planning, training, outreach and resource mobilization.
- Command and management:
  - Incident command: All animal response resources will be mobilized into the incident command system authorized for response to the event. Self-deployment of unauthorized resources will not be allowed as part of this plan.
  - Multi-agency Coordination: Community animal resources will be coordinated through the ECART liaison to the county emergency operations center in accordance with this plan.
- Communications
  - The County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will include an ECART liaison under Emergency Support Function # 11 (ESF#11) Agriculture and Natural Resources when animal issues are a significant element of an emergency.
  - The lead agency will coordinate with incident command and county agencies to establish:
    - Appropriate radio communications as necessary with ECART response groups during an incident.
    - Appropriate telephone, Internet, or direct communications with ECART support groups (sheltering, etc.)
  - CART affiliated organizations will maintain appropriate contact with incident command and the county EOC through the lead agency.
- Public information and warning pertaining to animal issues
  - All incident information will be communicated to the public through the Joint Information Center in coordination with both the Incident Command and the Eagle County EOC.

Animal mission essential tasks
(See the attached matrix to identify lead and support entities for each mission area)

- Rapid needs assessment
    - After an incident, animal care and production resources must be assessed for damage, including:
        - Veterinary hospitals
        - Animal shelters
        - Feed, agricultural supply, kennel, retail and other support facilities
    - The ECART team, with CSU Extension Service acting as an liaison, will work with the Eagle County Damage Assessment Team to assist the County EOC in obtaining damage assessments.

- Animal evacuation and transportation:
    - Public transportation will allow service animals and properly secure companion animals accompanying their owners to be transported with their owners during an evacuation.
    - When possible, the dispatch for companion animal transport should be coordinated with dispatch for human transport in order for animals to be evacuated to the same locations as their owners.
    - Animal transportation resources should be mobilized, provided identification and staged to an appropriate location to support the movement of companion animals and livestock.
    - Identify lead and support entities for animal evacuation and transportation

- Animal sheltering:
    - Emergency shelters for citizens will provide sheltering services for service animals in the possession of disabled persons.
    - ECART will identify potential animal sheltering locations, including:
        - Animal sheltering locations in proximity to American Red Cross sheltering locations and other sheltering sites that will enable owners to help care for their own animals.
        - Existing animal housing facilities that might be used during a disaster (animal shelters, kennels, veterinary hospitals, etc.)
        - Additional facilities that might be used for sheltering livestock and companion animals (fairgrounds, warehouses, etc.)
    - ECART will acquire needed equipment and supplies for emergency animal sheltering and provide necessary training for ECART personnel (including "just in time training).
    - Eagle County Animal Services will be the lead agency for animal sheltering with the Eagle County Humane Society functioning as a support agency.

- Animal food and water:
  - Providing animal feed and water to pets, livestock and other animal populations sheltering in place in areas impacted by a disaster
  - CSU Extension Service will be the lead agency for animal feed and water with Eagle County Public Works and Fire agencies functioning in support roles.

- Animal control/stray management:
  - Basic animal control functions should be maintained during disasters to the extent possible. Such functions include:
    - Responding to public reports related to stray animals or animal problems
    - Animal bites
    - Collection of stray animals
  - Eagle County Animal Services will be the lead agency in Animal Control/Stray Management.

- Animal search and rescue:
  - Only qualified and credentialed animal rescue personnel should be allowed to enter the disaster site to perform animal search and rescue operations.
  - Animal search and rescue personnel will need to support evacuation, allowing rescued people to evacuate with their animals whenever possible.
  - Technical Animal Rescue (TAR) is defined as utilizing special equipment and techniques to extract animals (including livestock) from hazardous circumstances such as vehicular accidents, swift water, flood water, ice, collapsed buildings and other difficult situations. TAR teams should be fully trained and equipped and credentialed. TAR teams may need to be mobilized from outside the County by contacting the Colorado Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 720-852-6656 during activations, AEMP at 720-218-4692 or the Colorado Office of Emergency Management Duty Officer at 303-279-8855.

- Wildlife management:
  - Wildlife issues are under the statutory authority of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW).
  - Local jurisdictional authorities and ECART shall coordinate with CPW on the management of wildlife issues during disasters.

- Veterinary medical care and services will be needed for the following:
  - Care of injured or ill animals.
  - Triage of animals recovered during animal search and rescue operations.
  - Veterinary care and infection control programs at animal sheltering sites.
  - Coordination with public health on zoonotic disease management.
  - Animal disease management including emergency prescription assistance.

- Animal decontamination capabilities are needed where:
  - Citizen decontamination is needed and companion animals accompany those citizens.
  - Animal SAR teams remove animals from a hazardous site.
  - Animal disease management requires decontamination of animals prior to movement.
  - The Regional Hazardous Material Association of Eagle County will be the lead agency for animal decontamination.

- Animal disease management:
  - Animal disease management may include both emergencies involving foreign animal diseases (economically significant animal diseases not found in the USA) or emergency outbreaks of zoonotic (infecting both people and animals) diseases.
  - Animal disease management may involve multiple authorities, including federal, state and local jurisdictions such as the Colorado Department of Agriculture State Veterinarian and CDPHE Public Health Veterinarian.
  - Sub-tasks within animal disease management include:
    - Clinical diagnosis & laboratory confirmation
    - Quarantine/enforcement
    - Surveillance
    - Epidemiology (tracing back and forward)
    - Appraisal and government indemnity payments
    - Mortality management
    - Decontamination
    - Movement permits & compliance agreements
    - Biosecurity & producer education
    - Mental health support for citizens impacted emotionally and economically
    - Public outreach
    - Repopulation and recovery

- Animal mortality management:
  - Mortality management may include:
    - Euthanasia of injured or diseased animals or animals exposed to foreign animal diseases.
    - Management of carcasses of dead animals secondary to disease or disaster.

- Animal/owner reunion and recovery:
  - Identification and tracking systems for displaced animals.
  - Lost & found data management, including Web-based information when needed
  - Transportation of pets and livestock to their original locations.
  - ECART participation in long-term recovery efforts and un-met needs committee.

Volunteer, resource and donations management pertaining to animal response
- Volunteer management:
  - The ECART lead shall be responsible for developing a volunteer management system in cooperation with the Eagle County Emergency Manager.
  - Self-mobilization of volunteers without such a request will not be allowed.

- Pre-credentialing and training standards:
  - These training standards will be applicable to:
    - Volunteers affiliated with ECART directly
    - Supervisory personnel from affiliated organizations that may be supervising ECART volunteers during emergency situations.
    - Volunteers that want to be available for mobilization to another jurisdiction through the CO Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (COVMRC) and inter-jurisdictional mutual aid agreements.
  - ECART basic training standards will include:

- IS-100 Incident Command Systems.
- IS-700 National Incident Management System.
- CO CART Introductory Training: Awareness level training available through AEMP.
  o Additional training recommended for supervisory personnel includes:
    - IS-10a and IS-11a: FEMA Animal in Disaster independent study modules.
    - IS-111: Livestock in Disasters (FEMA Independent Study).
    - IS-200: Incident Command System.
  o Persons completing a CART volunteer agreement, a background check through the Eagle County Sheriff's Office and signing a volunteer agreement with the county will be issued an ECART name badge for identification as an ECART responder.

- Resource management:
  o ECART will compile a list and contact information for county animal and agricultural resources. This list will help provide information on available resources as well as an inventory of resources that need to be evaluated during damage assessment operations.
  o Any animal or agricultural resources that can be typed using NIMS resource typing standards will be included them into the Colorado State Resource Mobilization database (Colorado Connect) by Eagle County Emergency Management.
  o Additional resources that are not "typed" should be listed separately in a manner useful to the ECART liaison at the local EOC.
  o During emergencies, requests for additional resources should be routed through:
    - Incident command
    - The Eagle County EOC
      o Mutual aid with other counties
      o Aid from the state through the Colorado Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC)
      o Aid from Federal agencies and national non-governmental agencies through the Colorado MACC.
- Donations management
  o All requests for donations by the ECART or ECART affiliated organizations will be processed through the Donations Management Team at the county EOC.
  o All public information releases requesting donations should be routed through the Joint Information Center and coordinated with both the incident command and County EOC.

Preparedness

Public outreach
- Citizen preparedness:
  o Citizen preparedness outreach activities for the county should include messages encouraging owners to include pets and livestock within their family emergency plan.

- o ECART programs will coordinate outreach actions with Eagle County Emergency Management, the American Red Cross and messages from other voluntary organizations.
- Business contingency planning for animal and agricultural facilities:
  - o ECART affiliated organizations that operate animal facilities will develop basic business emergency contingency plans for those facilities, including evacuation, shelter in place, and basic business continuity elements.
  - o ECART should encourage all animal and agricultural facilities within the county do develop basic business emergency plans.
  - o ECART should identify high risk facilities such as, large agricultural production operations, and large boarding facilities for pets/horses and these facilities should be considered when doing a rapid needs assessment after an incident.

Training and exercises
- The ECART network and affiliated organizations should provide periodic training for individual volunteers and organizations.
- The ECART network will be asked by emergency management to participate in all appropriate emergency training and exercises.
- The lead agencies will work to ensure that ECART representatives are present at all appropriate planning meetings and emergency exercises.

Organizational Summaries:

For each applicable organization provide:
- Name of organization.
- Responsibilities for which the organization provides a lead role or support role.

Eagle County Animal Services Responsibilities:
- Lead agency for County Animal Response Team development and coordination.
- Shared lead with CSU Extension Service for coordination of rapid needs assessments.
- Support agency for the evacuation and transportation of livestock.
- Lead agency for the evacuation and transportation of companion and other animals.
- Support agency for the sheltering of livestock.
- Support agency for the sheltering of companion and other animals.
- Shared lead with CSU Extension Service on the provision of emergency animal feed and water.
- Lead agency for animal control and stray management operations.
- Lead agency for animal search and rescue operations.
- Support agency for the coordination of veterinary medical care.
- Support agency for wildlife management.
- Support agency for animal decontamination.
- Support agency for animal disease management.
- Lead agency for animal/owner reunion and recovery efforts.
- Unified lead with the County EOC Donations Management Team for volunteer and donations management.
- Support agency for communications and public information.
- Support agency for training and exercises.
- Support agency for preparedness and outreach efforts.

Attachment 1: Concept of Operations: summary matrix for Eagle County

L = Lead organization
U = Unified Lead
S = Supporting

Functions →

Agencies ↓

L = Lead organization / U = Unified Lead / S = Supporting	Rapid needs assessment	Evacuation/transportation: Livestock	Evacuation/transportation: Companion and other animals	Sheltering: Livestock	Sheltering: Companion/other animals	Animal food and water	Animal control/stray management	Animal search and rescue	Wildlife management	Veterinary Medical Care	Animal decontamination	Animal disease management	Animal mortality management	Animal/owner reunion and recovery	Volunteer and donations management	Communication/Public information	Training and exercises	Preparedness/outreach
Emergency Management	S		S	S	S	S						S			S	L	L	L
EOC[1] Donations Mgmt Team						S									U			
American Red Cross			S	S	S	S									S			S
Animal Services	U	S	L	S	S	U	L	L	S	S	S	S	S	L	U	S	S	S
Boarding Kennels	S		S		S													
CERT[2] *(potential roles)*	S	S	S	S	S	S		S							S			S
Chamber of commerce/business community															S			S
County fairgrounds		S		U	S													
CSU Extension Service	U	L		U	S	U		S				S	S	S	S			S
CO Parks and Wildlife	S							S	L			S	S					
CO Department of Agriculture		S		S		S		S				L	S					
CO Veterinary Medical Foundation- Animal Emergency Management Program		S	S	S	S			S		S		S	S	S	S	S	S	S
CO Brand Inspector	S	S		S		S		S				S	S					
Fire Department(s)								S										
Environmental health/land fill	S										S		S					
Law enforcement/sheriff	S	S	S	S	S	S		S	S			S	S					
Livestock association(s) and individual producers	S	S		S		S						S			S			S
Joint Information Center/PIO[3]															S	S	S	S
GIS [4]	S	S	S					S				S	S					
Public Health	S			S	S	S	S	S		S	U	S	L					S
Public Works/facilities	S			S	S								S					
Search & Rescue	S	S	S					S										
Veterinary Community	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	L	U	S	S	S	S			S
VOAD[5] or equivalent orgs			S	S	S										S	S		S

All designations are provided as an example and will vary with each jurisdiction

---

[1] EOC = Emergency Operations Center
[2] CERT = Community Emergency Response Team (Citizen Corps)
[3] PIO = Public Information Officer
[4] GIS = Geographic information systems
[5] VOAD = Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (local, state, and national)