

State and County Animal Response Teams

The Colorado State Animal Response Team (SART) is part of a growing national network of SART programs. Initiated in North Carolina after the 1999 devastation of Hurricane Floyd, SART was adopted by Colorado after the severe 2002 wildfires. SART helps prepare for "Any Disaster, Any Animal, Anywhere."

County Animal Response Teams work with emergency managers to provide a local network for planning and resource development concerning animals in emergencies. CART participants should include animal control, veterinarians, extension personnel, animal shelters, livestock associations, livestock producers, brand inspectors, law enforcement, public health, wildlife officers, animal related businesses, and concerned citizens.

In Colorado, the process of creating CART programs began in January 2004, with a three-year plan to develop and support CART programs and to build effective training programs for CARTs. Colorado SART is guided by a steering committee composed of representatives from the following agencies and organizations:

- Colorado Division of Emergency Management
- Colorado Department of Agriculture
- Colorado State University
- Colorado Veterinary Medical Association
- Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies

Colorado SART is a program of the Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Your tax deductible donation helps to ensure the continued success of this program throughout Colorado.



Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation

Internet Resources

Colorado resources

Colorado SART
www.ColoradoSART.org
Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies (CFAWA)
www.cfawa.org
Colorado Division of Emergency Management
www.dola.state.co.us/oem
Colorado Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Industry
www.ag.state.co.us/animals/animals
Red Cross
www.preparecolorado.org
CSU Cooperative Extension
coloradodisasterhelp.colostate.edu/
Colorado State University Cooperative Extension
<http://coloradodisasterhelp.colostate.edu>

National resources

Department of Homeland Security
www.ready.gov
www.disasterhelp.gov
American Red Cross
www.redcross.org
Extension Disaster Education Network
www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden
Citizen Corps and CERT
www.citizencorps.gov
Code 3 Associates (disaster education)
www.code3associates.org
National Animal Health Emergency Management System (NAHEMS)
www.usaha.org/NAHEMS
American Veterinary Medical Association
www.avma.org/disaster/default.asp
Humane Society of the United States
www.hsus.org
American Humane
www.americanhumane.org

For more information

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www.ColoradoSART.org

Disaster Preparedness For Families with Pets or Livestock



Any Animal
Any Disaster
Anywhere
in Colorado



Produced by the
Colorado State Animal Response Team
and
your County Animal Response Team

General Preparedness Guidelines

- 1. Planning:** Create a family or business emergency plan for people, livestock and pets. Know the risks for your community. Be prepared to care for your family for up to 72 hours if evacuated, or if sheltering within your home during an emergency!
- 2. Preparation:** Involve all family members or employees in practicing your plan. Gather all necessary supplies you will need during an emergency. Create prioritized lists of needed actions. Seek training from community organizations such as the Red Cross, Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) programs, and County Animal Response Teams (CART).
- 3. Communication:** Families should agree on a place to meet, and an out-of-the-area contact through which to communicate, if they are separated.
- 4. Cooperation:** Work with neighbors and friends in your community to help ensure evacuation and other assistance for both people and animals. Know those with special needs in your community and work as a neighborhood to ensure their needs are met during an emergency.
- 5. Involvement:** Become involved with your County Animal Response Team or other voluntary emergency organizations in your community.
- 6. Mitigation:** If you live in a forested area, work with local fire departments to evaluate and prepare your property to provide defensible space. If you live in an area subject to flooding make sure you have flood insurance!

Tips for Protecting all Animals

- 1. Identification:** Individually identify pets and livestock using tags, tattoos, microchips, photos, etc. Store photos and copies, brand inspection and registration papers away from home.
- 2. Evacuation:** Once an area is evacuated, you may not be allowed back in, so ensure that you can evacuate people and animals quickly and in one trip (if possible). Be prepared to assist neighbors.
- 3. Post information:** Posting information about numbers and identities of pets and livestock may help neighbors and emergency responders in safely evacuating your animals. Place such information in a sheet protector and post it near the door or in a barn.
- 4. Supplies:** Gather supplies that will be needed for pets and livestock if evacuated or if you are “sheltering in place” at your home. These might include collars, leashes, bowls, blankets, pet carriers, halters, lead ropes, prescription medications, health records, food and water. Create a “go kit” for both people and animals.
- 5. Preventive healthcare:** Keep accurate records of preventive healthcare procedures, such as vaccination, heartworm testing, and de-worming. Make sure to bring those records with you in case of an evacuation.
- 6. Temporary housing:** Know where you can take your pets or livestock in an emergency, including animal shelters, kennels, hotels, fairgrounds, and the homes of friends and relatives.



Tips for Protecting Livestock

- 1. Biosecurity:** Livestock operations must implement effective biosecurity (disease prevention and disinfection) practices to help protect their animals and our entire nation from accidental or intentional disease outbreaks.
- 2. Transportation:** Teach all horses to load quickly and safely into trailers. Failure to adequately train horses puts both people and horses in danger. If you have other livestock, ensure that you can transport them if needed. If possible, have adequate trailer space to move all of your livestock.
- 3. Prepare for severe winter weather:** Colorado can experience blizzards that exceed three-four feet with blowing and drifting snow! You could be without utilities for many days. Keep at least 10-14 days of feed on hand. Make sure you can provide water for your animals even if it means melting ice or snow with a camp stove. Keep horse blankets and a first-aid kit for livestock on-hand. Make sure your personal winter gear is adequate for your family.

