

LARIMER COUNTY ANIMAL RESPONSE PLAN



Larimer County Emergency Management
4872 Endeavor Drive
Johnstown, CO 80534

www.larimer.org/emergency

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ANIMAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

OVERVIEW

Communities in Larimer County have been experiencing a steady increase in population growth. Larimer County has also seen a number of large-scale disasters in the last 10 years, including the 2012 High Park Wildfire, 2013 Flood, 2015 Berthoud Tornado, and the catastrophic fire events of 2020.

The County has over 21,634 square miles with an estimated population of 359,066 people. According to the 2021-2022 Pet Owners Survey through the American Pet Products Administration, 70% of U.S. households have at least one pet. This is up from 56 percent of U.S. households in 1988, the first year the survey was conducted, and 67 percent in 2019. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association data through the 2017-2018 U.S. Per Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook, there are 1.9 million horses in the United States. In addition, many community members in Larimer County are now supporting specialty or exotic animals in both rural and urban farming endeavors.

Livestock is a key component of the United States food supply, comprising approximately 13% of the U.S. gross domestic product. Many rural communities rely on agriculture as a critical element of their local economy. According to the USDA's 2017 Census of Agriculture, Larimer County has 2,043 farms that total to over 482,000 acres. The breakdown of Larimer County's Animal Agriculture is illustrated below.

Livestock Type	# of Farms	# of animals
<i>Cattle and Calves</i>	622	57,507
<i>Beef Cows</i>	496	16,048
<i>Dairy Cows</i>	25	10,199
<i>Hogs and Pigs</i>	84	584
<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	104	1,877
<i>Broilers and other meat-type chickens</i>	26	5,546

Table 1: Larimer County's Census of Animal Agriculture 2017.
USDA. 2017. *Census of Agriculture – County Data.* National Agriculture Statistics service.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides certain protections for people with service animals. According to the American Humane Association, as of 2012 there were 20,000 registered service animals in the United States. There are approximately 110 service dogs currently licensed in Larimer County. The ADA as well as the Stafford Act include mandates regarding service animals and should be addressed when developing emergency operations plans

Animals possess a high societal value due to the documented bond between them and their owners. The human-animal bond can exist between people and their household pets and their livestock, as well as in the managed wildlife community. The media has historically been interested in the animal story elements during emergencies and natural disasters, which is why any action or inaction on the part of an emergency management response has the potential to face substantial public scrutiny.

With this combination of factors, the need for greater coordination and cooperation during animal response activities. This Animal Response Plan, hereinafter referred to as “the Plan”, provides a consistent, county-wide, approach for animal response in Larimer County.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to protect people, animals, and property during an emergency situation by ensuring the effective evacuation and care of both small and large animals in Larimer County. It will describe policies and procedures for evacuation, care and control of animals during a disaster as well as the related roles and responsibilities of participating animal response and evacuation agencies and partners.

This plan is intended to minimize distress and trauma to domestic animals and their owners by providing guidance on the following:

- Immediate care and control of animals
- Temporary sheltering
- Emergency veterinary care
- A system for returning animals to their owners (if appropriate) after an incident is over.

This plan should be implemented whenever there is a need to access resources that can provide care for animals and their owners in emergencies, disasters, and evacuations.

SCOPE

This plan applies to all participating departments, agencies and organizations contained within the geographical boundary of Larimer County that have an ultimate responsibility for animal response and recovery operations. This plan applies to household pets, service animals, commercial livestock and non-commercial livestock.

This document is compatible with local, state and non-governmental agencies with response and support capabilities for the evacuation, shelter and care of animals within Larimer County. This plan is not intended to replace agency operational or response protocols and procedures. Instead, this plan seeks to provide guidance for multi-jurisdictional coordination of animal emergency response capabilities and responsibilities.

SITUATION

Larimer County is one of the 64 counties in the State of Colorado with a population of 359,066 people as of the 2020 U.S. Census. Larimer County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in Colorado. Due to the size and location of Larimer County, the potential exists for both natural and human-caused events to occur. Any such incident has the potential to disrupt the community, cause destruction of property and cause injury and/or death to community members, visitors and both domestic and wild animals.

In an emergency, animal caregivers are responsible for ensuring the health and safety of their animals. Caregivers should be prepared to provide for the needs of their animals, without assistance following a disaster. This includes being prepared to evacuate and shelter their animals. However, due to the severity and speed of some emergencies, this is not always possible. One of the primary failures of evacuation is that people are unwilling to leave the hazard area without their animals. Therefore, a plan among response agencies and animal support partners is essential.

ASSUMPTIONS

- Animals are not always permitted in human shelters with the exception of service animals that accompany community members with special needs.
- Space for the sheltering of companion animals and livestock at county facilities may not be sufficient for the need and community members will need to help each other with animal evacuation and sheltering during a large disaster.
- Many evacuees are likely to show up at human shelters with their pets. Therefore, every effort should be made to co-locate human and pet shelters.
- In an emergency or disaster, response and short-term recovery efforts are best directed through an organization operating consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- The majority of incidents that involve mass groups of people are inter-jurisdictional or cross-departmental in nature.
- Initial actions to mitigate the effects of emergency situations or potential disaster conditions will be conducted as soon as possible by the local government.
- Assistance to the affected jurisdiction(s) by response organizations from another jurisdiction(s) is expected to supplement the efforts of the affected jurisdiction(s) in an efficient, effective, and coordinated response when jurisdiction officials determine their own resources to be insufficient.
- In times of emergency evacuation and rescue, there is great stress among the general public and responders. Amidst the organized chaos the confusion, worry and potential loss of household pets or other animals adds to the tremulous emotions. Ensuring there is a plan in place to aid in the safety and survival of these animals that the general public can count on, coupled with setting up emergency shelters, when applicable, with the capacity to house both human and animal evacuees, has the potential for positive mental health benefits.
- Improper care of animals can lead to increased risk of outbreaks of zoonoses, and improper handling of animals can lead to increased risk of animal bites. During emergencies and natural disasters plans must be in place to minimize risks such as: assuring appropriate animal decontamination, preventative healthcare and disease monitoring of sheltered animals, controlling stray animal populations, removal of animal carcasses, tracking and managing animal bites (to people or other animals), and distributing public information on zoonotic disease risks.
- It is the responsibility of officials under this plan to save lives, protect property, relieve human suffering, sustain survivors, repair essential facilities, restore services, and protect the environment.

ANIMAL GROUPS DEFINED

(Source: Animal Disaster Toolkit, CSU Extension)

Household Pets

The PETS Act of 2006 specifically speaks to disaster planning for common household pets and service animals. At the Federal level, FEMA defines household pets as “a domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rabbit, rodent, or turtle that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes. Household pets do not include reptiles (except turtles), amphibians, fish, insects/arachnids, farm animals (including horses) and animals kept for racing purposes” (FEMA, 2017). This definition is used by FEMA only to determine federal assistance and reimbursement in a disaster and is not meant to limit the kinds of pets that local jurisdictions can shelter during a disaster.

Service Animals

“Service animal means any dog [or miniature horse] that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler’s disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal’s presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition” (ADA, 2010).

Non-commercial Livestock

Realistically, however, pets can be any animal that a person will not part with in times of danger because the animal is considered part of the family. Non-commercial livestock are animals that traditionally do not live in the house but live in barns, fields, or paddocks and are raised for companionship as well as production or utility. During a disaster, responders and shelter managers may find themselves presented with a variety of bird species, reptiles, amphibians, fish, horses, chickens, pigs, sheep, goats, llamas and alpacas. Owners expect that local evacuation planning will also include and provide care and sheltering for these types of animals as well as for pets who reside in the residence with their owners.

Commercial Livestock

Commercial livestock are animals raised for production. Their welfare is of utmost importance to the owners because well cared for animals result in better producing animals regardless of the production unit (e.g., eggs, meat, fiber, milk, etc.). Commercial operations, generally, have considered steps to minimize relative risk of disasters in all aspects of their business. Commercial livestock include cattle, sheep, goats, and other domestic animals ordinarily thought of being raised or used on a farm for commercial purposes. Increasingly, however, animals previously considered “farm” animals are also being kept as companion animals or pets. Poultry include chickens or other domesticated fowl. As with livestock, poultry are often kept by owners as pets rather than as strictly commercial farm animals.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Agency Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) - The agency that has the day-to-day responsibility for the area affected. This responsibility remains intact unless a delegation of authority is in place.

Captive Wildlife – Animals that normally live in the wild but are held in captivity in a person’s home as a pet, or in a facility used for exhibition or research.

Caregiver - The animal’s owner, a kennel operator, a pet sitter, or anyone who has been entrusted with the care of an animal.

County Government – Refers to all elected and appointed offices and departments within Larimer County.

Disaster - (State Definition) The occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, or significant adverse impact on the environment, resulting from any natural or technological hazards, including but not limited to fire, floods, earthquake, wind, storm, hazardous substance incident, water contamination, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, civil disturbance, act of terrorism, or hostile military or paramilitary action.

Domestic Animals – Animals that have been domesticated by humans by having their behavior, life cycle or physiology systemically altered as a result of generations of human control.

Emergency - (State Definition) A suddenly occurring and often unforeseen situation or an unusual event, which is determined by the governor to require state response or mitigation actions to supplement local government in protecting lives and property.

Incident Command System (ICS) - (FEMA definition) a management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure.

Local Government - Refers to all municipal and county level government organizations, including all legally recognized political subdivisions therein, unless otherwise specified.

Municipal Government - Refers to the city level of government and includes all legally recognized political subdivisions therein, unless otherwise specified.

Welfare of Animals - Describes the good or satisfactory care of animals.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

This plan is intended to ensure a coordinated effort to create a consistent, county-wide, approach for the safe and effective response and evacuation of animals from emergencies and disasters in Larimer County. Disasters and large-scale emergencies are rarely confined to one jurisdiction. Although only a portion of Larimer County is likely impacted by a single emergency event, a multijurisdictional effort will be required to effectively manage most major incidents involving animal response.

Emergency Response

Emergency response agencies in Larimer County request resources from their own agency through mutual aid agreements already in place. All local governments and special districts within the county are responsible for coordinating with one another and for providing mutual aid within their capabilities, according to established written agreements. If necessary, normal working operations may be suspended or redirected during an incident to support emergency response and control throughout the county.

Operational Management

Operational Management concepts are based on the incident Command System (ICS) and the hierarchy of governmental responsibility and authority. To maximize the efficiency of the response and recovery, all incidents will be managed in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and

use the Incident Command System. Implementing this strategy early provides for seamless management from response through recovery. Advantages include, but are not limited to, consistency in organization of the general staff throughout the event and the application of a single incident action plan with prioritized objectives. During a routine event, the ICS system will remain in place and the jurisdiction where the event is taking place will be in command.

Incident Command Post (ICP)

The ICP is the location where Incident Command functions are coordinated. Incident command posts should be located close enough to allow the incident commander (IC) to observe operations but far enough away to provide safety and shelter from the noise and confusion that accompanies emergency operations.

Emergency Response Organizations

Multiple emergency response agencies will work in coordination during any large emergency or disaster. These may include:

- Law Enforcement: Larimer County law enforcement agencies will provide security, crowd control, traffic control, in addition to numerous other law enforcement related services that may arise at an emergency or disaster. Law enforcement will provide access to animal evacuation agencies to the hazard area.
- Small Animal Response: Larimer Humane Society is the primary and lead agency in charge of response to small animal emergencies and the evacuation of small animals during and after an emergency event. The Humane Society has agreements in place with surrounding jurisdictions for mutual aid.
- Large Animal Response: The Sheriff's Posse is the primary and lead agency in charge of response to large animal emergencies and the evacuation of large animals during and after an emergency event. The Posse has agreements in place with surrounding jurisdictions for mutual aid, including the Larimer County Horseman's Association.
- Fire Rescue: A fire department, fire protection district, fire authority, or simply fire service is a public or private organization that provides predominantly emergency firefighting and fire protection services for a specific geographic area, which is typically a municipality, county, or special district.
- Public Health: Public and environmental health considerations are met through our public health (ESF 8) providers throughout the county. Larimer Health and Environment is the lead agency for these activities and will provide on-scene support as required for events with health considerations.
- American Red Cross (ARC) - The ARC works with numerous partners in the region to provide shelter and reunification services as needed.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

The EOC is the location where emergency management partners gather to coordinate emergency support activities. The EOC acts in support of the ICP or multiple ICPs during a large event, as well as the community at large. The EOC fields and fills requests for resources and information, provides situational awareness, and provides policy direction across the community. This allows the ICP to focus attention on the tactical and strategic requirements of the incident. Animal evacuation partners are tied into EOC operations for better overall coordination.

Multiagency Coordination Systems (MACS):

The Multiagency coordination system provides the architecture to support coordination for incident prioritization, critical resource allocation, communications systems integration, and information coordination. The components of multiagency coordination systems include facilities, equipment, emergency operations centers (EOCs), specific multiagency coordination entities, personnel, procedures, and communications. These systems assist agencies and organizations to fully integrate the subsystems of the National Incident Management System.

Joint Information Center (JIC):

In large scale, multi-jurisdictional events, coordination of public information and media interaction is critical and is a function of a JIC. In most situations, the JIC will be established by the AHJ. Public Information Officers (PIO) from the agencies involved in the incident will be organized into a JIC and will be led by the primary agency or designee. The JIC will provide the public with information regarding small and large animal sheltering.

ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The following agencies and organizations will be responsible for planning, deploying the resources, and managing the activities for animal response and evacuation:

A. Organization

1. Larimer Humane Society will be the lead agency for small animal response, evacuation and coordination.
2. The Sheriff's Posse will be the lead agency for large animal response, evacuation and coordination.

B. Responsibilities

1. Larimer Humane Society and Larimer County Sheriff's Office Posse
 - Recruit and assemble an Animal Response Team
 - Maintain current notification/recall rosters for the team
 - Identify and survey animal shelter needs and establish sites to be used in the event of emergency
 - Identify and survey veterinarians and veterinary services to be used in the event of an emergency
 - Recruit and register the necessary volunteers and foster volunteers and assure that any animal taken into foster is documented
 - Provide a cadre of volunteers for animal related assistance and the care of animals in animal shelters and at all possible supplies and other resources for the animals.
 - Secure cooperation of property owners for use of shelter space.
 - Develop procedures to activate and deactivate animal shelters and develop shelter SOPs.
 - Assist with public information and education programs regarding animal response.
 - Provide for Animal Response Team training.

- Assist the emergency management agency and other county or municipal agency representatives conducting emergency operations in establishing priorities for animal rescue efforts.
 - Coordinate with the State of Colorado, health agencies and other agencies to provide technical and logistical support during animal response operations.
2. Emergency Management
 - Provide suitable identification for animal response team members for access to the scene or affected area.
 - Assist with identifying and providing communication capability between the EOC and animal shelters.
 - Support public information and education programs regarding animal response.
 - In conjunction with the Larimer Humane Society, provide for animal response team training.
 - Identify resources to support and assist with animal response activities.
 3. Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
 - Support public health services in animal shelters to include inspections, sanitation and environmental health concerns.
 - Provide services to control injuries, bites, and diseases related to the protection of animals.
 - Support public information and education programs regarding animal response.
 4. Public Information Officer (PIO)
 - Establish and assist in the dissemination of information about evacuation with animals prior to an emergency event.
 - Establish public information and education programs regarding animal response.
 - Provide emergency and disaster public information regarding animal response and evacuation considerations.
 5. Fire Services
 - Survey shelter sites for fire safety.
 - Advise about fire safety during operations.
 6. Law Enforcement
 - Provide security and law enforcement for shelters as necessary.
 - Provide access to and from hazard areas at traffic control points.
 - Provide law enforcement and security assistance to animal evacuation partners.
 7. Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)
 - Provide emergency communications during and after any emergency event including dispatching of animal response agencies and partners.
 - Provide primary radio communications between the ICP, EOC and animal response agencies in the event that telephone lines become inoperable.

8. Veterinary Services
 - Provide a Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps to assist with animal veterinary care.
 - CSU Equine Ambulatory DVMs provide service to sheltered animals as requested
 - Provide emergency treatment and care of animals in emergency shelters.
 - Assist in the establishment of Triage units for the care of injured animals.
 - Provide emergency medical equipment and supplies.

9. Larimer County CSU Extension
 - Assist in coordinating a Disaster Animal Relief Team (DART) to assist with large animal rescue and care.
 - Assist with information and resources related to animal response and evacuation for community members.
 - Coordination with the Sheriff's Posse, Cattleman's Association, Larimer County Horseman's Association and other livestock associations for the handling and care of livestock.

10. Larimer County Agricultural Advisory Board
 - Provides a link to all livestock and farm groups and organizations in Larimer County.

11. Biomedical Research Facilities
 - Provide for the care and safety of animals in biomedical facilities.
 - Develop and implement an animal response plan for the facility.
 - Coordinate with incident management and EOC personnel on evacuation needs.

12. Wolf Sanctuary
 - Provide for the care and safety of animals at the sanctuary.
 - Develop and implement an animal response plan for the sanctuary.
 - Coordinate with incident management and EOC personnel on evacuation needs.

13. CO Department of Agriculture – Brand Inspector Division
 - Record and administer livestock brands
 - License and inspect alternative livestock (elk and fallow deer) and alternative livestock facilities
 - Prevent and return strayed or stolen livestock and investigate reports of lost or stolen livestock
 - Register missing livestock with brand inspectors so they can notify other brand inspectors to locate the brand.
 - May provide a role in local detection / background information for outbreak situations
 - Management and sale of unclaimed animals

14. CO Department of Agriculture – State Veterinary Office
 - Provide a role in local detection/background information for disease situations.
 - Regulatory role for animal disease outbreaks and response.

15. Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators

- Coordinate with Parks and Wildlife to provide care and shelter for injured and displaced wildlife.
- Return wild, indigenous animals to their natural habitat

DIRECTION, CONTROL AND COORDINATION

Direction and control is a critical emergency management function. During the emergency response effort, it allows the jurisdiction to:

- Analyze the emergency situation and decide how to respond quickly, appropriately, and effectively.
- Direct and coordinate the efforts of the jurisdiction's various response forces.
- Coordinate with the response efforts of other jurisdictions.
- Use available resources efficiently and effectively.

Direction and control as presented here addresses the activities associated with managing animal response and evacuation services as well as their consequences. This section is organized chronologically from the initial notification through to the incident response and recovery.

Incident Occurs

Once a PSAP is notified of an incident, emergency responders will be dispatched to the scene. They will establish command and begin incident management utilizing existing protocols. Incident Command will “size up” the situation and determine which aspects of the Incident Command System structure is to be activated and utilized. Incident Command will determine support needs and contact the PSAP to order necessary resources. Resource requests will be filled through normal dispatch and mutual aid channels.

Based on the complexity of the incident and the anticipated resource needs, emergency management will establish an Emergency Operations Center to coordinate between agencies, support incident operations, manage public information, coordinate with policy makers and provide resource support. OEMs will coordinate regional, state and federal assistance as required.

Notifications

The Animal Response Plan will be activated in the event of a large-scale emergency or other significant disaster causing a requirement for animal protection, response or recovery. Animal response agencies will be initially notified by either the Incident Commander or PSAP when an incident occurs that may require animal response and/or evacuation. Both lead agencies for animal response will activate and notify personnel according to internal procedures. Notification methods may include phone, cell phone, pager, or radio if necessary.

Communications

Communications between animal response agencies will occur according to standard operating procedures for each agency. If the EOC has been activated, a liaison from the Larimer Humane Society and the Sheriff’s Posse will either report to the EOC or coordinate remotely with the EOC for situational awareness and resource support.

Response

Domestic pets that are loose or in need of assistance due to the emergency or to the death or evacuation of their owners will be the responsibility of the Larimer Humane Society. Livestock loose or in need of assistance due to the emergency or to the death or evacuation of their owners will be coordinated by the Sheriff's Posse and assisted by the Larimer County Horseman's Association and the CSU Cooperative Extension Agents and certified representatives of the Large Animal Rescue. Wild Animals out of their natural habitat that are endangering either themselves or the human population will be the responsibility of licensed wildlife rehabilitators. In the event that animals cannot be rescued due to the emergency situation, food and medical assistance may be delivered to the animals by the appropriate agency when possible.

All emergency response activities will be coordinated through Incident Command for the safety and security of all incident personnel. Agencies will have adequate markings and identification to expedite response and recovery activities.

Sheltering

The owners of pets or livestock, when notified of an emergency should take all reasonable steps to shelter and provide for animals under their control. The Larimer EOC will establish animal evacuation shelter facilities as needed for the event, in coordination with animal response partners.

The Larimer Humane Society facility is the primary location for small animal evacuations. The Humane Society has internal plans and procedures for the sheltering of small animals.

The Ranch Events Complex is the primary shelter location for large animal care and sheltering and an over-flow facility for additional small animal needs. The Sheriff's Posse takes the lead in sheltering large animals and works in coordination with Ranch personnel on use of facilities. The Posse will contact the Ranch Director to coordinate what is available for buildings and stalls, based upon the schedule of events at the Ranch during the time of the incident. Typically, the barns or outdoor pens will be used when available or stalls will be set up in one of the parking lots. The Sheriff's Posse will coordinate with LCOEM for logistical needs, including additional tents, pens, food, or other needs. If there is absolutely no space at the Ranch, then the Posse will reach out to mutual aid partners in surrounding counties.

All animals removed and impounded during a disaster will become part of the shelter population with a shelter record generated for each one. If an animal is to be transferred to a location other than the primary shelter facility, a record will be established to ensure appropriate reunification at the closure of the event.

In the event that established shelters are destroyed or incapable of functioning due to the nature of the emergency situation, private boarding kennels, veterinarian hospitals or stables may be requested to open as boarding and/or medical facilities. In rare cases, during large-scale emergencies, animals may be moved outside Larimer County for care and protection. Temporary shelters may be constructed in the event a shelter is incapacitated due to a disaster.

Medical Care

The animal response agencies will coordinate and may request additional assistance from organizations such as the CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital for domestic animals that cannot be accommodated by the various shelters due to the animals' injuries. Private veterinarian hospitals may serve as alternative medical facilities and medical shelters as space permits.

- Injured Animals : If an animal has a life-threatening, painful, incurable or communicable disease, it may be euthanized immediately. Minor injuries will be treated, i.e. lacerations sutured, fractures splinted- and the animal made as comfortable as possible.
- Wildlife : During periods of rabies epidemic, all raccoons, foxes, and skunks impounded will be euthanized. Other animals will be released or, if needed, will receive first aid and then be transferred to licensed rehabilitators.

Staff Volunteers from the animal response organizations and others will assist in providing the medical care in these medical shelters. Depending on the extent of the emergency situation, volunteers or Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps Teams from around Colorado may be requested to assist in the medical treatment of domestic and nondomestic animals.

Supplies and Services

Prearranged domestic and nondomestic animal food companies, medical suppliers, water suppliers and cleaning product suppliers will be contacted and requested to begin the shipment of supplies to an established delivery point as required for the incident. The delivery point will serve as a storage center and a distribution center for the various shelters and hospitals. If the need arises, resource agencies (e.g. kennel clubs) may be requested to donate cages and other various shelter supplies.

The Larimer Humane Society and Sheriff's Posse shall maintain a list of veterinarians and boarding facilities willing to provide medical care and housing. The Humane Society will maintain a current list of volunteers who are willing to provide assistance at the center or shelter during a disaster. The lead agencies will maintain a list of licensed wildlife rehabilitators who are willing to provide care and housing for injured or orphaned wildlife and shall maintain a list of manufacturers, vendors, etc. to call upon during a disaster to request donations of food, vaccines or equipment.

Resource Management

Animal response and emergency management personnel will determine adequate resources needed to support the event and the safety of the community. If additional resources are required, the animal response agency leads will communicate resource needs to the Larimer EOC. All other agencies will coordinate with the Larimer Humane Society and the Sheriff's Posse to ensure coordinated resource management and decrease duplication of efforts.

Reunification

One critical aspect of any incident occurring involving multiple community members is accountable reunification of families with their pets, service animals or livestock. Patients may be sent to hospitals around the county and the region, families may be separated in the confusion of the event and communications systems may fail due to overload. For these reasons, reunification planning is critical to an effective response and recovery from these events. Larimer Emergency Managers have compiled information regarding the reunification tasks and responsibilities by discipline. Please see the Larimer Reunification Plan for more information.

INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION

Information should be accessible to the general public. This includes people with disabilities, access and functional needs and those with limited English proficiency. The information should be communicated in a variety of forms and methods to ensure it is shared in a clear, consistent, culturally sensitive, and frequent manner. The Public Information Officer should:

- Lead all public information for the event
- Maintain the appropriate flow of information to the media for public dissemination through appropriate channels (i.e., print, radio, television, email, text, social media, message boards in public buildings, etc.)
- Identify alternate methods and formats to communicate in the event traditional methods are insufficient because of utility outages or the communication needs of people with special needs and/or disabilities (i.e. message boards, public address systems, community Hubs, LETA Nixle text messaging)
- Coordinate activities with other Public Information Officers if needed
- Establish a Joint Information Center, if needed, and lead its operations

All supporting agencies and jurisdictions will communicate through the lead PIO to ensure a consistent message to the public.

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

During an emergency or disaster, local governments shall determine, if necessary, what normal administrative procedures shall be suspended, relaxed or made optional in order to prevent unnecessary impediments of emergency operations and recovery activities. Such actions should be carefully considered, and the consequences should be projected realistically.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Larimer County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), in coordination with municipalities, and emergency response agencies, is responsible for development and maintenance of this Plan. All participating agencies will provide resources and personnel to the planning committee if applicable, in addition to keeping agency specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) regarding agency involvement for animal response operations. The evaluation of this plan will be conducted during future exercises and actual events. Revisions and updates to this plan will occur as needed to keep the plan current, at a minimum of every five years. The Larimer County Animal Emergency Response Plan, annexes and appendices, and subsequent revisions, supersede all previous editions and is effective upon signing by the affected jurisdictions.

AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

A. Legal Authorities

- Larimer County adoption of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Larimer County Resolution adopting the National Incident Management System, signed May 3, 2005
- Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 24, Article 33.5, Part 701, Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, as amended
- Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 13, Article 21, Part 113.7, Immunity of volunteer firefighters, incident management teams, and their employers or organizations
- Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 24, Article 32, Part 2504, Temporary housing for disaster victims
- Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 24, Article 33.5, Part 705.3, Statewide all-hazards resource database

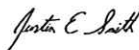



- Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 24, Article 33.5, Part 822, Memorandum of Understanding with volunteer organizations to assist the Sheriff, local government, local emergency planning committee, or state agency in providing services in the event of a disaster
- Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 30, Article 10, Part 516, Sheriff's duty to preserve the peace and command aid
- P.L. 100-707, Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act and Amendments, as amended
- Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act, amending Section 403 of the Stafford Act, authorizing FEMA to provide rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs for individuals with household pets and service animals, and to the household pets and animals themselves following a major disaster or emergency.
- Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD 5), February 2003, Establishing the National Incident Management System

B. References

- Larimer Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
- Larimer Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Creating a Community Animal Disaster Plan Toolkit, CSU Extension <https://extension.colostate.edu/disaster-web-sites/community-animal-disaster-planning-toolkit/>

ANIMAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN APPROVAL SIGNATURES

This Animal Emergency Response Plan has hereby been reviewed and approved by the following agencies and jurisdictions and will be added to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for Larimer County.

 <hr/> Larimer County Sheriff's Office	Nov 7, 2022 <hr/> Date
 <hr/> Larimer Humane Society	8/26/22 <hr/> Date
Susan Kurzweil, President <hr/> Larimer County Horseman's Association	8/10/2022 <hr/> Date
 <hr/> Colorado State University Larimer County Extension	8/31/2022 <hr/> Date
 <hr/> Larimer County Office of Emergency Management	11/11/2022 <hr/> Date

APPENDIX A: ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

EM	Emergency Management
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EAP	Emergency Action Plan
EOP	A jurisdiction's emergency operations plan
ESF	Emergency Support Functions
IC	Incident Command
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
OEM	Office of Emergency Management
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
LC	Larimer County
LCHA	Larimer County Horseman's Association
LCSO	Larimer County Sheriff's Office
POST	Peace Officer Standards and Training
TLAS	Temporary Large Animal Shelter
VOAD	Volunteer Organizations Active in a Disaster