

## Supporting a critical need

The last decade has demonstrated an overwhelming need to create a direct link between our nation's veterinary and animal emergency response resources and local, state and national emergency management systems. Recent Colorado emergencies that required support include:

- 2005: Hurricane Katrina airlift
- 2010: Four Mile Canyon Fire in Boulder
- 2011: Burning Tree Fire in Douglas County

The threats of avian influenza, bioterrorism, catastrophic natural disasters, and emerging diseases necessitate a new era in our ability to address both animal health and public health needs during disasters.



*Evacuated dogs arrive at midnight at Denver International Airport in October of 2005.*

The COVMRC also supports planned events. Recently members have assisted with service animal care at:

- 2008: Democratic National Convention, Denver
- 2010-2011: Canine Search and Rescue Certification, Denver



**Mission:** The Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CO VMRC) program provides veterinary professionals and animal emergency responders with the training and credentialing necessary to support animal health and public health emergency response.



## Program affiliation

The CO VMRC and COVMRC-West are **Medical Reserve Corps Units**, affiliated with **the Office of the Surgeon General and Citizen Corps**. CO VMRC is supported by a broad multi-agency partnership, including:

- CO Department of Agriculture
- CO Veterinary Medical Foundation
- Colorado State University
- CO Veterinary Medical Association
- CO Department of Public Health and Environment
- CO Association of Certified Veterinary Technicians
- CO Division of Emergency Management
- US Department of Agriculture

## Benefits to participants

The Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps will provide substantial benefits to participants, including:

1. Training in:
  - General emergency management and response
  - Animal emergency response
  - Disaster sheltering
  - Veterinary field medicine
  - Animal handling in the field
  - Personal protective equipment
2. Credentialing
3. Networking and collaboration with Community Animal Response Team (CART) programs
4. Regular communications concerning issues and events related to animal and public health emergency issues
5. Opportunities to network with your peers in the CO VMRC and MRC programs across the state



"This is a responsibility we should aspire to!"

*Dr. Anthony P. Knight  
Colorado State University*

## USDA National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps (NAHERC) Affiliation

CO VMRC veterinary professionals will be encouraged to sign up for the USDA NAHERC program. Through NAHERC, veterinarians and technicians can be mobilized to help address an emergency event in our nation and throughout the globe. NAHERC personnel are paid as USDA employees during mobilization.

## Medical Reserve Corps

*The mission of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical and other volunteers.*

When available, CO VMRC members will be encouraged to join their local MRC unit. For more information visit: <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov>

## Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer (CVM)

CO VMRC is also part of the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer program of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. CMV provides MRC Units with an online volunteer database for tracking and communicating with their volunteers. For more information visit: <https://covolunteers.state.co.us/VolunteerMobilizer/>

## Program Contacts

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CO Veterinary Medical Foundation  
Animal Emergency Management Program  
191 Yuma St, Denver, CO 80223

To join the CO VMRC, contact the Unit Coordinator or visit the CO VMRC web page for more information.

[www.coaemp.org/covmrc](http://www.coaemp.org/covmrc)

### CO VMRC Steering Committee:

- Colin Combs, DVM
- Jamie Gaynor, DVM, DACVA, CVA, DAAPM
- Anthony P. Knight, DVM, PhD, Dipl. A.C.V.I.M.
- Lisa Sabichi, DVM
- Nick Striegel, DVM



CO VMRC Member at the Boulder YMCA Shelter in September of 2010.



A program of the  
Colorado Veterinary Medical Foundation



**Protecting animal health  
and public health in  
times of need**

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*Units of the Colorado Medical Reserve Corps - supported by a broad multi-agency partnership*