

No Pets Left Behind!

The Animal Search & Rescue Missions of the 2013 Colorado Floods

11TH ONE MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM
DECEMBER 10 – 11, 2014
RALEIGH, NC



 **National Guard** @USNationalGuard · 20 Sep 2013
#NationalGuard in Colorado adopts 'no pets left behind' motto in flooding evacuations: owl.li/p3aqk @CONG1860

NJ NJ.com

National Guard in Colorado adopts 'no pets left behind' motto in...
By NJ.com @njdotcom

Pledge to ferry pets to safety helped persuade reluctant residents to leave homes.

[View on web](#)

← ↻ 35 ★ 23 ... Expand

DEBRAH SCHNACKENBERG
COO – COLORADO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
DIRECTOR, DISASTER SERVICES, PETAID COLORADO

“The greatest number of Americans
rescued by helicopter since
Hurricane Katrina”

- Lt. Col. Mitch Utterback
Colorado National Guard

<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/video/colorado-floods-crews-rescue-families-animals-20260501>

<http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/flood-rescue-crews-colorado-make-room-pets-20324534>

Remember Hurricane Katrina?

(Actually, who could forget?)



Colorado 2013 Floods

This time. . . No Pets Left Behind

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Colorado Flood Event - 2013

- ▶ Started September 11, 2013
- ▶ Over 11,000 residents evacuated
- ▶ 1,500 homes destroyed
- ▶ 19,000 homes damaged
- ▶ National Guard required to evacuate Lyons and Jamestown, CO
- ▶ 1,750 people and 816 pets airlifted out of these locations.
- ▶ 8 human deaths



Colorado Flood Event - 2013

- ▶ Flooding across almost 200 miles and 17 counties
- ▶ 15 counties receive Federal Disaster Declarations
- ▶ Estimated 600 evacuated animals were sheltered with thousands evacuated
- ▶ Large numbers of non-commercial livestock (horses, goats, etc.) were stranded and unable to evacuate due to mountainous terrain and washed out roads.
- ▶ 2 large animal shelters
- ▶ 6+ small animal shelters
- ▶ Local humane societies provided the bulk of small animal sheltering



Colorado Flood Event - 2013

- ▶ 3 majorly affected Counties had no local CART capabilities or resources
- ▶ To date the disaster has resulted in estimated \$2B+ in overall economic losses.
- ▶ Required a “boots on the ground” response from temporary animal sheltering volunteers, veterinarians and veterinary technicians and a wide range of “animal search and rescue “ resources
- ▶ Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corp provided support for evacuated pets at the National Guard Helicopter landing zone



Animal SAR in the Colorado Floods

“The Players”

- ▶ Those we've become accustomed to seeing in our media
 - ▶ Pet owners who self-evacuate
 - ▶ Local Animal Control Officers doing their jobs
 - ▶ County Animal Response Teams (CARTs)
 - ▶ National Animal Welfare Organizations (i.e. NARSC Members)
- ▶ The new partners in disaster Animal SAR during the 2013 Flood Event
 - ▶ Local County Human Search and Rescue Teams
 - ▶ Local Fire Department Responders
 - ▶ National Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management employees
 - ▶ National Guard/Military

Pet Owners The “First Line” in ASAR



Boulderdailycamera.com

A family evacuates on foot with their dogs near Boulder.



KDVR.com



Humboldtsentinal.com



Estes Park evacuees who would not leave without their animals.

Animal Control “Just doing our jobs”



Longmontnews.com

Longmont Animal Control Officer carries a cat rescued from an evacuated home.



Boulderdailycamera.com

A Boulder County Animal Control Officer, and a Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corp volunteer work to rescue a cat from a destroyed home in Fourmile Canyon.



Summitdaily.com

Larimer County Animal Control assists at the Fort Collins helicopter landing zone.



Boulder animal Control

Boulder ACO at the Boulder airfield

Local Animal Response Teams CARTs & Local Animal NGO's



PetAid Colorado

PetAid Colorado's Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps volunteers conducting Triage at the helicopter landing zones

National Animal Response Teams

NARSC – American Humane Assoc. & Code 3 Associates



Boulderdailycamera.com

An American Humane Association staff member searches for a missing cat in Fourmile Canyon.



Code 3 Associates

Code 3 responders searching for pets in Lyons.

County & Urban Search & Rescue



Boulderdailycamera.com

Summit County SAR carries a dog out
After rescuing 3 people, 5 dogs and
2 cats from a flooded home.



Boulderdailycamera.com

Summit County SAR rescue two dogs near Boulder



vetmed.wisc.edu



huffingtonpost.com

A woman rescued with
Her dog in Glen Haven



cnn.com

Local Fire Department Responders



kdvr.com

Mountain View Fire Rescue evacuating a woman and her family dog and cat



humboltsentinel.com

National Forest Service & Bureau of Land Management



defense.gov



defense.gov



huffingtonpost.com

National Forest Service and BLM members
Help unload evacuees and animals off airlifts.



colostate.edu

Civilians with the National Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management helped hand off Animal kennels from a U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter assigned to the 4th Infantry Division.

Colorado National Guard & Fort Carson Military

“Here is the summation on how [the CONG] part of the response was handled. During the response phase, it was clear that animals were going to become part of this effort. [Lt. Col. Utterback] recognized that since the Katrina disaster, national policy had changed on the ability for military to take pets in rescue aid. **The consideration has clearly been that pets are people too as stated by Utterback.** The decision by Lt Col Utterback as the military liaison to the Incident Management Teams, State of Colorado, and Boulder County was that animals would become part of the rescue efforts in all military assets in a unified agreement across the board.

This said, the Colorado National Guard and Army units were only responsible for the air lift and rescue from the disaster areas. It would only require the use of the military personnel and assets in the air and on the ground. The Boulder county sheriffs office had assigned the [City of Boulder] animal control unit to then coordinate the ground reception and begin the process for the future of pet, owner, and eventual reunification.”

Colorado National Guard & Fort Carson Military



coloradan.com



defense.gov

A CONG Sargent carries an animal to safety during Rescue operations.



Boulderdailycamera.com

CONG Helicopter disbursing evacuees and their pets at the Boulder Municipal Airport



theatlantic.com

Colorado National Guard & Fort Carson Military



Boulder Animal Control

A Boulder City Animal Control officer Unloads a pet from a helicopter at the Boulder airfield.



defense.gov

denverpost.com

A man and his dog are helped off a military helicopter at the Boulder Municipal Airport.



defense.gov



denverpost.com

A flood victim and his pet walk off a military helicopter at the Boulder Municipal Airport.



So, remember Lt. Col. Utterback who said
“This is the greatest number of Americans
rescued by helicopter since Hurricane
Katrina” ?

Two weeks ago, emailing from his current
deployment to Afghanistan he told me. . .

“I am most proud of my role in ensuring the pets came out. More than anything else I've done with disaster response in the Guard, taking care of the pets meant the most to me.

I feel good every time I think about it.

I want everyone to know how important we consider pets and how much the country has learned since Katrina. ”

An animal lover too,
Mitch

LTC Mitch Utterback
SOJTF-A J35 Cell
Camp Integrity, Afghanistan



Debrah Schnackenberg

Director, Disaster Services – PetAid Colorado
COO – Colorado Veterinary Medical Association

303-539-7633

debrahschnackenberg@petaidcolorado.org

