

# Animal Disaster Handling





# Objective

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- Brief overview of COVMRC-West
- Brief overview on what types of animal disasters there can be
- Brief overview on emergency shelter design
- Learning handling techniques that are safe for both the animals and the humans in disaster sheltering



# COVMRC-West Overview

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- **The Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps (CO VMRC) and the Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps- West (COVMRC-W) provide veterinary professionals and animal emergency responders with the training and credentialing necessary to support animal health and public health emergency response.**

# COVMRC-West Overview Cont.

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- How is the unit deployed?
  - 1. By local emergency management to provide veterinary and animal emergency response support during emergency situations.**
  - 2. By the State Veterinarian during an animal health emergency or other state-level incident where veterinary and animal response personnel are needed.**
  - 3. By the Unit Coordinator to support a planned event where service animals are utilized and are in need of care.**



## COVMRC-West Overview Cont.

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- What area does this unit cover?

**The COVMRC-W primarily includes the counties and tribal areas west of the Continental Divide and the San Luis Valley.**



# COVMRC-West Overview Cont.

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- Who can volunteer and how?

- Veterinary professionals

- Shelter, rescue, animal control

- Anyone interested

Volunteers need to complete:

- IS100b and IS700a

- The CO VMRC Intro. Training.

- Information is included in your packet



# What types of Animal Disasters

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- Natural Disasters that involve evacuations can include:
  - Fire
  - Flood
  - Tornado
  - Hurricane
  - Earthquake
  - Tsunami



# What types of Animal Disasters

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- Man Made Criminal

- Animal Fighting

- Puppy Mills

- Animal Hoarding

- “Rescues”

- Man Made Accidents

- Train wrecks, chemical spills

- Animal transport accidents





# Possible Emergency Animal Sheltering Scenarios

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- Sheltering animals from a criminal seizure
- Receiving and sheltering animals from the public who have been evacuated
- Giving pet supplies and providing “daycare” to people who have been evacuated but can keep their pets with them



# Animal Shelter Set Up

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- Dogs & Cats

- Isolation for possible contagious animals

- Medical treatment section

- Bite Quarantine section

- Behavioral sound section

- Fractious section located by the bite quarantines

Keep dogs & cats as far from each other as possible. Separate rooms or buildings.



# Miscellaneous Sheltering Comments

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- As a volunteer stick to your assigned area
- Do not bring your own pets
- Wear appropriate clothing & shoes
- Put up appropriate signage

Public could be coming in and should not see things that might be offensive (Psycho, scary, “Bad Dog Section”, etc)

## CANINES-R-US

### GUEST AND VISITOR RULES

- GATES MUST REMAIN CLOSED.
- NO CANINE OR HUMAN FOOD/BEVERAGES.
- NO DIVING IN THE SPA POOL.
- NO FEEDING OR POOPING IN THE SPA POOL.
- NO SCOOBY TOYS, BELLY BOARDS, SURF BOARD, SWIMMIES OR INNER TUBES ALLOWED
- NO CANINE OR HUMAN SMOKING.
- PLEASE CLEAN THE AREA IF YOU HAVE "USED" IT.
- PROPER SPA ATTIRE IS REQUIRED

\* FAMILIES - WE THANK YOU  
FOR VISITING WITH OUR  
GUESTS! 



# Animal Stress in Disaster Sheltering

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- Animals will be more likely to bite in a disaster shelter
- “My dog would never bite anyone”
- All dogs and cats can bite if pushed over their limit, their bite threshold
- Argentina Dojo bite example



# Bite Threshold in Dogs

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- Bite threshold is the point in which a dog or cat will bite
- Some dogs can reach this point with one factor and some can reach this point when you combine several factors
- All dogs have different thresholds

## Bite Threshold in Dogs Cont.

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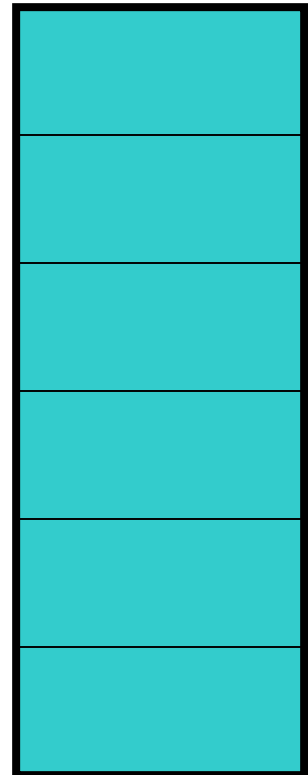
- For some dogs, just being in a disaster shelter environment can be their threshold
- Others are closer to their bite threshold by the stress of shelter environment, but will not bite till other factors are presented.
- Think of bite threshold as a ladder

# Bite Threshold Ladder

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Resource Guarder-Rung #6  
Never been on a leash-Rung #5  
Fearful of new people-Rung #4  
Never been in a crate-Rung #3  
Shelter Environment-Rung #2  
Situation, Evacuation/Seizure-  
Rung #1

\*Some can handle all six situations and never bite, while some can bite from the first rung on up







# Dog Handling-General Population

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- Do not leave collars on dogs
- Only use slip leads
- Do not lean over the top of the crate
- Do not open the door of the crate all the way
- Move slowly but with confidence
- If you do not feel comfortable with a dog, walk away
- Do not repeatedly throw the leash to try to “lasso” the dog



# Dog Handling-General Population

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- Allow the dog to approach you.
- Pet gently under the chin, then bring out the leash
- Tell the dog to sit (if the dog knows this word, it will give him confidence in you)
- Pay attention to your surroundings (loose dogs, etc.)
- Pay attention at all times to the dog you have on a leash
- When the dog is returned to the kennel, removed the leash from under the dogs chin



# Dog Handling-General Population

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- If a dog's behavior is deteriorating move to the fractious section
- Dogs do whatever behavior works to get what they want. If a bite works to get you away from them, or to prevent an unwanted leash around their neck, they will remember this and be quicker to bite in the future. Our job is to prevent this from happening.



# Dog Handling-General Population

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- Do not allow a dog to approach another dogs kennel
- Do not allow excessive sniffing on you
- Just because a dog was great the last time you took him out, does not mean he will be the next time
- Resource guarding



# Fun Dogs

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- Also called naughty (in the south), fractious, aggressive, or bite quarantines
- Separate section with assigned volunteers
- Most bites in disaster sheltering DO NOT occur in this section
- Always two people when removing or returning a dog to it's crate



# Fun Dogs Continued

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- Most of these dogs are more likely to bite when removing or returning to a kennel
- They can be growling, showing teeth, snapping at the lead and charging the kennel
- If a certain dog makes you really uncomfortable, be the bigger person and let someone else handle that dog



# Loose Dog in Shelter

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- First whistle or point to any exits
- Do not run or chase the dog
- Try sitting down to see if it comes to you
- Do not grab the dog with your hands
- Do not corner the dog
- Calmly slip a lead on the dog



# Panic Attacks-Alligator Rolls

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- Pay close attention to how tight the lead is, loosen up slightly so the dog does not choke out, but not enough that the dog can get loose
- Do not try to move the dog, stay in the same spot till it calms down
- If the dog is not calming down have someone bring the dogs crate to the dog



# Manny's Rule





# Manny's Rule

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- No matter the situation do not jump in to help another volunteer with a dog unless you are asked to do so
- If a dog is having a panic attack, especially, adding another person will make the dog more upset
- If you feel you know more, or could do better, this is not the time or place to step in unless you are asked

# Emotions

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- Do not get attached to the animals
- This is not the time to judge how others are caring for their animals
- Don't take out your stress on other volunteers
- Do not pick favorites









# Demonstrations & Practice

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- Double Leash System
- Proper removal of slip lead
- Catch Poles/Snappy Snares
- Quick Muzzling
- Quick Head Halters
- Crate Tipping
- Difficult to get in kennel
- Panic attacks
- Cable leads
- Removing and returning dog to kennel
- Defensive handling



# Char's Contact Information

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- Colorado Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps website:

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

Char Quinn

[humane@vail.net](mailto:humane@vail.net)

970-280-5738



# Other Disaster Organizations

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- Local CART Team in your county

American Humane Red Star Team

[www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org)

ASPCA

[www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org)