Jeffco Horse Evacuation Assistance Team

Founded in 2002 and based in Conifer, Colorado, Jefferson County Horse Evacuation Assistance Team (Jeffco HEAT) is a 100% volunteer organization dedicated to the rescue of large animals from wildland fires, and natural disasters, as well as impounds and animal cruelty cases. Under the direction of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Division (or other County law enforcement), Jeffco HEAT has assisted in the rescue of more than 2,500 animals and has been on the scene of many of the front range's major wildland fires (i.e. Hayman, Lower North Fork, Black Forest, Lime Gulch) as well as the 100-year flood that occurred in the fall of 2013. Since its inception, Jeffco HEAT has responded to incidents across Jefferson, Elbert, El Paso, Park, Gilpin, and Clear Creek Counties and has aided multiple fire departments including West Metro, Evergreen, Elk Creek, Indian Hills, and Inter Canyon.

Emergency Information and Evacuation Tips

In an emergency you are primarily responsible for evacuating your own animals. However, if you are unable to remove your animals contact Jefferson County Animal Control at 303-271-5070 or 911 and ask for help; this is how Jeffco HEAT is mobilized.

I. Teach your animals to load into trailers and have others practice loading them.

2. Have halters and lead ropes in plain view.

3. Be ready to provide Animal Control with a concise description of your animals and any special needs (i.e. medicines and their location).

4. Be ready to provide Animal Control with a good description of your property (i.e. turn around area for trailers).

5. Be sure to keep animal ownership documents as well as photos of you with your animals in a safe place (i.e. safe deposit box) so that you can retrieve them in an emergency. This helps to quickly reunite you with your animals after an evacuation.

6. DO NOT turn your animals loose in an unfenced area! This is extremely hazardous to your animals and emergency re-sponders.

7. Your animals are generally evacuated to the County Fairgrounds where they receive 24hr care for the duration of the incident/evacuation.