

# ANIMAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY (ADPRR)

Zoe Tai & Marta Shenker,  
CSU DVM 2027,  
CSU Extension Intern 2024

Dr. Ragan Adams, CSU Extension  
Specialist  
Dr. Kathy Whitman, CSU Extension  
Specialist  
Dan Frazen, CDA Agriculture  
Emergency Coordinator

## PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Animal Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (ADPRR), gained attention after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In response to the reluctance of people leaving their pets behind during evacuation orders, the PETS Act was enacted in 2006 to emphasize the connection between animal welfare and human well-being, highlighting the increasing importance of ADPRR in natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 1. Photo credit: Gentle Barn

The ADPRR initiative plays a crucial role in preserving human lives by addressing the emotional bond between individuals and their animals during disasters. This helps mitigate the risks associated with individuals risking their lives to protect their animals during emergency evacuations.

## INTERNSHIP GOALS

1. Understand how the Incident Command System functions and how local, state and federal stakeholders are integrated in emergency management
2. Understand the particular risks of animal owners and how to prepare for these risks
3. Work with Emergency Managers to increase community preparedness and hasten recovery post incident by building a resource map

## APPLICATIONS

This internship has been invaluable experience for DVM candidates. Knowing animal disaster response and preparedness is crucial for veterinarians as it enhances our ability to provide critical care during emergencies, ensuring animal welfare and alleviating suffering. It allows vets to collaborate on effective emergency plans for their local communities. This knowledge also supports public health by managing zoonotic disease risks and facilitates collaboration with emergency services for coordinated responses.

## WHAT YOU DID



Figure 2. Burn scar left from the 2020 East Troublesome in Granby, CO. This was the second largest fire in CO history burning 193,892 acres.<sup>3</sup>

### Attended Tabletop Exercises and Conferences for Animal Disaster Preparedness and Response

We created a PowerPoint presentation for a tabletop exercise in Cortez, CO, collaborating with various stakeholders (Fig. 3). We also learned about the East Troublesome Fire (Fig. 2) challenges and mitigation efforts at a conference in Granby, CO.



Figure 3. Slide from presentation for tabletop exercise in Cortez, CO.

### Created an emergency plan for Resurrecting Hearts Horsemanship

After visiting their property in Loveland, we created an emergency plan for Resurrecting Hearts Horsemanship. The plan aims to make emergency preparedness and evacuation more efficient for owners and volunteers.

### Built a Database and Interactive Map of CO Emergency Animal Response Resources

We developed an interactive map for the Colorado Department of Agriculture website, which provides comprehensive information on resources available to animal owners and producers during disasters in Colorado. This tool empowers those involved in ESF11 to effectively coordinate response efforts by utilizing county-specific resources.

## WHAT YOU LEARNED

We gained an understanding of Animal Disaster Preparedness and Response. We learned about the importance of meticulous planning, coordination, and collaboration among various stakeholders. Our experience also highlighted the complexities of large-scale animal evacuations and the need for tailored emergency plans and efficient evacuation strategies to protect both animals and humans during disasters.

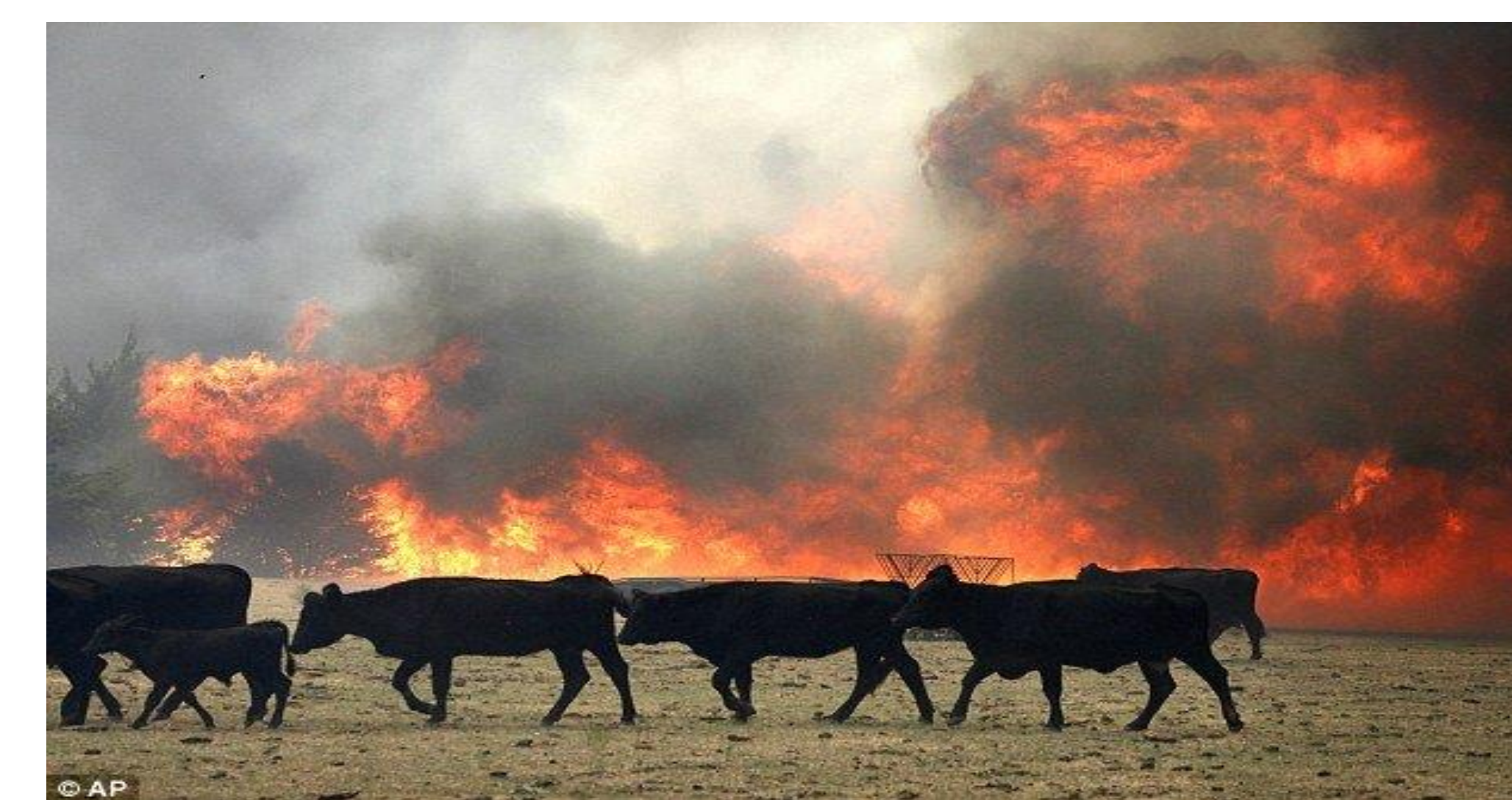
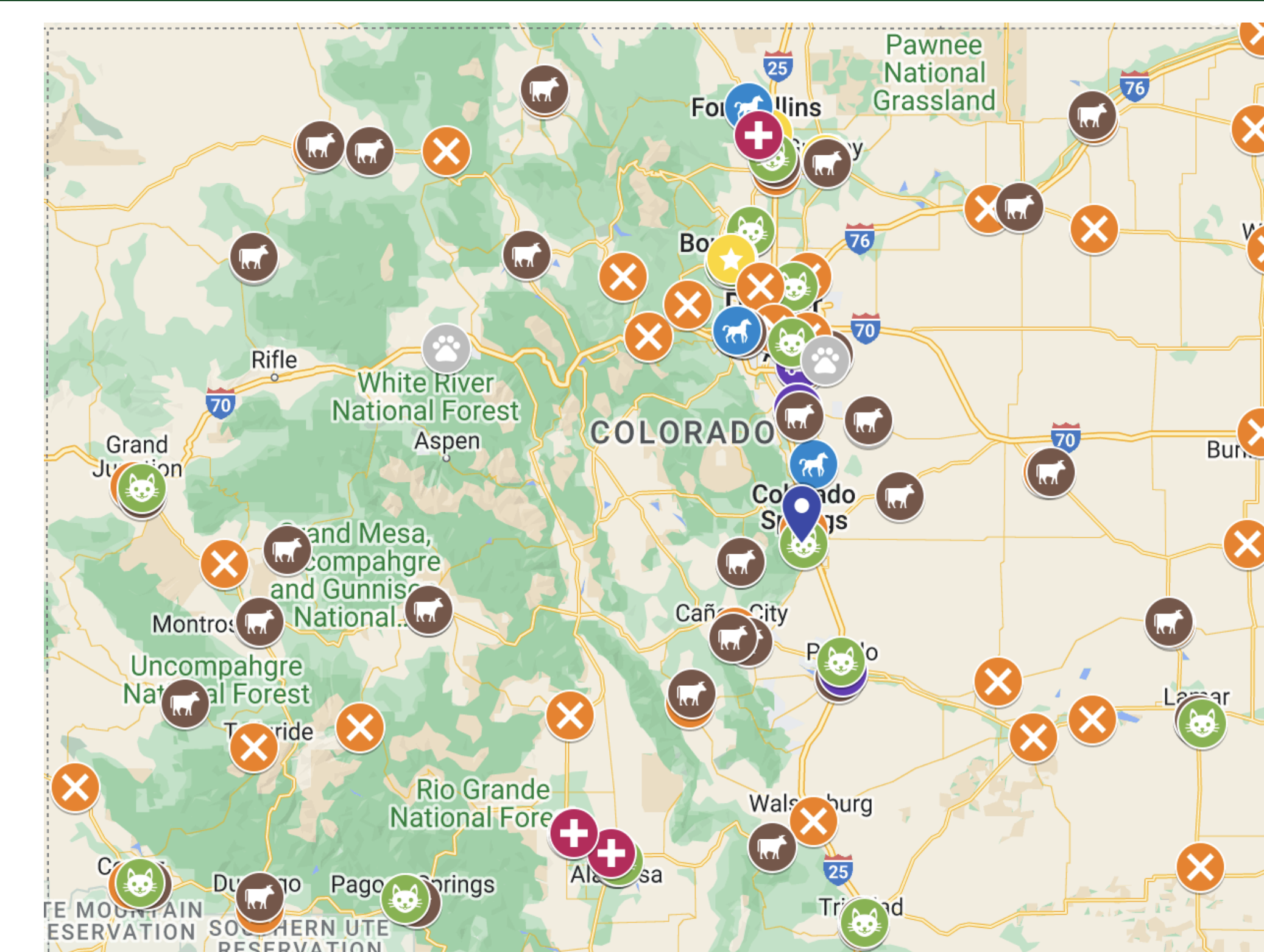


Figure 4. Photo credit: The Yellow Dog Brand. Livestock evacuation.

## EMERGENCY AND DISASTER RESPONSE RESOURCE MAP



## NEXT STEPS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project is ongoing, and our next steps involve updating information by following up with emergency managers. We want to express our gratitude to all the local emergency managers, sheriff's posse, fairgrounds, CART teams, and local and state agencies for their collaboration in this project.

- References:**
1. Service animals and household pets (2023). Service Animals and Household Pets | FEMA.gov
  2. Pet disaster preparedness (2024). The Humane Society of the United States.
  3. Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests Pawnee National Grassland (2020). Forest Service National Website.