



## **MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO**

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER**

March 1, 2010

Pets are an important part of our family lives. Have you thought about how to care for your pet in case of an emergency?

When you prepare an emergency supply kit, make sure you provide supplies for your pets. Include such things as an unbreakable dish, any medications and instructions for their use, a leash or pet carrier, and copies of important veterinary records. Have a supply of bottled water on hand ample for your needs as well as theirs.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we were treated to scenes of lost pets being rescued by veterinary volunteers, only to end up being adopted out because there was no way to trace their owners. Make sure that your pet's ID tag is up to date. You can also consider having an ID microchip implanted in your pet; your veterinarian can advise you how this is done.

Here in Montezuma County we have a number of designated emergency shelters; however, none have the facilities to house pets. Until we identify a shelter which CAN do this, consider what you will do if you are evacuated. Make arrangements with a friend or neighbor who can care for your pet until you return home. If you need to leave your pet, make sure they have enough food and water to sustain them for at least 48 hours; after that, you will need to arrange to check on them until they can be removed or you can return home.

Pets suffer stress from the same situations as people, so in case of an emergency, watch for signs of stress in your animals. Consult with your veterinarian about how stress may affect your pet and what steps you can do to help them.

Research shows that pets aid people in coping with many stressful and difficult situations, be they medical problems or emergencies; take the necessary steps to help *them* cope with an emergency, because in the aftermath, they will help *you* to recover!

Be Prepared!

***Doug***