



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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April 10, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

It is great pleasure to be asked to write a letter of nomination for the Summit County Animal Control for Animal Control Office of the year. I strongly recommend you consider the Summit County Animal Control for this award.

I have worked with the professional staff of the Summit County Animal Control for 25 years and believe there is no finer managed and community involved office in the State of Colorado. The staff has a high public image and community support because of their caring and innovative public programs. They are supported by a strong community volunteer effort which they embrace and foster.

The Summit County Animal Control has taken a proactive and aggressive approach to emergency preparedness and response. The staff has developed emergency planning and response procedures for community and shelter based emergencies. The staff has taken the initiative to train in animal rescue and has undergone the extreme requirements to obtain Federal Wildfire certification program so they can respond for animal evacuation and rescue needs during a wildfire. The staff has built and equipped an animal response trailer and has taken the initiative to train and coordinate with regional animal control shelters.

The Summit County Animal Control has taken the lead in updating and incorporating the requirements under Emergency Support Function 6 and 11 pertaining to companion animals in shelters and the "Pets Act" signed by President Bush. The staff has written emergency response plans and trained their staff to responds to these new challenges. The staff has participated in shelter evaluations with the American Red Cross and has responded during all hours of the day or night to protect animals and provide for companion animal needs.

Joel Cochran
Emergency Manager