



Dear Members of the House Agriculture, Water and Natural Resources committee,

I am writing to ask for your **support of House Bill 24-1033** - Emergency Management Plans for Individuals with Animals today in committee. This bill will help keep pets and their people safe and together in times of emergency.

A recent survey found that 82% of Colorado pet owners consider their pets a family member. Yet when it comes to including pets in emergency evacuations, many Colorado families are left with few options. HB 1033 asks local governments to create co-sheltering opportunities for pets in their next emergency management plan. This will help Colorado pet owners better plan for disasters, knowing that they have a safe and reliable place to go with their pets.

As we say in the animal welfare world, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of fur.” HB 1033 will allow emergency managers, first responders, pet owners and the community to better prepare to accommodate pets in times of emergency or disaster, helping to prevent the stress and trauma of leaving a pet behind and allowing for a more efficient and effective emergency response.

HB 1033 will help keep pets and their people safe and together when disaster strikes. That is why I am asking for your support. Please reach out with any questions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ali Mickelson

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Pronouns: she/her