

Veterinary Emergency Preparedness in Colorado



Coalition Workshop | Jan 30 2024
Regional Business Continuity & Emergency
Planning

Veterinary Disaster Support on the Front Range - 2024

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Follow along:

- [Speaker Slideset](#)
- [Resources Page](#)



2024 Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Services

- **Veterinary Medical Input** during planning for emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
- **A trained, coordinated force** of licensed professional veterinary and animal-lover volunteers.
- **Distributed Medical Supply Cache:** a distributed network of cache sites to provide or re-provision veterinary medical equipment & supplies.
- **Working Animal Care:** support of working animal teams during training & deployment.



Veterinary Input for Preparedness & Response Planning

- Tabletop and Full-scale Exercises, Safety & Preparedness Fairs
- North Central Region (NCR) Mass Care Animal Emergency Subcommittee
- Marshall Fire Survey Working Group
- Conferences & Professional Development
 - CO Assoc. of Certified Veterinary Technicians (CACVT)
 - Volunteer Capacity Building Workshop (VCBW)
 - Access & Functional Needs (AFN)
 - Public Health in the Rockies (PHiR)
- Red Cross Mass Care - CO/WY Chapter Pet Champions



A Trained & Coordinated Volunteer Force

We've got a spot for you!

General Volunteer

- These are NO-animal contact volunteer roles.
- Participate in training events, community outreach, and team gatherings.
- Receive team updates & Colorado disaster news.
- Provide support to teammates with logistics, planning & coordination during training exercises & disaster response.

Boots-on-Ground Members

- These are animal-contact roles.
- Receive additional training & insurance for roles within an active disaster area.
- Be assigned to an active response team.
- Be qualified to deploy into active disaster zones to support federal & local government response groups & other volunteer organizations.

Volunteer Onboarding

Start today to be prepared when a disaster occurs.

It typically takes a new volunteer about 3 months to onboard with our team.

Volunteer Interest Form - Start [HERE!](#)



Get Started Today | General Volunteer

1. Submit an Interest Form



2. Complete Core Competency Training, Part 1



3. Complete an application & interview



4. Attend an MRC Orientation session



5. Pay a \$25 fee

Duty of Care for Animal-Care Volunteers

Veterinary Mental Health Crisis & Workforce Shortage

The veterinary medical industry is experiencing a mental health crisis that threatens the capacity and resiliency of the volunteer veterinary force on the Front Range.

- 1 in 6 veterinarians consider suicide & are roughly 2x more likely to die by suicide than the general population. (1)
- Veterinary technicians are at even higher risk of suicide. (2)
- Roughly 40% of veterinary professionals consider leaving their profession entirely.(3)

- [American Veterinary Medical Association. JAVMA News 2015](#)
- [AVMA Publications. Special Report 2019](#)
- [American Veterinary Medical Association. JAVMA News 2021](#)



[DVM 360 Veterinary Practice News](#)

A veterinarian shortage could cost 75 million pets their access to care by 2030 October 1, 2020.

[Veterinary Medical Association Executives](#) | Summary and Impact of the Mars Veterinary Workforce Study

“To create A BETTER WORLD FOR PETS, we know we need to help make a better world for the people who care for them – and the entire profession, too.”

[Mars Veterinary Health](#) | Tackling the Veterinary Professional Shortage

- The number of pet-owning U.S. households is increasing 1.5% annually; the demand for pet health services is increasing 6.1% annually.
- More than 12,500 companion animal veterinarians are expected to retire by 2030.
- The veterinary workforce shortfall may be as high as 18% by 2030 - it would take more than 30 years of graduates to meet the 10-year need for credentialed veterinary technicians.
- More than 400 open, funded faculty positions exist in academic veterinary medicine in the U.S.

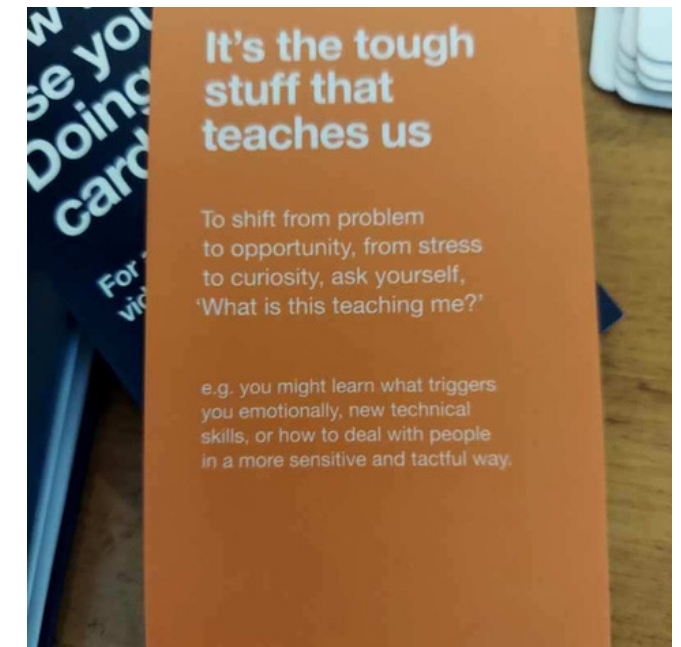


First Fridays - Core Curriculum Resiliency Training

- Annual Resiliency Building | Mental Health Resiliency Curriculum
- Monthly | First Friday Teambuilding
- **In-Person & Virtual** community-building for geographically-dispersed teams
- Facilitated by embedded **Veterinary** Social Worker
- Open to the wider veterinary community with international support (Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Canada)



Find a gift in your bag!!



Embedded Mental Health Support

- Relationship-focused, emotionally-ergonomic, embedded support
 - **Veterinary** social worker
 - Pre- & post-deployment mental health support
 - In collaboration with volunteers' employer / family-unit
-
- Mental Health Resiliency Curriculum for Medical Professionals
(**looking for pilot sites**)
-
- Referral plan & transfer of care
 - Referrals within established relationships
 - Trauma-informed, familiar with care of first-responders
 - Veterinary / animal-care industry-knowledgable



Coalition of Animal-Supportive Businesses (CASB)

- A **coalition is a social alliance** in which individuals and organizations come together to achieve a common goal.
- The CASB facilitates collaboration and cooperation among animal-supportive businesses throughout Colorado in support of animal care in disaster preparedness & response.



Find a gift in your bag!!



Coalition of Animal-Supportive Businesses (CASB)

- **Disperse the impact** of the disaster away from affected areas.
- Allow communities unaffected by disaster to contribute to affected colleagues & animals.
- No stored inventory - solutions for temperature-sensitive, short shelf-life medical supplies.
 - NO prescriptions... for now.
 - NO controlled substances... for now.
- Patient referral plan & escalation of care.
- **Donation management** - important on the Front Range!
- Hubs for community outreach, engagement & education.

FEMA [Region 8 Continuity Needs Assessment](#)



Research & Data Collection in Animal-Related Disasters

Published Articles:

- Irvine L, Andre C. [Pet Loss in an Urban Firestorm: Grief and Hope after Colorado's Marshall Fire](#). Animals. 2023; 13(3):416
- Irvine, L., & Andre, C. (2022). [Tracking the Effects of the Marshall Fire on Pets and People](#). Natural Hazards Center Quick Response Grant Report Series, 347. Boulder, CO: Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder.

Speaking Engagements:

- Mar 2022 | CSU Student Chapter, Assoc. of Shelter Veterinarians, Ft Collins, CO
- Jul 2022 | Natural Hazards Center, Roundtable: Humans, Animals, & Climate Change, Boulder, CO
- Apr 2023 | Volunteer Capacity Building Workshop, Building Resiliency in Animal-Care Volunteers, Denver, CO
- May 2024 | Human-Animal Interactions in Wildfires, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- May 2024 | Leveraging Animal Wellbeing for Planetary Health, Denver, CO

Cited in:

- Paul NK, Cosh SM, Lykins AD. ['All we found were bones': Veterinary workers' distress and trauma after Australia's Black Summer bushfires](#). Vet Rec. 2024;194(2):e3614.

In Progress:

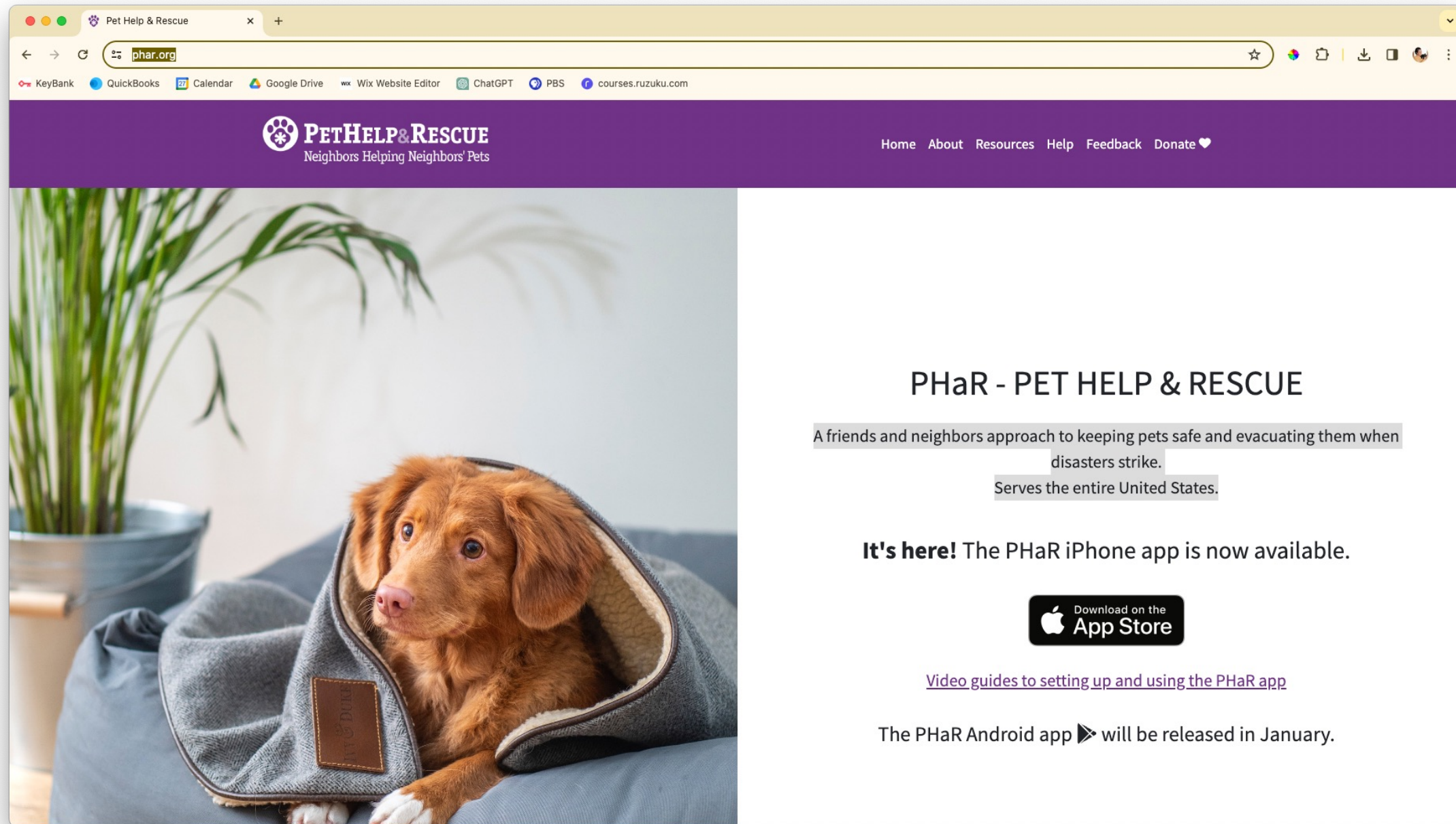
- Marshall Fire Embedded Mental Health Support to Animal-Care Professionals



Upcoming Community & Professional Development

- 2024 Workshops | Emergency Plan Design & Business Continuity Strategy
 - February - Tabletop
 - talk-through
 - March - Tabletop
 - walk-through
 - April - ACP BIA/Continuity Planning
 - grow
 - May - Mini Exercise
 - try to break it !!
 - June - Tabletop
 - talk-through
- 2024 Conferences
 - Human-Animal Interactions in Wildfires, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
 - Leveraging Animal Wellbeing for Planetary Health, Denver, Colorado, USA
- Naloxone volunteer training with continuing education, bulk-fund standing orders
- Mental Health Resiliency Curriculum - **recruiting for pilot sites**





A friends and neighbors approach to keeping pets safe & evacuating them when disasters strike.

www.phar.org

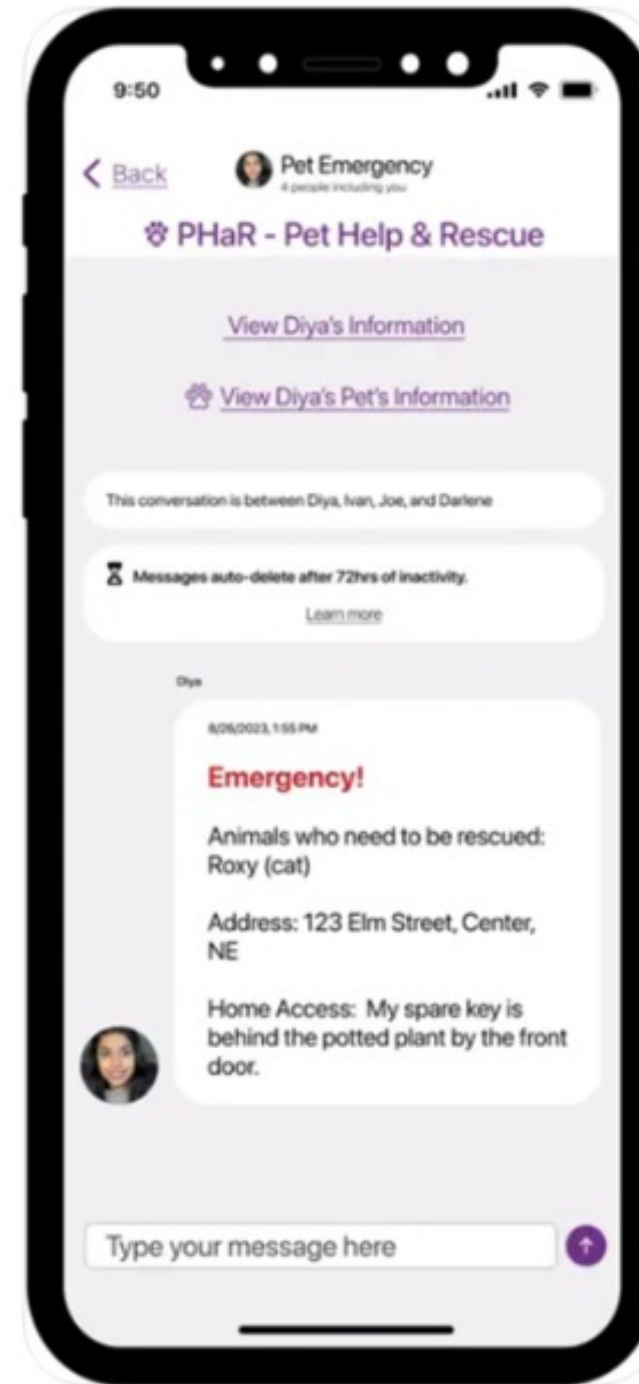
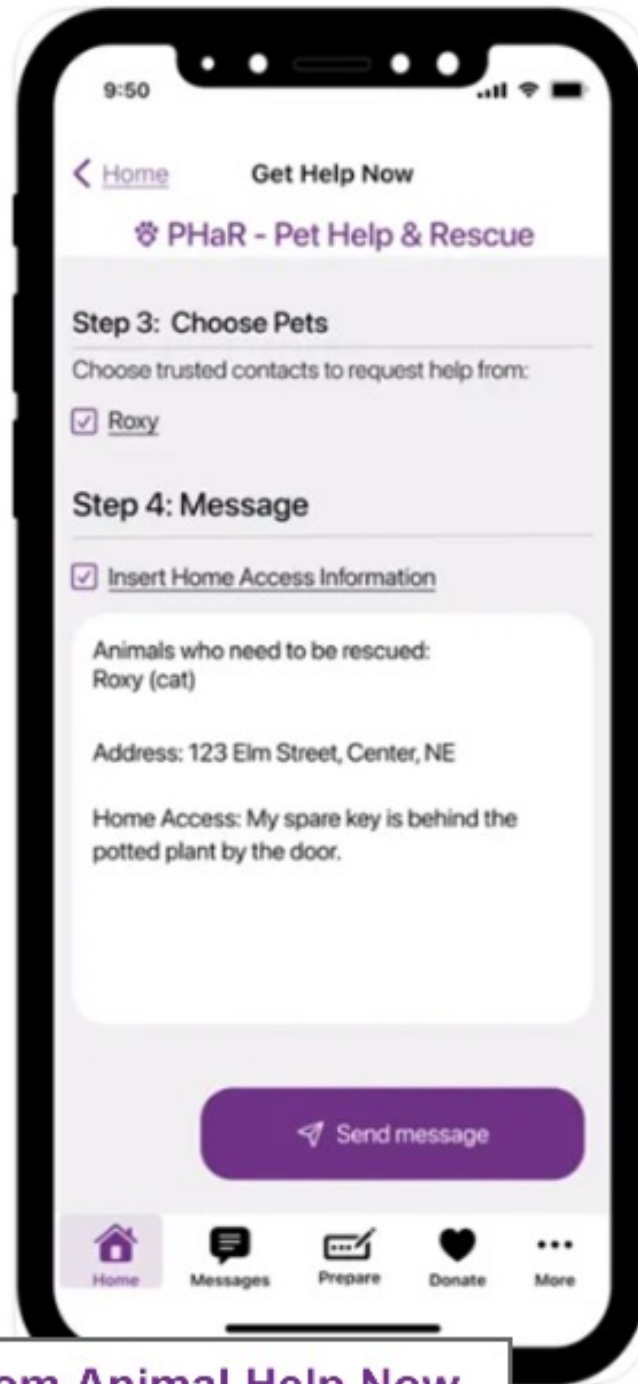
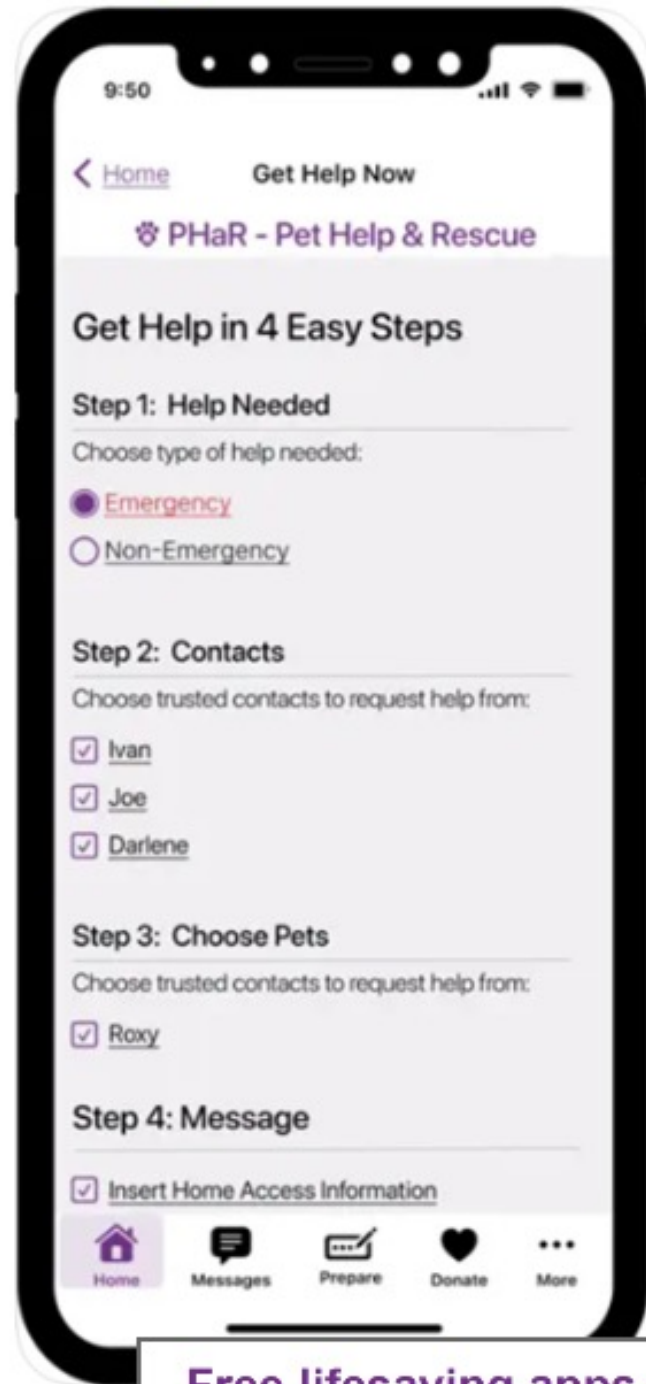
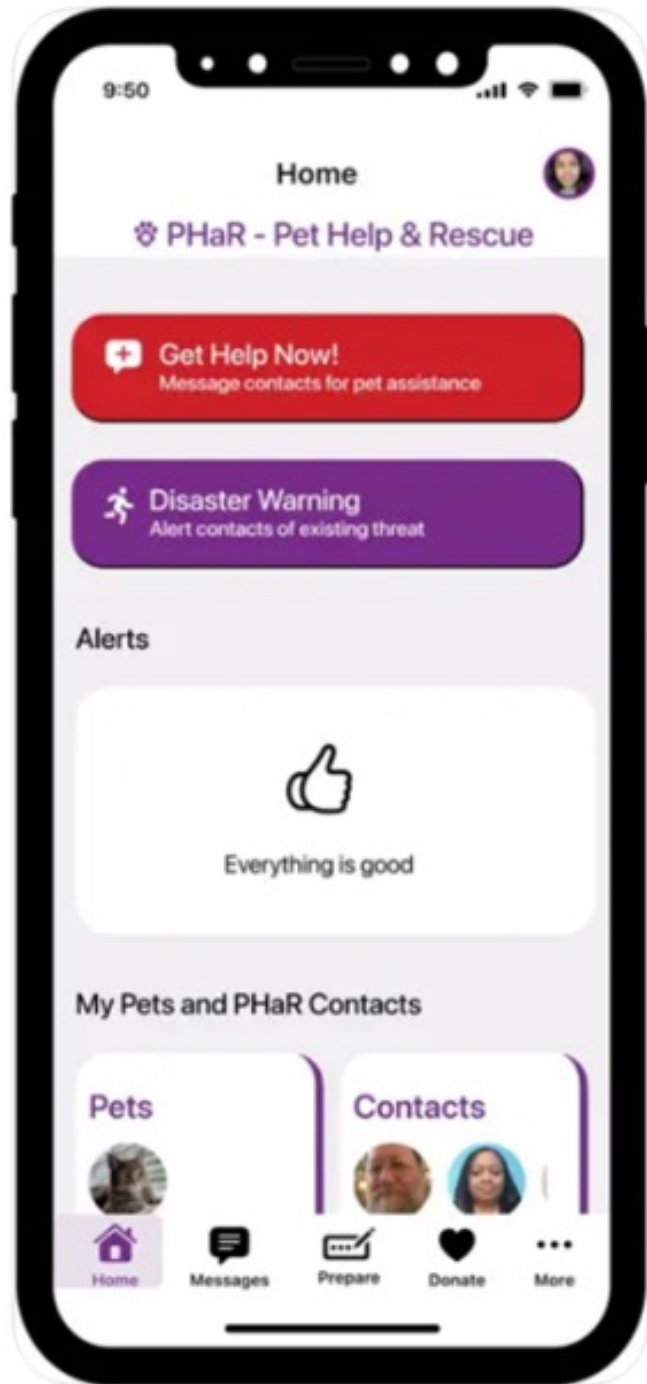
Serves the entire United States.



Pet Help & Rescue is a free app designed to help nearby neighbors evacuate imperiled companion animals when disasters strike.



PETHelp&RESCUE



A friends and neighbors approach to keeping pets safe & evacuating them when disasters strike.

Serves the entire United States.



www.phar.org

Free lifesaving apps from Animal Help Now

