

Title: Administrative Policy Prairie Dog Relocation into Jefferson County	Policy No. Part 3 Regulations, Chapter 5 Animals, Section 3
	Effective Date April 30, 2019
Policy Custodian Board of County Commissioners	Adoption/Revision Date April 30, 2019

Adopting Resolution(s): CC19-151

References (Statutes/Resos/Policies): C.R.S §35-7-203; CC18-268

Purpose: To establish criteria for the relocation of prairie dogs into Jefferson County.

Policy: Prairie Dog Relocation into Jefferson County

A. Introduction

1. The release of prairie dogs that have been relocated into the county requires a prior Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approving the release. C.R.S. §35-7-203.
2. Prairie dogs are present on many properties in the county including several Jeffco Open Space Parks. The county has very few remaining sites suitable for prairie dog relocation.
3. Relocations of prairie dogs from outside the county require staff to expend county funds to review relocation requests. Fees offset the burden to county taxpayers for providing those services.

B. Criteria for Prairie Dog Relocation and Release into the County

1. In addition to such other conditions the BCC determines are appropriate, BCC approval is subject to the following requirements.
 - a. Prairie dog relocation is necessary because the current site is over carrying capacity and denuded of vegetation.
 - b. Adjacent property is adversely affected because the current site exceeds carrying capacity.
 - c. The proposed new site is suitable prairie dog habitat and has ample carrying capacity for additional animals.
 - d. The relocation has been approved by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and the owner of the new site.
 - e. The relocation is in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

- f. The relocation and release of prairie dogs into the county complies with C.R.S. §35-7-203.
- g. The requesting party has demonstrated that all relocation options outside of Jefferson County have been exhausted.

C. Relocation of Prairie Dogs to Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge)

1. In lieu of the procedures set forth in C.R.S §35-7-203, the County shall serve as a referral agency for requests to relocate prairie dogs to the Refuge from outside the County. As a referral agency the County will be provided the opportunity to comment on requests to relocate prairie dogs to the Refuge from outside the County before a request has been approved by the Refuge.
2. The BCC authorizes county staff to review and provide comments to the Refuge for requests to relocate prairie dogs from outside the county to the Refuge.
3. The County and the Refuge concur that requests to relocate prairie dogs to the Refuge from within the County shall have priority over requests to relocate prairie dogs to the Refuge from outside the County.

D. Authorization

1. The BCC authorizes county staff to review and make recommendation to the BCC for requests to relocate prairie dogs from outside the county.
2. The BCC authorizes the Parks Director to establish and collect fees for review of requests to relocate prairie dogs from outside the county.
3. The BCC authorizes county staff to develop the process to review relocation requests such as, by the way of example only, timelines and submission requirements.