

Relocation Plan and Methodology - Armory to Damyonovich Final Phase

The following summarizes the plans for attempted capture of the final estimated two animals that remain at the Armory site to move them from the Armory site in North Boulder to the Damyonovich open space colony south of Boulder. Modification may be necessary in response to weather, numbers of prairie dogs present, behavior of the prairie dogs on the receiving site, and other potential factors.

Sending Site (Armory)

An estimated that 1-2 prairie dogs remain on site. However, there is a possibility that additional animals remain. Only one prairie dog has been identified on site over the last seven days.

Flushing technique to capture remaining prairie dogs

This method is used if and when the prairie dogs become trap-shy, sites are difficult to trap, on small sites or to implement a double-action approach. On some sites, the flush method is not typically employed until the end of the trapping period. This second method allows relocators to use an additional non-lethal management tool and ensures the best effort to remove the most number of animals. Flushing is being used as a tool used to supplement the main technique of trapping and its success is variable and unpredictable.

Flushing will be used if temperatures are generally above freezing at night and weather is favorable.

The Flush technique uses soapy foam pushed by water down a burrow, causing the prairie dog to head towards the surface of the burrow. The prairie dog is immediately hand captured and towel dried. The prairie dog will then be placed into a pet carrier with hay or towels. Each carrier is documented with location, coterie, age, and sex information.

Prior to being placed in the carrier, prairie dogs are sprayed with an insecticidal spray, as required by state permitting

If any captured animal is injured, it will be transported to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or veterinarian.

Transport guidelines

Captured prairie dogs will be transported in covered vehicles to the release site. Animals are transported in either the trap they were captured, or a pet porter. Prairie dogs must be kept as calm as possible. This is done by:

- Working quietly and in soft voices.
- Minimize handling of the animals.
 - Covering traps or carriers with sheets or towels to minimize human visualization/disturbance.
 - Keep animals cool, under shade and/or covered with a towel, while allowing for ventilation.

- Transport them by driving slowly and carefully.

Receiving Site (Damyonovich)

Release of Armory prairie dogs

Captured prairie dogs will be released into natural or artificial burrows used for release of animals in earlier phases of the relocation. Previous information collected will be used to ensure individuals are released into burrows where their coterie (family group) members were released.

Food will be provided for the prairie dogs upon release, but additional supplemental feeding is not anticipated as the food resources on site are good, coterie members are already established on the site, and prairie dogs will not be contained using pens or caps at this point in the relocation.