

Welcome to **EmergencyPetMatcher!**

By checking the box below you indicate that you have read, understood, and agreed to the following:

EmergencyPetMatcher (**EPM**) is a tool developed and supported by the Project EPIC (Empowering the Public with Information in Crisis) research team at the University of Colorado Boulder. This research project is led by Leysia Palen (Professor of the Department of Computer Science, 430 UCB, palen@cs.colorado.edu).

Project Description: This project studies how people collect and share information about displaced pets in disaster events. Your use of EPM will make you a participant in this research study.

Procedures: Researchers are interested in understanding your interaction with EPM and evaluating EPM's effectiveness in helping lost pets reunite with their families after a disaster. We will be able to see your interaction with the system in the form of data logs which we will examine after the fact and in collection with all the other users of the system. The data logs will indicate what pet reports users create, what pet matches users make, votes on matches, and following of and messaging to other users. Private data including contact information (email address, date of birth), as well as personal messages between yourself and other users, will always be kept private and secure within our servers. They will not be exposed to others.

In addition, with your permission, researchers may contact you via email to inquire if you would be willing to participate in a questionnaire or interview about EPM. In all cases, when analyzing and reporting data gathered about your use of EPM, personal information will be removed.

Risks: There are no foreseeable risks in using EPM. Please be aware the system is public to the outside world: the pet reports, pet matches, votes, and following activities you engage in are visible to everyone. Treat this content as you would treat content in other social networking sites you engage in, like Facebook or Twitter.

Benefits: There are no direct benefits to you by taking part in EmergencyPetMatcher, except that we hope that your work will reunite pets with their owners.

Privacy: You have the right to withdraw consent or stop participating at any time. If you do, you will no longer be able to use EPM. We will maintain the privacy of your data and not share it with anyone outside this research group. Your data will be kept secure. In any research reported we will use a pseudonym instead of your real name or EPM account name. Choosing not to participate or withdrawing from participation involves no penalty or loss of other benefits to which a subject may be otherwise entitled.

Questions: If you have questions about this study, you may contact the EPM researchers at emergencypetmatcher-support@googlegroups.com before indicating your consent. If you have questions regarding your rights as a participant, any concerns about this project, or any dissatisfaction with any aspect of this study, you may report them – confidentially, if you wish – to the Institutional Review Board, 3100 Marine Street, Rm A15, 563 UCB, ph (303) 735-3702.

Following your agreement below, we take your ongoing use of the system to indicate your ongoing consent.

[☐] I have read this consent form. I know the possible risks and benefits of using EPM and I choose to be in this study. I know that being in this study is voluntary. I know that I can withdraw at any time.