

## **AVMA Situation Report – Southern California Wildfires**

Date: 11/04/03

Location: Southern California

### **Report**

The VMAT have not been activated at this time.

*For information on how you can help support VMAT and animal disaster preparedness, please visit [www.avmf.org](http://www.avmf.org).*

*For information on how you can prepare for disasters visit [www.avma.org/disaster](http://www.avma.org/disaster).*

*For the latest information about the fire visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/>*

### **Humane Society of the United States Update**

Date/Time: Monday, 11/03/2003 12:00 p.m.

Filed By: HSUS Headquarters

#### *San Diego County*

As fires are being contained, the HSUS Team members have returned home or have been redeployed to San Bernardino County.

Department of Animal Services is urging the public to bring animals that they have found to several public facilities to allow owners to find their lost animals. The County has procedures to expedite this reunification process.

#### *Reunification Locations:*

Lost/found horses - The Del Mar Fairgrounds or the Department of Animal Services at (619) 236-4250 (transportation available)

Lost/found livestock (goats, pigs, chickens, etc.) - Department of Animal Services at (619) 236-4250.

Lost/found dogs, cats or other small animals - the Department of Animal Services at (619) 236-4250, or take the animals to any of the County shelters in Carlsbad, Bonita and Mission Valley.

For more information on shelter locations visit: [www.sddac.com](http://www.sddac.com) or call (619) 236-4250.

Individuals searching for lost dogs, cats or other smaller companion animals Contact the Department of Animal Services at (619) 236-4250 or visit [www.sddac.org](http://www.sddac.org).

#### *San Bernardino County*

It was a very busy weekend for HSUS staff and volunteers because weather conditions permitted Rescue Teams to go into the San Bernardino mountain

communities. These teams were responding to requests from residents who were evacuated, but did not take their animals with them.

HSUS teams worked out of the county shelters in Devore and Rancho Cucamonga most of the weekend and, although they were very busy, it was extremely rewarding to know that they had rescued **more than 150 animals**. HSUS staff members and volunteers were among those helping at the shelters, which had almost been overwhelmed with the number of animal evacuees.

HSUS Teams have rescued more than 154 animals, a menagerie of birds (17), dogs (39), cats (62), chickens (24) rabbits (4) and an assortment of exotic species requiring more specialized care. An Iguana, sensitive to changes in temperature, had to be kept warm.

Among those retrieved was a kitten, burned on the face and paws that was brought to the team by a journalist. The kitten, pulled from the ashes of a Cedar Glen home, suffered burns to her paws and some slight respiratory damage, was transported by the team to a veterinary hospital.

Teams find a variety of circumstances as they respond to rescue calls, in one instance 12 animals and birds were found in one home. Amazingly, some pets have been found that have escaped a completely burned out home. Incomprehensibly, some dogs were left chained or in fenced yards to perish in the fire or the nighttime cold weather.