

AVMA Situation Report 4 – Hurricane Charley

Date: 8/19/04

Location: Southwest Florida

Incident Update:

VMAT-3, North Carolina, led by Dr. James Hamilton is currently on the ground in Florida assessing the local veterinary needs and public health issues.

Any veterinarians or animal health technicians wishing to help in the efforts should contact the Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) -- see information below.

Anyone with animal needs please visit www.animalhelp.com.

For information on how you can help support VMAT and animal disaster preparedness, please visit www.avmf.org.

For information on how you can prepare for disasters visit www.avma.org/disaster.

Florida Veterinary Medical Association Update

Incident Update:

FVMA MEMBERS HAVE BEEN EFFECTED BY HURRICANE CHARLEY THEY NOW NEED YOUR HELP....

.....
Monday, August 16/04

The destructive force of this hurricane has resulted in both short term and long term problems for a number of veterinary practices and the pet owning public. Our State Animal Disaster Response Team (SART) is now assessing the resulting animal care requirements and identifying the exact locations of veterinary practices that are closed. The magnitude of the veterinary hospital property damage is not known. A clear picture should be available by Wednesday. What we do know is that the majority of practices in the Charlotte, De Soto and Hardee Counties have been seriously affected. Specifically, practices in the communities of Port Charlotte, North Port, Bonita Springs and Punta Gorda have been the hardest hit. Additional practices from Arcadia through Central Florida onward to Daytona have also been closed. For many of them, they now face major structural damage that will put them out of business for a considerable length of time.

As expected, the FVMA offices have been working with state agencies to identify the level of animal medical care or humanitarian support needed from the veterinary community in those effected areas. The identified need is in two main areas:

1. MANPOWER... in the form of veterinarians and technicians who are willing to be assigned to mobile veterinary facilities over the coming two-week period. Please provide your contact information and let us know the specific dates you are available. Remember, you will need to pay for your own transportation, bring your own food and water, clothing and bedding. Be ready to work in a hot and crowded environment. Contact the FVMA offices by phone 800-992-3862, fax 407-240-3710 or e-mail FVMA@bellsouth.net.

2. Financial Donations...The second need is for financial contributions that will either be used to provide needed medical care and supplies for animals being treated by veterinarians either at no cost or reduced cost. Other community veterinary practices once they regain power and are re-opened will be called upon to help lost animals hurt during the hurricane. Also, money is needed to assist the veterinary practices that are in distress because their doors are now closed for business. The FVMA wants to provide humanitarian help with the pressing day to day needs of the practice owners and their employees. Past experience demonstrates that many additional expenses resulting from this disaster will not be compensated for as anticipated by insurance policies or that anticipated payments from federal or state aid programs will take weeks before approved. In the meantime veterinarians and clinic staff need to pay their living expenses and continue with their family life.

Please make your tax-deductible donation directly to the **FVMA Foundation**, 7131 Lake Ellenor Drive, Orlando, Fl. 32789. Indicate if the donation is to be used either in whole or part for medical care, humanitarian care or leave it unspecified. To make credit card donations call the FVMA Helpline 800-992-3862. All money collected will be spent on projects resulting from Hurricane Charley.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Update

<http://www.fema.gov>

- State of Florida Emergency Info 24-hour hotline: 1-800-342-3557
- FEMA Registration: 1-800-621-3362 TTY: 1-800-462-7585
- State Volunteer and Donations Hotline: 1-800-354-3571
- Medical Staffing Volunteers Requested: 1-850-488-0595 Press 3
- Department of Insurance: 1-800-227-8676
- Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline : 1-800-646-0444
- Agricultural and Consumer Services: 1-800-435-7352

Humane Society of the United States Update

Date/Time: Wednesday, August 18, 2004

Event: Hurricane Charley

Location: Charlotte County (Punta Gorda) and surrounding areas

Filed by: Anne Culver, for the HSUS Disaster Animal Response Team in Florida

"It's not the animals who are asking us for help. It's the people who are asking us for help with their animals. Animal issues ARE people issues" --Laura Bevan, HSUS IC for Charley Response

Incident Update:

The situation is starting to heat up in the areas affected by Hurricane Charley. While the animal relief efforts in Charlotte County are coming together, efforts to assist Desoto County and other areas are underway.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

In Charlotte County, the HSUS Carmelita Animal Compound (CAC) was set up and has been accepting animals since Monday morning.

This facility has three large vehicles arranged in a U shape, including a large RV and a semi truck (tractor-trailer). At the base of the U, the HSUS team has set up a tent where all the animals are checked in and information is gathered on the animal. DART members scan for microchips, check tags, and if the owner is surrendering the animal, gather as much info about the pet's behavior as possible.

Pinellas County Animal Services has set up a mobile veterinary hospital and staff veterinarian and the facility has a trailer where eight persons can sleep.

Charlotte County's Animal Control has set up its Dispatch Center at the Carmelita facility; they take the incoming calls and work with HSUS DART members on how best to handle emergency situations. Typically, teams of 2 to 4 will be sent out, each team composed of County animal control officers and DART members. The larger teams are necessary because the conditions are still dangerous and there are looters.

Animals brought to the CAC are later transported to Suncoast Humane Society. HSUS DART members are partnering with local animal control officers to respond to calls and search mobile home parks and heavily damaged residential areas.

More than 30 dogs and cats were processed through the CAC on Monday, including owner give-ups, requested fosters, and animals brought in by field teams. Another 50 were handled on Tuesday, including baby raccoons and a squirrel that will be moved to a wildlife rehab center as soon as possible.

Charlotte County has developed fliers outlining services that are now available, including animal care services. These fliers are being distributed by postal workers and by relief personnel. Fliers were also made up and distributed by the response teams as they travel around the counties. It is anticipated that requests for animal services will increase dramatically once the information is received by the public.

Animals taken in at the Carmelita Animal Complex (CAC) as of Wednesday afternoon include 78 dogs, 49 cats, 3 rabbits, 2 goats, 2 birds, 2 baby raccoons, 1 baby squirrel, 15 head of cattle, and one bear (which was tranquilized and transported to a wildlife preserve). The numbers are increasing.

Charlotte County ESF-17 and HSUS representatives met with Suncoast Humane Society on Monday working on the procedures for accepting donations, processing animals, etc. Suncoast Humane Society has now registered with the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to process donations for relief efforts.

There have been several e-mail requests for supplies that are being widely posted on the internet. By now, many of those needs are already being met by Charlotte County ESF-17. A meeting will be held with Animal Welfare League and Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center Animal Issues desk (Emergency Support Function-17) to discuss donation management.

A survey has been completed of local veterinary offices. Several have re-opened,

including a 24-hour emergency veterinary clinic.

One of the major large-animal issues at this time is getting potable water to horse owners. The HSUS team has ordered "water buffaloes" (tanker trailers typically containing thousands of gallons of water) through the county and state and expects two to arrive on Wednesday. The plan is to transport the water buffaloes into areas known to have large horse populations and provide water as needed.

Because of the needs of the response, the ESF-17 coordinator requested that The HSUS provide staff to assist at the ESF-17 Animal Issues desk at the County EOC.

HSUS staff participated in a county press conference on Tuesday afternoon. As a result, a large number of reporters visited the animal compound, which should help in getting the word out of the compound's existence and purpose.

DESOTO COUNTY

Okaloosa Animal Services/DART conducted assessments along Highway 17 from Bartow to Punta Gorda on Monday. They stopped in the Hardee County EOC to inquire about animal issues, and were told that the animals had been moved to Polk County before the hurricane and the shelter was empty.

In Desoto County, the OAS/DART found emerging animal issues. The shelter is, by all accounts, destroyed. There are fewer than 20 animals in the facility. The HSUS team is currently working on moving them to a safer location. Residents are now arriving at the shelter looking for large and small animal food and reporting injured horses. Some families who have lost their homes have been coming in to give up their animals so that the animals will have a more stable place to live. Apparently, 8,000 of the county's 20,000 residents are now homeless.

OAS/DART will further assess the situation, deliver dog food, and look at local facilities, which may be converted into an animal relief center for Desoto County. The OAS/DART team returned on Tuesday to assist in whatever way possible until further relief can be sent.

The HSUS team heard that Sarasota Animal Services is gathering resources for Desoto County and will be in contact with that agency today to make sure efforts are coordinated.

On Tuesday, the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County brought supplies over to Desoto County at the request of HSUS. Desoto Animal Control is still housing animals in its destroyed facility. A staging area is being set up at the Desoto County Extension Center.

Additional assistance was due today from Palm Beach County Animal Care & Control to provide hands on assistance to Desoto County.

HARDEE COUNTY

Okaloosa Animal Services/DART revisited this county on Tuesday en route to Desoto County, to assist the shelter there. Hardee County evacuated its animals to Polk County

before the storm, and its facility was damaged. The animal control director has asked for help. The Florida Kennel Club, based in Orlando, offered food and crates to the relief effort, so it has been directed to take those supplies to Hardee County. A staging area has been set up at the Hardee County Fairgrounds in Wauchula.

This is a rural poor county, and it is anticipated that the human and animal needs will be growing daily.

TEAMS:

On Wednesday and Thursday, eight more members of the National DART team arrived in Florida to join the effort, bringing the total number of HSUS National DART responders currently in Florida to 15. County DART teams in Florida, which The HSUS has been training and working with for many years, include Okaloosa, Bay Area (Pinellas and Hillsborough), Manatee, Sumter, and North Star (Alachua). Florida-based DART members number around 30. Other teams are on stand-by.

For more information about the response to Hurricane Charley, go to www.hsus.org .

NOTE: Information changes, as is common in disaster situations. Please note changes in this e-mail regarding contact information. When you get new contact information, please discard the old ones.

DONATIONS

To donate to our Disaster Relief Fund, please call 888-259-5431 during business hours, or go to www.hsus.org. Click on link at top right of page. To access our donation form directly, go to https://secure.hsus.org/01/disaster_relief_fund. You may also refer to www.floridadisaster.org.

Donations of Supplies (in-kind) - Call 1-800-FL HELP 1

NOTE: Donations of supplies is not encouraged unless they are specifically requested. All donations of supplies and equipment must be directed to this number, because transportation, warehousing, management, and delivery of in-kind donations are very difficult and must be prearranged.

VOLUNTEERS

Go to www.floridadisaster.org or call 1-800-FL HELP 1

People wishing to be considered for the HSUS National Disaster Animal Response Team in general should get more information about these teams at www.hsus.org/ace/18769 or at www.hsus.org or write HSUS Disaster Services, 700 Professional Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20879.

PLEASE do not call the 850 number previously provided for animal-related volunteering.

Veterinarians and Vet Techs: To volunteer your services, please contact Florida

Veterinary Medical Association at 800-992-3862 or e-mail brynfvma@bellsouth.net.

ANIMAL DISASTER SERVICE FACILITIES

1. Suncoast Humane Society
6781 San Casa
Englewood, FL 34224
941-474-7884

2. HSUS Animal Disaster Service Center
Located at the Carmelita Recreational Complex in Punta Gorda FL, at the corner of Florida and Charlotte streets, across from the county public works department at 7000 Florida St. This facility is about a mile and a half from the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center set up at the Charlotte County Airport.

3. Promenade Animal Relief Center
Located at the Promenade Mall at Olean and Route 41 in Port Charlotte, FL

TO GET PET SUPPLIES

(Note: Please do not send donated supplies without prior arrangement - call 1-800- FL HELP 1.)

1. Suncoast Humane Society
6781 San Casa
Englewood, FL 34224
941-474-7884

2. HSUS Animal Disaster Service Center
Carmelita Recreational Complex
Punta Gorda FL
At the corner of Florida and Carmelita streets, located across from the county public works department at 7000 Florida St. This facility is about a mile from the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center set up at the Charlotte County Airport.

3. Promenade Animal Relief Center at the Promenade Mall, Olean and Route 41, Port Charlotte, FL

VETERINARY SERVICES

1. Suncoast Humane Society
6781 San Casa
Englewood, FL 34224
941-474-7884

2. HSUS Animal Disaster Service Center
Carmelita Recreational Complex
Punta Gorda FL
At the corner of Florida and Charlotte streets, located across from the county public works department at 7000 Florida St. This facility is about a mile and a half from the

Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center set up at the Charlotte County Airport. (Note: Veterinary services are not at the Promenade Mall facility.)

Also, we have word that several veterinary practices in Charlotte County are once again operational.

TO GIVE UP A PET

Some people find that with their home destroyed or severely damaged, it is impossible for them to provide a secure home for their pet. Owners wishing to give up a pet so that local humane societies can locate a permanent home in a safe area, contact:

1. Suncoast Humane Society
6781 San Casa
Englewood, FL 34224
941-474-7884

2. HSUS Animal Disaster Service Center
Carmelita Recreational Complex
Punta Gorda FL

At the corner of Florida and Charlotte streets, located across from the county public works department at 7000 Florida St. This facility is about a mile and a half from the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center set up at the Charlotte County Airport.

Note: Pet give-up not available at the Promenade Mall facility.

FOSTERING:

Fostering services are available for people who are temporarily unable to shelter their pets. If you need this service or if you would like to offer this service, contact Suncoast Humane Society at 941-474-7884.

LOST and FOUND ANIMALS

1. Suncoast Humane Society (941-468-3208) is taking reports of lost animals and will forward this information to rescue teams as well as try to match against found animal reports.

2. In Punta Gorda people wishing to file a lost-pet report are advised to go directly to the HSUS Animal Disaster Services Center at the Carmelita Recreational Complex at in Punta Gorda at the corner of Florida and Charlotte streets, located across from the county public works department at 7000 Florida St. This facility is about a mile and a half from the Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center set up at the Charlotte County Airport.

3. In Port Charlotte, go to the Promenade (Mall) Animal Relief Center at Olean and Route 41.

Animals that have been found should be brought either to Suncoast Humane Society in

Englewood, Florida, at 6781 San Casa, Englewood, FL 34224 phone 941-474-7884; to the HSUS Animal Disaster Services Center at Carmelita Recreational Complex; or to the Promenade Mall. All animals will be transported to Suncoast Humane Society. All facilities will be trying to match up lost animal reports and found animal reports in order to reunite animals with their families.