

AVMA Situation Report 13 – Hurricane Ivan

Date: 9/19/04

AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT)

9-19-04 VMAT Hurricane Ivan Operations Update (1300 EST):

An assessment strike team (ST) made up of 3 VMAT#3 members and 1 from VMAT#2 has been deployed since late Friday to southern Alabama. The team completed the state's requested mission by late last night.

The animal care infrastructure appears to have held up quite well and structural damage is reported as minimal in the assessed counties. ST leader, George Chambless, has worked closely with the State Veterinarian and his staff as well as USDA, county EM representatives and local veterinarians in this effort. It appears that loss of power and downed trees are the biggest obstacles to return to normalcy.

Currently the team is being staged in southeast Alabama (FT. Rucker) awaiting further orders from the JMT. There is a possibility that they may join a multi-agency assessment effort in the panhandle of FL.- nothing firm on that as of now. The states of Mississippi and Louisiana do not report any needs at this time as they were spared much of Ivan's wrath.

On a multi-state conference call this morning, Dr. Frazier (State Vet. for AL) praised the efforts of the VMAT ST which will serve to educate the other states about the help that we can provide. Initial reports out of FL do not suggest widespread animal industry problems but assessment is on going. At this time it appears *unlikely* that an operational field deployment for VMAT will occur. However, our cache remains loaded on trucks and cars rented should a mission come up. VMAT remains on alert status at this time.

Areas of Need:

The Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association and the *Louisiana Horseman's Guide* have asked that if you have stalls or facilities available to house evacuated horses, please visit www.lahg.net/EMERGENCY%20PAGES/ivaninfo.html. You will find evacuation site information, hurricane safety information, horse health record forms, and volunteer information (for transporting or fostering horses) at this site. The above information was provided from: <http://www.thehorse.com/viewarticle.aspx?cID=7wjvfmGJHuRDupdNOtCcg%3d%3d>.

Monetary donations can be made to the Florida Veterinary Medical Foundation. FVMF monies assist agencies and veterinary practices that provide complimentary medical care in response to the hurricanes, and practices that are financially in need of humanitarian aid. To donate to the Florida veterinary relief effort, visit www.fvma.com or call the FVMA Help line at 800/ 992-3862.

Contributions are also being collected by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation to help animals impacted by the hurricanes and to support AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT). The AVMF has a secure web site for donations, www.avmf.org, or you can call 800/248-2862, Ext. 6689.

Humane Society of the United States
Filed by: Oliver R Davidson
Private Public Partnerships for Disaster Reduction
Counterpart International/Humane Society of the US

The veterinary communities in Jamaica and Grenada have been severely damaged. Any veterinarians or veterinary technicians wishing to assist with recovery efforts in Jamaica or Grenada are urged to contact Christina Gabela, HSUS international relief coordinator, at CGabela@HSIHSUS.org, or:

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