

AVMA Disaster Update # 26

(To be posted at www.avma.org/disaster)

(This information is subject to change as additional information becomes available)

Event: Hurricane Katrina
Date: September 24, 2005
Situation: AVMA Hurricane Katrina Disaster Situation Report

AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) Update:

VMAT-1: Louisiana and VMAT-5: Louisiana

VMAT Member Feedback...

(A local veterinarian) took over one of the VMAT SERV unit shelters in LA. The veterinarian has about 250 dogs sheltered right now, receiving 20 or so a day from outlying rescues. Cat numbers unknown. He has received ABSOLUTELY NONE of the items we requested for him (through FEMA logistics), but has received food, crates, and hay from the private sector. He had 30 volunteers there today, so plenty of help. AVID came in and chipped the whole lot, and is providing free registration for all new owners, so as to avoid this in the future.

(LA Officials) have pulled all the heavy equipment back into Belle Chasse, and have closed the road south until Rita passes. They are told 80 mph winds, which they think they can handle in Belle Chasse, although the animals still loose out there, especially in St. Bernard Parish, are probably in (danger).

(VMAT sent him donated product including) a portable x-ray machine. The Parish government has told him he needs to start winding things down and vacating the Senior Center, so he's moving a portion to his clinic and some to the other veterinary facility in town. We have 100 placements with Michigan vets arranged, and he feels he'll be ready to let them go within the next week if not claimed, so I'm in the process of arranging a convoy.

I don't think we'll ever convince them that the government was much help, but I'm hoping they'll remember VMAT/veterinarians with fondness...

VMAT-2: Mississippi

No report from VMAT-2 at this time.

VMAT-3: Mississippi

No report from VMAT-3 at this time.

This completes the VMAT operational update for 9/24/05

AVMA Report:

Animals in Public Shelters

The following document will be available at www.avma.org and was developed by consultation between the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Veterinary Medical Association and is advisory in nature. Guidance reflects information available as of September 22, 2005 and may be updated as additional information becomes available.

www.petfinder.com

To register a Lost or Found animal

To provide a foster home for animals

To register a veterinary facility(s) willing to foster or provide medical care

To volunteer

1) Volunteers to Help in Disaster Relief

Veterinarians, Technicians, and others can sign up to volunteer in the disaster response at www.petfinder.com.

The US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Inspection Service is looking for volunteers (veterinarians, veterinary technicians and assistants, veterinary students) to assist in recovery efforts and in future natural and animal disease emergencies. Send an email to ***EmergencyVMO@aphis.usda.gov*** with the subject line "New NAHERC Volunteer" for more information on how you can get involved.

2) Temporary Housing/Employment Opportunities for Veterinarians and Veterinary Staff

In an effort to assist veterinarians, veterinary technicians and other veterinary staff affected by Hurricane Katrina and Rita, AVMA is establishing a list of people and clinics willing to offer temporary employment and/or housing to these displaced individuals.

In addition, AVMA wants to establish a database of displaced veterinarians, veterinary technicians and veterinary staff so we can start assisting these individuals with finding temporary employment or housing.

The hurricane veterinary relief job and licensure information has been posted to the AVMA Veterinary Career Center VCC at http://www.avma.org/vcc/hurricane_relief.asp.

A link to the state licensure information has also been placed in the AVMA Hurricane Recovery area at <http://www.avma.org/aa/hurricane/employment.asp>.

If you would be interested in offering temporary employment/housing or are a displaced veterinary related individual and do not have access to the internet, please email us at vetcareers@avma.org or call Cindy Coy at 1-800-248-2862 ext 6683. Please put **Katrina or Rita** in the subject line and give us your full name, phone number and email address (if possible) and we will contact you for more information.

AVMA staff has attempted to contact all of the veterinary state boards and some of the Canadian provinces and has received feedback from many with information regarding licensure requirements for hiring displaced veterinarians. We are encouraging the State Veterinary Medical Associations to work with their corresponding Veterinary State

Boards to establish guidelines for temporary employment requirements so that you may better inform your members before they extend an employment offer. The AVMA website will also provide the information we have received from our inquiries and it will be updated daily. It is our understanding that the AAVSB has pledged to waive any score report fees for purposes of licensure in other states in response to the disasters.

If you are a state who has already established a temporary employment job board, please send us a link to your site so we are not duplicating your efforts.

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krudloff@avma.org

AVMA's disaster preparedness booklet ***Saving the Whole Family*** is available at http://www.avma.org/disaster/saving_family.asp. Full text available for free from the Web site.

The VMAT efforts are made possible from an annual grant from the **American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF)**. The AVMF just approved a \$100,000 grant to support immediate VMAT needs in the Hurricane Katrina Response. Those interested in contributing to the Animal Disaster Relief and Response Fund can send a check to the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, Department 20-1122, P.O. Box 5940, Carol Stream, IL 60197, with "Animal Disaster Relief and Response Fund" written on the check's note section. Online donations are accepted at www.avmf.org.

Texas Veterinary Medical Association

To post or search available veterinary jobs and housing...
TVMA CONNECT is a new online forum designed to enhance communication between members of the veterinary profession, especially during this time of need. To post information or get the latest updates concerning hurricane relief, visit www.tvmaconnect.org.

Mississippi Animal Relief Fund

(662) 324-9380

Through Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association

Contact Information for MS Animal Rescue Needs

To report a lost or found animal call: 1-888-722-3106 (8am-6pm daily)

Pet finder -- www.petfinder.com

HSUS --1-800-HUMANE-1

The **LSU Emergency Animal Shelter in the Parker Coliseum** will not accept new pets after September 30, 2005 and the operation will close on October 15, 2005.

If possible, owners should pick up their animals by September 30 or give consent for adoption. If owners wish to give their pet up for adoption, they should call 225-578-6111; if owners wish to arrange for long-term fostering for their pet, they should come by the Parker Coliseum shelter or go to <http://www.petfinder.com>.

Pets remaining in the shelter after September 30, 2005, will be considered "abandoned." Some of these pets will be adopted out to new owners locally in Baton

Rouge and remaining animals will be transported to shelters in other areas of the U.S. for subsequent adoption. All animals adopted out will be photographed for identification purposes and the image will be placed on Petfinder.com (<http://www.petfinder.com>). Records of transportation and adoption will be kept so that owners can trace down the location of their pets. All adoptions will be on a provisional basis for at least 30 days, allowing owners to reclaim their pets. For shelter news, visit the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's web site (<http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu/>).

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Bonnie Clark, Cell- (562) 708-9601

E-mail: Bonnie@lahg.net - BonCArtist@aol.com - www.lahg.net

Coordinator: Horse Rescue Unit, Louisiana State Veterinarian's Office in Cooperation with the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, Equine Health Studies Program and the USDA, Staged at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center, Gonzales, LA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE ON EQUINE RESCUE AND RELIEF EFFORTS FOR HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA

Wakefield, LA September 23, 2005- The horse rescue and relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina is still ongoing and has been a resounding success. A total of 381 animals (approx. 15 are goats, 2 pot belly pigs and the balance of horses/mules) have been processed by the Horse Unit staged at Lamar Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales, LA. There have been a total of 163 horses/mules returned to their owners, most identified by micro chips implanted or lip tattoos. There are currently 218 horses being housed at Lamar Dixon under the supervision of coordinator, Bonnie Clark and staffed by numerous volunteers including attending Veterinarian, Dennis French of the LSU Vet School, many Vet School students, local horse/farm owners and many out of state volunteers.

Many teams of rescuers risked their own lives to access the often dangerous areas affected and remove the horses from harm. Of great assistance were the veterinarians from the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, USDA, the Habitat for Horses group based out of Texas, local farm owners and out of state volunteers. Of the 218 horses in-house, 109 have been identified by owners and will be seeking temporary pasture/barn space, mainly within the state of Louisiana or nearby states. Those willing to donate pasture/barn space may contact Bonnie Clark at (562) 708-9601. Those wishing to donate monetary help, should visit www.LVMA.org, to ensure monies go to hurricane relief, make checks payable to: LVMA Equine Committee, subject: Hurricane Relief. A tremendous amount of shipments of hay, feed and supplies have been received at Lamar Dixon, a huge Thank You from the Horse Unit goes out to all offering and providing assistance.

Future efforts for those affected by Katrina will be designated areas for shipments of

supplies to assist those owners with horses in place but no access to feed, hay, etc. Other individual groups involved in rescue/placement are asked to contact Bonnie Clark with location, location of pick up, description and photos of horses being housed to facilitate their return to their owners. Rescued horses **should not** be transported out of state, further delaying the process of returning them to owners.

Hurricane Rita will be monitored and a staging area may be set up in West Louisiana if deemed appropriate. The Horse Unit does not have Internet access at Lamar Dixon and some corresponding E-mail addresses have had full mail boxes for two weeks. Attempts will be made on a weekly basis to check E-mail through alternate local sources. The horse unit asks all interested parties to call the Horse Hotline manned by the LSU Vet School at (225) 578-9501 or Bonnie Clark at (562) 708-9601. Communication is very sporadic and it may take awhile to get through.

USDA SECURES 20 MILLION POUNDS OF ADDITIONAL COMMODITIES FOR HURRICANE RELIEF

WASHINGTON Sept. 23, 2005 - Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today said USDA has purchased more than 20 million pounds of canned meat, poultry, fruit and vegetables in anticipation of evacuee needs to assist the efforts by federal, state and local authorities as Hurricane Rita nears.

"USDA continues to work with states in the Gulf region and beyond to ensure that food and other needs for evacuees are met," said Johanns. "Even as we are positioned to assist with Rita, we remain in constant contact with our federal, state and local counterparts to meet the immediate and long-term needs of those affected by the hurricanes."

About four million pounds of this food will restock USDA and state supplies that were used for Katrina relief as well as go to meal providers in the Katrina affected areas. About 16 million pounds of this food will be used for Rita disaster relief.

Additionally, USDA has already worked with Texas officials to prepare food stamp waivers in anticipation of potential needs within the state beginning this weekend. Also, USDA is extending streamlined services, put in place for Katrina evacuees, for child nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, better known as WIC, programs.

On Sept. 5, USDA earmarked \$50 million dollars to provide emergency food assistance to Hurricane Katrina survivors. To date, \$25 million of those funds have been spent on emergency commodity purchases.

Additional information and updates about USDA's hurricane relief efforts are posted daily on the Web site at www.usda.gov. For more information about making contributions for disaster assistance go to www.FirstGov.gov and www.DisasterHelp.gov.

USDA News
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