

AVMA Hurricanes Update # 2

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

Event: **Hurricanes Update (Katrina/Rita/Wilma)**
Date: October 27, 2005
Situation: AVMA Hurricane Disaster Situation Report

Get a free copy of *Saving the Whole Family* and *Disaster Preparedness for Veterinary Practices* today and start preparing for disasters before they strike again! www.avma.org/disaster

AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) Update

Join VMAT: For information on joining a VMAT team for response during future disasters visit www.avma.org/disaster

VMAT Update:

Date: 25 October 2005

From: VMAT New Orleans:

Dr Carol Osborne

Patrick Terry, VMAT Liaison New Orleans

Mission: USAR K-9 Unit Support

Dr. Carol Osborne and Carol Newsom provided veterinary medical support for the dogs and monitored the decontamination process. No major medical issues arose today. The ambient temperature is mild (63 F) today reducing the risk of hyperthermia.

The handlers are comforted to know their dogs are being monitored by VMAT for potential problems. They are also relieved to know there is help available at the Incident Command Post (ICP) and after hours should an emergency arise.

The VMAT team is also distributing the latest health care recommendations for search and rescue dogs for pre and post deployment. In addition, the team is coordinating with a veterinary toxicologist, Dr. Lisa Murphy (VMAT-2), in collecting samples from the dogs that may help determine the risk factors these dogs may be facing.

11 USAR dogs in the field today.

Note from Carol Newsom:

I had the fortunate opportunity to spend the afternoon out in the field with the USAR dogs. They spent their time re-checking a few homes that the dogs alerted on previously. They have to have 3 separate confirmations before a structure will be torn down to look for remains. We tagged these houses for removal. Many of the homes were off their foundations, some sitting on top of other homes, and some sitting on top of vehicles making the visual detection of human remains impossible. A New Orleans firefighter rode with us to make entry into homes allowing the dogs to work. One of the dogs is an 18 month old Golden Retriever who was new to the operation. This is her first deployment so she was not 100% on homes that we knew bodies were removed from. The older, more seasoned dogs would re-check the homes that she had checked. It was interesting to watch how the dogs worked, what their alert signals were, and the relationship that they have with their handlers.

The USAR mission in New Orleans will be until November 6, 2005. On November 7, the city will determine if this will be extended.

Date: 26 October 2005

From: VMAT New Orleans

Dr Carol Osborne

Patrick Terry, VMAT Liaison New Orleans

Mission: USAR K-9 Unit Support

Dr Carol Osborne and Carol Newsom provided veterinary medical support for the dogs and monitored the decontamination process. No major medical issues arose today. It was a short day for the dogs as they are tasked for four full days beginning tomorrow.

One issue the dogs are facing is the cracking dry flood mud is moving like shifting ceramic under the weight of the dogs. This is forcing the hips and knees of the dogs to adjust to the shift with every step. It is the opinion of the handlers that this is exacerbating the hip conditions of some of the dogs. One dog that was off just one day rest for sore hips worked enthusiastically today.

Another dog has developed a new tendency to eat organic stuff from the ground. Recommendation to increase the caloric intake while on deployments especially when working at this level.

8 USAR dogs were in the field today.

The VMAT efforts are made possible from an annual grant from the **American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF)**. 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.

AVMA and AVMF Resources:

[AVMF offers hurricane grants to veterinarians](#) *The American Veterinary Medical Foundation has established guidelines for requesting reimbursable out-of-pocket expenses. Click on the link above or go to www.avmf.org.*

New Grant Program

The AVMF has just announced the availability of a second grant program for those veterinarians who have been impacted by the recent hurricanes. The **2005 Hurricane Relief for Veterinarians** grant is being offered "to restore the veterinary infrastructure" affected by the storms of 2005. While the first grant program offered up to \$2,000 reimbursement for expenses associated with care of displaced or injured animals, this *new* program offers up to \$2,000 in humanitarian aid to veterinarians who have experienced personal and/or business losses due to the hurricanes.

How You Can Help

The humanitarian aid application (attached) outlines the criteria for veterinarians to qualify and, like the reimbursement grants, requires the applicant to send the completed form to their state-VMA for review and signature by a representative of the state association. (This form will also be available on the AVMF Web site, www.avmf.org.) Your assistance in reaching veterinarians who are likely to benefit from this new grant opportunity and processing their applications before forwarding them to the AVMF will help ensure that this financial aid quickly reaches those who need it.

Public Support of the ADRR Fund

To date, donations to the AVMF for the **Animal Disaster Relief and Response Fund** (ADRRF) total more than \$860,000. This amount is *over and above* the \$500,000 matching funds pledged by the AVMA. Included in the \$860,000 is a donation of \$200,000 from Merial. Merial also donated \$50,000 for the AVMF General Fund and has pledged up to \$250,000 in further donations to the AVMF.

Temporary Housing/Employment 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.

Dr. Kimberly Rudloff
Assistant Director, Membership and Field Services, ext. 6679

krudloff@avma.org

Interim Guidelines for Animal Health and Control of Disease Transmission in Pet Shelters

These Interim Guidelines have been developed by consultation between the American Veterinary Medical Association and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and are advisory in nature. They are intended to provide guidance for the care of animals entering shelters and for persons working with or handling the animals in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The guidance reflects information available as of September 27, 2005 and may be updated as more information becomes available.

http://www.avma.org/aa/hurricane/disease_control.asp

Animals in Public Shelters

The following document 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. http://www.avma.org/aa/hurricane/public_shelters.asp

Petfinder.com

Ed Powers

Director of Shelter Outreach and Business Development

<http://katrina.petfinder.com>

<http://www.petfinder.com>

Dear Friends,

If you are currently caring for Katrina pets, you have accepted the responsibility not only to care for them, but to also find their owners. We are proud and humbled to partner with you in this daunting but very fruitful endeavor.

Here are four important notices regarding this goal.

1) Hundreds of pets in our database are posted with location = unknown. Are they yours? Take the time to insure that each of your Katrina pets is up-to-date at <http://disaster.petfinder.com>. Make sure the pet's **Location: current** field contains your organization's name, email and your public phone number.

2) If your pet(s) came with a shelter-assigned ID from an emergency shelter (Lamar-Dixon, Hattiesburg, Houston SPCA) make sure that it stays in the animal's record in the *shelter-assigned ID* field. You may add your own ID but keep the original ID string in tact.

3) The field **Location: last** should reflect where the animal was found during the disaster. If known, this is the best way for the owner to find their pet. Full addresses stating what house the pet was rescued from is obviously preferable. **Location: last** is the data set our search engine sorts with, so it should at least contain the state from which the pet was rescued.

4) Visit each of your pet's records. If you are logged in as a Rescue Worker, you'll be able to see emails sent from possible owners from even before the pet was in your care. This is your best chance for finding leads.

If you have any questions or need any assistance please contact outreach@petfinder.com

Petfinder through its grant/relationship with Merial allows shelters to request immiticide (for treatment of heartworm) for Katrina animals even though it is not listed as an available product on the donation form. Shelters just need to specify the request for immiticide on the application form and how many animals need treatment and PF can approve and forward the request to Merial for fulfillment.

<http://www.petfinder.org/foundation/drugform.pdf>