

AVMA Katrina Disaster Update # 30

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

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

Event: **Hurricane Katrina**
Date: November 18, 2005
Situation: AVMA Hurricane Katrina Disaster Situation Report

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

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Situation Report

Date: 17 November 2005

From: VMAT New Orleans –

One veterinarian and one technician from VMAT still working in LA.

Mission: USAR K-9 Unit Support

Dr. Robin Brennen, VMAT Liaison New Orleans

There are 5 federal search dogs still working in LA.

The dogs work two shifts and break for lunch in between. Today, we were able to accompany the dogs out into the field. The USAR mission is one of cadaver recovery. The dogs are searching debris mounds, homes and other structures. The conditions they are working in include deep mud, sludge and hazardous rubble piles. Following each shift the dogs go through decontamination and then are examined by a VMAT veterinarian. Today, all the physical exams were normal.

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 and an application form at www.avmf.org*

The **2005 Hurricane Relief for Veterinarians** grant is being offered “to restore the veterinary infrastructure” and offers up to \$2,000 in **humanitarian aid** to veterinarians who have experienced personal and/or business losses due to the hurricanes. The other grant program offers up to \$2,000 reimbursement for expenses associated with **care of displaced or injured animals**, this *new* program

[Temporary Housing/Employment for Veterinarians and Veterinary Staff](#)

In an effort to assist veterinarians, veterinary technicians and other veterinary staff affected by the hurricanes, the AVMA has established a list of people and clinics willing to offer temporary employment and/or housing to displaced individuals.

In addition, AVMA has established a database of displaced veterinarians, veterinary technicians and veterinary staff in an effort to assist 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 Hurricanes** 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.

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