

Event: Hurricane Rita and Katrina
Date: October 3, 2005
Situation: AVMA Hurricane 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

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 and Rita Responses. 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 <<http://www.avmf.org>> .

Information Provided by the Louisiana State Veterinarian's Office:

Due to Hurricane Rita, we are working closely with the county agents of Calcasieu and Cameron (Parishes) to coordinate efforts and meet needs. Twenty-four tons of horse & cattle feed, water troughs and other supplies have been distributed and will be repeated. Large and small animal practitioners at two clinics contacted are operating as well as one small animal practice in Moss Bluff. The Animal control in Sulphur and Lake Charles are operating.

The racetrack in Vinton is destroyed and will likely be bulldozed and rebuilt, no horses were present. An equine veterinarian in Vinton reports that he is seeing clients but feels most horse owners were well prepared.

Cattle rescue feeding and relocation continues, feed and water have been delivered to about 2500 head and about 500 -700 head have been relocated or rescued. Delivery of hay and water has begun by barge to significant numbers of cattle that are starting to gather on levees and as soon as stabilized will begin relocation on the same two barges. About 50 head have already been relocated.

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)

The CVMA has alerted and informed the provincial licensing bodies, has in conjunction with Dr. Kimberly Rudloff established application procedures for Canadian veterinary clinics that offer to temporarily employ displaced veterinarians and / or technicians and has enlisted the help of a politician to help facilitate the issuing of temporary working permits. The CVMA offers applying veterinarians to waive the \$ 400.00 fee to obtain a certificate of qualification. Below is a copy of the "help-alert" that was sent 10 days ago to all Canadian veterinarians.

Re: Help for veterinarians displaced by Hurricane Katrina

On September 6, 2005, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) contacted the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to express our sympathies in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. We asked AVMA President, Dr. Henry Childers, how we, as an organization and a profession, might help our veterinary colleagues in the Gulf Coast region. On September 8, we received a reply from the AVMA asking if the CVMA might be of assistance in facilitating work placements in Canada for the veterinarians and veterinary technicians affected by the natural disaster.

If you are interested in offering temporary employment to a displaced veterinarian and/or veterinary technician or if you would like more information on how to participate in this program, please click on the following link: www.avma.org/aa/hurricane/employment.asp The AVMA will guide veterinarians and/or technicians in need to contact you directly via e-mail.

It will be the responsibility of the American veterinarian to apply for a temporary work permit through Citizenship and Immigration Canada, for a Certificate of Qualification (C.Q.) from the CVMA's National Examining Board (NEB) and for a license from the appropriate provincial licensing body. Given these special circumstances, the NEB has offered to waive the usual application fee of \$401.25.

The Honourable Senator Tommy Banks has committed his support to "encourage" Citizenship and Immigration Canada to expediently process such applications. Please note that all temporary employment "contracts" will be to provide relief for displaced veterinarians and veterinary technicians for up to a maximum of 6 months.

If you are willing to help a displaced American colleague, don't hesitate to sign up through www.avma.org/aa/hurricane/employment.asp. To learn more about putting your name forth as a potential employer, please contact the CVMA at helpkatrinavets@cvma-acmv.org or by telephone at 1-800-567-2862 ext. 111.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Robert Ashburner, DVM
President

AVMA Report:

Animals in Public Shelters

The following document will be available at www.avma.org <<http://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.

<http://disaster.petfinder.org/emergency/>

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 <http://disaster.petfinder.org/emergency/>.

The US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Inspection Service is looking for volunteers (veterinarians, veterinary technicians and assistants, veterinary students) to assist in natural and animal disease emergencies. Send an email to EmergencyVMO@aphis.usda.gov <<mailto: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 <<mailto: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 <<mailto:krudloff@avma.org>>