

## **AVMA Disaster Update 09-08-05**

Event: Hurricane Katrina  
Date: September 7, 2005  
Time: 9PM Update (Central Time)  
Situation: AVMA Hurricane Katrina Disaster Situation Report

### **Contact Numbers for LA Animal Rescue Needs**

For Hurricane Katrina information, questions, donations, etc.,

Contact:

Katrina@ldaf.louisiana.gov

As a secondary means of communication use the following, although the Web address above is encouraged as the primary route of communication.

Phone: (888) 773-6489

Fax: 225-237-5665

Web: [www.vetmed.lsu.edu](http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu)

Calls have been centralized to this area

**Mississippi Residents:** A temporary animal shelter has been set up at the State Fairgrounds in Jackson, MS at the intersection of I-55 and High Street for more information you can call 800-252-0923 – but hours of operation are very limited.

### **Housing Offers**

Go to <https://www.swern.gov/> and register your available housing.

### **Volunteers Sign-Up Now!**

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) is looking for volunteers (veterinarians, veterinary technicians and assistants, veterinary students) to assist in Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts and in future natural and animal disease emergencies. Please 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. Please do not send your requests to volunteer to Dr. Cindy Lovern, please send an email to the address above instead.

Volunteers should be plugged into the Incident Command System in LA. LA resources are scarce as you know, so any responder to the area must be completely self sufficient.

### **AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) Update**

**VMAT-1:** One team of VMAT-1 members are working with VMAT-5 at Lamar Dixon Exhibition Center where they have examined and/or treated 64 dogs, 40 cats, 2 rabbits, 6 birds, 1 duck, 1 king snake, 2 chinchillas, 2 hamsters, 1 ferret, and 1 parakeet. To date no serious injuries have been reported. The State mission assigned to VMAT-1 is as follows:

- To assist State Veterinarian with agricultural and veterinary service assessment
- Optimize available medical resources in the delivery of medical services
- SERV team 1 (component of VMAT-1 members) is deployed with HI-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) to deal with animal issues in St. Bernard Parish
- Serv Team 2 is deployed to assist VMAT-5 at Lamar-Dixon animal shelter

**VMAT-2:** At Kessler Air Force Base in MS, will be setting up a field hospital to treat rescued animals.

**VMAT-3:** No report today due to inadequate communications.

**VMAT-5:** Same report as #12...Tasked to provide veterinary medical care in Gonzales, LA at the Lamar-Dixon Equine Exhibition Center (approximately 800 animals housed in that location). VMAT-5 is also attempting to establish a veterinary medical care facility for the Search and Rescue dogs that are deployed utilizing a local VCA hospital that was not destroyed in the disaster.

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](http://www.avmf.org).

Remember AVMA has the disaster preparedness booklet *Saving the Whole Family* available at [http://www.avma.org/disaster/saving\\_family.asp](http://www.avma.org/disaster/saving_family.asp). Full text available for free from the Web site.

### **AVMA Pledges Half a Million Dollars in Matching Funds for Disaster Relief**

(Schaumburg, Ill.) September 5, 2005—To help provide relief for the animals and veterinarians affected by Hurricane Katrina, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Executive Board on Wednesday approved the allocation of up to \$500,000 in matching funds to solicit financial contributions for the American Veterinary Medical Foundation’s (AVMF) Animal Disaster Relief and Response Fund.

The focus of the new fund will be financial support of Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs), VMAT supplies and equipment, animal care, and medical costs of animals. AVMA will implement this fund-raising matching program by sending \$100,000 to the AVMF immediately to serve as the initial challenge match.

The fundraising effort parallels AVMA’s fundraising effort for Heifer International after the tsunami in Southeast Asia. Within four months, news of the \$500,000 allocation from the AVMA generated \$625,000 in contributions to Heifer International for tsunami relief and community reconstruction, making a total contribution of \$1,125,000.

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).

The AVMA, founded in 1863, is one of the oldest and largest veterinary medical organizations in the world. More than 72,000 member veterinarians are engaged in a

wide variety of professional activities. AVMA members are dedicated to advancing the science and art of veterinary medicine including its relationship to public health and agriculture. Visit the AVMA Web site at [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org) to learn more about veterinary medicine and animal care, disaster relief and to access up-to-date information on the association's issues, policies and activities.

News editors and producers: Please include the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF), [www.avmf.org](http://www.avmf.org), in any round-up stories and reference lists detailing aid organizations and charities helping in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The AVMF advances the care and value of animals in society by raising and distributing funds in support of animal disaster relief and animal health studies. Established by the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1963, the AVMF is based in northwest suburban Chicago. For more information about the AVMF, visit [www.avmf.org](http://www.avmf.org) or call (847) 925-8070, ext. 6689.

### **Other Reports:**

**Alabama Veterinary Medical Association (ALVMA)** has established a crisis fund that individuals, drug companies, pet food suppliers or other state associations can donate into. This is not for "pet food" to be sent but to help local clinics and shelters offset their costs. More info can be reviewed at ALVMA's website: [www.alavma.com](http://www.alavma.com) and link the 'Foundation'. Donations can be earmarked for disaster relief.

### **M. A. Littlefield-Chaubaud, DVM, MS: Assistant State Veterinarian:**

Well I think it is Thursday. I saw daylight for the third time in a week and a half. Quite amazing what a few rays will do.

We have gotten about all of the 25 million dollar transgenic mice out of the two Tulane research centers in New Orleans. They fed everything. They saved over a million dollars at each location of cell lines. 25 or more years of research was saved. The Federal Veterinarians, and one of our Field Veterinarians, literally carried half of a huge colony cage by cage from the upper floors of the research facility to the nearby parking garage in bio hazard suites. They were not allowed near the edge of the parking garage due to snipers. To say they were exhausted was an understatement. They go back tomorrow because they couldn't get police protection.

The phones here at the office ring round the clock. We have encouraged the call in time to be 8 am to 6 pm, because frankly we need time to regroup.

I met with the VMAT representative last night at 7:30 to go over what the VMAT team had done and what their plans are. Our response (SART) teams are working so well that they (VMAT) haven't been needed at the two main centers except minimal times and so they have been doing much needed other things. We have Army and public health vets coming in this weekend.

I met with the AEC (Area Emergency Coordinator) last night till about 9:30 catching him up on what is going on and teaching him how to pronounce **Tchapatoulus** - Pronounced CHAP-a-Too-lus. I had already worked on the VMAT representative trying to get him to quit saying counties instead of parishes.

I just got off the phone with producers with ABC. Diane Sawyer is down looking for snowball. Snowball can have a college education now.

Another day starts...

### **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

...has received many generous offers of medical and support personnel, housing, transportation, medical equipment, supplies, and medications for the Hurricane Katrina emergency response. We are thankful for the outpouring of this humanitarian volunteerism.

We are now requesting that you direct requests from those who contact your organization about volunteer activities to the following sources:

For public health workers employed by state and local public health agencies, please volunteer through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), an agreement among 48 states to share resources during a disaster. More information about the EMAC can be found at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) web site at <http://www.astho.org/?template=1bioterrorism.html> and also specifically at the EMAC web site at <http://www.emacweb.org/>.

For healthcare professionals and relief volunteers from non-public health organizations, the Federal Government is mobilizing and identifying individuals with expertise in several specific professional areas. Please see the HHS web site at <https://volunteer.hhs.gov/> and please complete and submit the online form to volunteer these individuals. If your volunteers have questions regarding the online application, please call the Hurricane Katrina Volunteer Call Center at 1-866-KATMEDI (1-866- 528-6334).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as the lead agency in the Hurricane Katrina emergency response, is also involved in mobilizing and identifying individuals <http://www.fema.gov/press/2005/katrinadonations.shtm>. If you or your members have an offer of goods or services, please call the FEMA hotline at 1-800-440-6728. A representative will take the caller's name and information, as well as what type of goods or services the caller wishes to donate. Donation offers may include temporary housing for disaster victims, vehicles, construction equipment, food, clothing, or other offers that may assist those displaced by Hurricane Katrina. The callers will be directed to the National Emergency Resource Registry (NERR) at <https://www.swern.gov/>.

FEMA is also linking general volunteer coordination to several national voluntary organizations that are active in disaster and emergency response. These national voluntary organizations are included at <http://www.nvoad.org/membersdb.php?members=National> . You can also call FEMA to volunteer at 1-800-440-6728. As recovery and relief efforts begin to assist victims, well-meaning volunteers are being urged not to report directly to

the affected areas unless directed by a volunteer agency. Visit the USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network to find additional opportunities to engage in ongoing relief efforts and prepare for future disasters [http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/content/for\\_volunteers/find\\_opps/index.asp](http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/content/for_volunteers/find_opps/index.asp).

We ask that you please forward this information to colleagues who have expressed an interest in volunteering to support this emergency response effort. Again, thank you so much for your outstanding partnership at this time of need!

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please let me know. Thank you!

Toby L. Merlin

Director, Division of Private and Public Partnerships National Center for Health Marketing Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 4770 Buford Hwy., NE M/S K-39 Atlanta, GA. 30341 770 488 8136 tmerlin@cdc.gov

## **USDA OFFERS EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAMS FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS COPING WITH HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7, 2005 - Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today announced that USDA is making more than \$170 million in emergency assistance available to agricultural producers suffering from Hurricane Katrina. In addition, USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) is implementing immediate changes to its Marketing Assistance Loan Program due to the hurricane. These changes will allow producers to obtain loans for "on-farm" grain storage on the ground in addition to grain bins and other normally approved structures.

"We are doing everything we can to help our Gulf Coast producers recover from the affects of Hurricane Katrina," said Johanns. "The assistance announced today is an important component of USDA's efforts and our commitment to help farmers and ranchers rebuild their operations."

### Emergency Conservation Funding

USDA is providing more than \$20 million in Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funds to help producers repair damage to their lands. ECP participants will receive cost-share assistance of up to 75 percent of the cost to implement approved emergency conservation practices such as debris removal and restoration of fences and conservation structures. The ECP is administered at the county level under the guidance of USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) state offices.

The following states and counties will receive more than \$20 million in ECP funding:

Alabama - \$855,000

Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Greene, Marengo, Mobile, Sumter and Washington

Louisiana - \$12,452,000

Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James,

St. John, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana, and Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Concordia, Evangeline and St. Landry

Mississippi - \$7,102,000

All Counties

Tennessee - \$25,000

Giles, Lawrence and Wayne

Emergency Loans

A total of \$152 million in FSA's Emergency Loan Program is available to eligible producers who have suffered at least a 30 percent reduction in crop production or have sustained physical losses to buildings, chattel or livestock. Farmers and ranchers have eight months from the date of a presidential or secretarial disaster declaration to apply for low-interest agency loans.

Marketing Assistance Loans and "On-Farm" Grain Storage

USDA's CCC is implementing changes to its Marketing Assistance Loan Program to allow producers to obtain loans for "on-farm" grain storage on the ground in addition to grain bins and other normally approved structures. This action is designed to alleviate short-term logistical problems and support local cash prices above distressed levels as a result of the hurricane.

Grain producers in the U.S. are facing logistical challenges as port operations in the central Gulf Coast and lower Mississippi River have been hampered by Hurricane Katrina, which were already complicated by summer drought conditions in the upper Mississippi and Illinois River basins.

The changes to the Marketing Assistance Loan Program are consistent with emergency storage provisions already available to commercial warehouses and remain consistent with the existing CCC mandate that ensures the orderly marketing of U.S. farm commodities. CCC has authorized outside, on-farm storage of commodities which have been offered as collateral on non-recourse marketing assistance loans as long as such storage meets CCC guidelines. Commodities stored outside must be protected from animals and located so that water drainage will not seriously affect the quality and quantity of the commodity. Producers are responsible for ensuring that the quality of the commodity pledged as marketing assistance loan collateral is maintained during the entire loan period.

CCC also reminds producers that its Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) is available to provide low-interest financing for producers to build or upgrade on-farm grain or silage storage facilities. Eligible size of the structure is determined by the borrower's demonstrated need for additional on-farm storage capacity to store eligible commodities. An eligible borrower must have a satisfactory credit rating as determined by CCC and demonstrates the ability to repay the facility loan debt. Facilities built for commercial purposes and not for the sole use of the borrower(s) are not eligible for financing.

The maximum amount a person is allowed to borrow through the FSFL program is 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and handling equipment not to exceed \$100,000. Loans over \$50,000 must be additionally secured with a real estate lien. Loans are repaid through 7 annual equal installments.

Loan applications should be filed in the administrative FSA office that maintains the farm's records.

#### Additional Assistance

FSA has other programs to help producers recover from losses resulting from natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. To be eligible for NAP assistance, crops must be noninsurable crops and agricultural commodities for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available. Producers must meet other eligibility requirements to receive NAP payments.

Also, FSA's Debt Set-Aside (DSA) Program is available to producers in primary or contiguous counties declared presidential or secretarial disaster areas. When borrowers affected by natural disasters are unable to make their scheduled payments on any debt, FSA is authorized to consider set aside of some payments to allow the farming operation to continue. After disaster designation is made, FSA will notify borrowers of the availability of the DSA. Borrowers who are notified have 8 months from the date of designation to apply. Also, to meet current operating and family living expenses, FSA borrowers may request a release of income proceeds to meet these essential needs or request special servicing provisions from their local FSA county offices to explore other options.

Producers should attempt to contact state FSA offices if local FSA offices are temporarily closed due to hurricane considerations. The following telephone numbers cover Gulf Region state FSA offices:

Alabama: (334) 279-3500 Louisiana: (318) 473-7721

Arkansas: (501) 301-3000 Mississippi: (601) 965-4300

Florida: (352) 379-4562

USDA News

[oc.news@usda.gov](mailto:oc.news@usda.gov)

202 720-4623

## **Mobile Hospital Now Tending Miss. Patients**

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE

The Associated Press

Monday, September 5, 2005; 10:46 PM

BAY ST. LOUIS, Miss. -- The first patient at the state-of-the-art mobile hospital designed for disasters was a puppy.

The dog was dehydrated and brought in by hurricane survivors living in a tent city.

But it wasn't very long before suffering human patients found their way into the remarkable medical center set up in the parking lot of a flooded Kmart.

In the first 16 hours, doctors treated about 100 people: nasty head wounds, car crash victims, cuts from storm debris, dehydration.

With such demand, it is hard to imagine that the doctors weren't allowed to set up shop in Louisiana, their original destination. They were stymied by red tape there.

"Mississippi stepped up and said if they don't want you, we'll take you," Dr. Thomas Blackwell, medical director of the hospital and an emergency doctor at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C., said Monday. He said the delay in getting deployed was a dispute with Louisiana over what they'd be allowed to do. Yet he held back criticism.

"If anybody thinks this is going to go smoothly, it doesn't work that way. This is the biggest natural disaster we've ever had," he said.

Now the futuristic \$1.5 million emergency response hospital is getting its first real tryout since the Department of Homeland Security established it. The 113-bed hospital travels in a convoy that includes two 53-foot trailers. Equipment includes ultrasound, digital radiology, satellite Internet, and a full pharmacy, enabling doctors to do most types of surgery.

To get the hospital up and running, doctors cleared trees and other big debris by hand from the parking lot.

They needed some bolts and decided to hunt for some in the Kmart, but when they opened it, all they found were bodies inside \_ more evidence of the deadly storm.

One of Monday's patients was 3-year-old Brennin Wane, wearing only underpants and clutching a Santa Claus doll. He had a large leg cast over a wound that was becoming infected. Within minutes a nearby computer screen displayed an X-ray of the child's leg, taken on the spot.

George Talley, 28, evacuated his home a mile away ahead of the hurricane.

"I live down the street, or I used to. The house is off its foundation. It's in the woods next door," Talley said.

A self-employed contractor with no health insurance, he'd gone to "Big Charity," the New Orleans public hospital, for surgery on his broken hand. He needed to make a return visit

but couldn't when the storm struck. In pain, he made his way to mobile hospitals and was treated.

Among the more astonishing things about the mobile hospitals is the lack of paperwork or questions about insurance.

In the intensive care unit, there are digital clocks above the door that show several time zones. It's not a whimsical touch.

Dr. Ben Zarzour, trauma surgeon at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, explained, "This hospital can be put on C-130s (big cargo planes) and flown anywhere in the world."

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### **Animal blood bank sends supplies south**

STOCKBRIDGE - Midwest Animal Blood Services, a national animal blood bank, is doing its part to help animals affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Anne Hale, director of the blood bank and president of the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association, said the blood bank sent 25 units of blood products, - about a third of its weekly production - to Louisiana State University.

Several blood drives are planned soon so more can be sent, she said.

"My understanding is that many animals are being brought to LSU from New Orleans that are suffering from heat stroke and dehydration," Hale said.

"They are also treating dogs for stress-related conditions resulting from them being displaced or left behind or caught in a house or the storm itself."

Animals being treated are mainly dogs and cats, she said.

"Most large farm animals were either evacuated or were able to get to high ground," Hale said.