

AVMA Disaster Update 9-9-05

Event: Hurricane Katrina
Date: September 8, 2005
Time: 9PM Update (Central Time)
Situation: AVMA Hurricane Katrina Disaster Situation Report

AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) Update

VMAT-1: Louisiana

The State Mission Assignment for VMAT-1 is as follows:

- To assist with agricultural and veterinary service assessments
- To assist in various Parishes with existing animal issues.
- To assist at LSU animal shelter at coliseum in the triage and hospital area
- To assist VMAT-5 at Lamar-Dixon Animal Shelter

VMAT-1 assessed approximately 200-300 animals at the New Orleans airport. Owners were permitted to take their pets with them when they left from the airport.

VMAT-5: Louisiana

Tasked to provide veterinary medical care in Gonzales, LA at the Lamar-Dixon Equine Exhibition Center. VMAT-5 members with a team of VMAT-1 members treated/examined 560 animals today at Lamar-Dixon.

VMAT-1 and VMAT-5: have examined/treated 1,479 patients in LA as of this disaster update. The team members have also assessed 74 veterinary facilities and 4 parishes - the results of those assessments are being compiled and evaluated at this time and are not available to include in this report. Currently members of VMAT-1 and VMAT-5 are stationed in Belle Chasse, MS, the LSU temporary animal shelter, and various other locations throughout the day/night as needs arise.

The team members have been tasked to examine the infrastructure of each facility, assess the needs at that location and of that veterinarian(s), and submit requests for needed assistance/supplies through the governmental procurement system. At this time I do not have information regarding how well the procurement process will go, but hope to have that information as requests are submitted and filled via VMAT.

VMAT-2: Mississippi

In Gulfport and are stabilizing patients

VMAT-3: Mississippi

Is in Hattiesburg providing veterinary care

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.

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

AVMA Report:

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.

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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 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, 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 or call (847) 925-8070, ext. 6689.

Other Reports:

Mississippi State Agriculture Situation Report (Sitrep)

ESF -17

Situation Report 09/08/05

CURRENT SITUATION:

1. The Mississippi Emergency Operations Center is activated.
2. Area Command is located at the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Jackson, MS.
3. Dr. Greg Christy, Florida ESF17 Coordinator, is assisting Dr. Jim Watson the Mississippi State Veterinarian in the Mississippi state response efforts.
4. Incident Command Post is at the Forrest County Multi-Purpose Center.
5. Florida SART team is operating as the Command and General Staff
6. **A Mississippi Animal Disaster Hotline is in operation (1-888-722-3106) to take calls for information, needs, and donations**

Current Operations:

1. The phone bank was transferred on Thursday, Sept 8 to the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine.
2. 17 two man teams performed agricultural assessments in 5 counties on 9/7/05. 144 assessments were performed. 119 had damage (83%), 17% had no damage. Needs identified are being matched with available resources.
3. HSUS has set up a facility in Gulfport and staging air conditioned trucks at this facility from 8am -6pm. Animals are loaded up and transported to the shelter in Hattiesburg.
4. VMAT 2 is in Gulfport and team members are stabilizing patients.
5. VMAT 3 is in Hattiesburg providing veterinary care.
6. The Gauthier shelter has become the staging area for rescue and transport in Jackson county.
7. 2 teams of animal control officers are in Harrison county and are responding to animal control issues.

8. Animal control has made contact with the EOC in Hancock county and have identified small animal needs as well as equine issues.
9. Hattiesburg staging area update: 48 trucks enroute, no pharmaceuticals have arrived yet. Pharmaceutical companies have agreed to donate medications and have been ordered.
10. The Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) and the CVM is assisting with setting up the MS Animal Disaster Relief Fund. The CVM is establishing a related website (operational by the end of the week) that will provide pertinent contact information.
11. A request has been submitted for a Public Information Officer.
12. ESF17 Animal Compounds open and operating.

FUTURE OPERATIONS:

1. Perform additional agricultural damage assessments
2. Staff the staging area
3. Direct feed and donations
4. Continue the veterinary clinic assessments
5. Launch informational website
6. Provide daily incident action plans

Contact Information for LA Animal Rescue Needs

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

Contact:

Katrina@ldaf.louisiana.gov

Web: www.vetmed.lsu.edu

Or call 1-800-HUMANE-1

Or contact outreach@aspca.org

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). Please send an email to 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.