

## **AVMA Report:**

### **1) Volunteers to Help in Disaster Relief**

The US Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Inspection Service is looking for volunteers (veterinarians, veterinary technicians and assistants, veterinary students) to assist in recovery efforts and in future 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, AVMA is establishing a list of people and clinics willing to offer temporary employment and/or housing to these displaced individuals. These offers will be posted online.

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.

If you would be interested in offering temporary employment/housing or are a displaced veterinary related individual and want to be added to our lists, email us at [vetcareers@avma.org](mailto:vetcareers@avma.org) or call Cindy Coy at 1-800-248-2862 ext 6683. Please put **Katrina** 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.

We have had contact with several of the veterinary state boards in all of the states and some of the Canadian provinces and have received back about 25 responses 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.

**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)

### **3) Information about GHLIT and PLIT Insurance (Provided by Dr. Janet Donlin)**

The AVMA PLIT, AVMA GHLIT and their endorsed insurance carriers are deeply saddened by the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. We are ready to assist you through these challenging times.

### **Contact information for the AVMA PLIT**

The Hartford and other insurers involved in the PLIT-sponsored program that provide the business owner's package insurance, already have emergency teams in place, but they have not been able to get into most of the affected areas. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> hurricane these insurers have been involved with since last year so they should be able to respond efficiently. We estimate that around 65 practices insured by The Hartford were in the path of the storm. Only a couple of calls have been received at this point, but as telephone communication in the affected region resumes, members insured through The Hartford may call 1-800-327-3636 (24 hours a day). If a member has any personal lines insurance (homeowners or auto) through the PLIT's endorsed carrier Liberty Mutual they may call 1-800-713-7379 or go to [libertymutualinsurance.com](http://libertymutualinsurance.com) to report a claim. If we at the AVMA PLIT may be of any assistance, please call us at 1-800-228-7548.

### **Contact information for the AVMA GHLIT**

Customer service representatives are available to assist in answering questions regarding medical or disability claims, policy and premium inquiries, pharmacy and prescriptions as well as network provider information. The number to call for pharmacy and prescription assistance is 800-966-5772. For all other questions call 1-800-621-6360 and enter prompt 1 immediately. You then will have the option to direct your call to customer service representative for assistance with your specific question. Don't forget that you can access claim forms through our website [www.avmaghlit.org](http://www.avmaghlit.org).

### **Other Reports:**

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

Katrina hit the 29 August and it's the 10<sup>th</sup> of Sept. where did the last two weeks go?

Our immediate need is to increase the physical space at Lamar Dixon, I have two large tents coming in to be set up today, and I should have a large amount of cages. At last unofficial count we has about 1200 dogs, cats, horses etc out there and about 800 at the Coliseum. The Cow Palace's 800 holds owned animals while the majority at Lamar Dixon are rescued-owners-to-be-found animals. Including the pack of dogs from St. Bernard. They are housed in crates/horse trailers on a very temporary basis and placed in standard housing cages ASAP.

We have a strong incident command center now.

Another day begins€;

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

**WHEN OVERWHELMED THESE MAY GO DOWN FOR A TIME, BUT PLEASE KEEP TRYING THESE ARE VALID CONTACT NUMBERS AND EMAILS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

To report a lost or found animal:

Katrina@ldaf.louisiana.gov **preferred avenue for reports**

(888) 773-6489 (nationwide)

225-237-5665 fax

Pet finder -- [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)

HSUS --1-800-HUMANE-1

ASPCA -- [outreach@aspca.org](mailto:outreach@aspca.org)

For other Hurricane Katrina questions, donations, volunteers, etc. contact  
Katrina@ldaf.louisiana.gov

website for more information: [www.vetmed.lsu.edu](http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu)

## **Contact Information for MS Animal Rescue Needs 8am-6pm 7 days a week**

To report a lost or found animal call: 1-888-722-3106

## **AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) Update: Same Info As #15**

### **VMAT-1: Louisiana**

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

- To assist State Veterinarian with agricultural and veterinary service assessment
- SERV Unit one will accompany DMAT HI-1 to St. Bernard Parish to help deal with numerous animal issues
- SERV Units two, three and four will assist VMAT-5 at Lamar-Dixon Animal Shelter

### **VMAT-2: Mississippi**

Building a field hospital in Gulfport about 40 minutes away from Kessler Air force Base. Seen very few cases of acute trauma in Mississippi area. Skin problems are most common problem all surgeries are referred to local clinics to prevent VMAT from taking their local business our folks are doing mostly triage and acting as a clearinghouse. Mostly dogs and cats, a few horses, and pot belly pig.

Livestock has been taking care of themselves plenty of grass and water available. Those who get grain aren't getting it but are doing well on grass. VMAT will be providing dewormers and other preventative measures for livestock and horses.

Many companies are donating medications and supplies, food, etc.

A major job of our folks is distribution of food and supplies and litter to affected persons in this area since all the stores that normally provide that are gone.

Just about every branch of the armed forces is here working together on base and in the effort. Very good teamwork happening and our folks report they are learning a lot about running convoys, logistics issues and administrative issues. Communication with the outside is difficult.

The flow of newly discovered animals is that the USAR teams are finding live animals, giving that info to VMAT (whose scope does not include live rescue) who are passing info to HSUS who pick them up.

We are very proud of our VMAT-2 folks and thrilled to see them working so hard to contribute to the effort.

### **VMAT-3: Mississippi**

Is in Hattiesburg providing veterinary care

### **VMAT-5: Louisiana**

Tasked to provide veterinary medical care in Gonzales, LA at the Lamar-Dixon Equine Exhibition Center.

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.