

AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) Update:

VMAT-1: Louisiana

Will be receiving a situation report from VMAT-1 later today to provide the most up to date information regarding the activities of VMAT-1 in LA.

VMAT-5: Louisiana

In Gonzales, LA at the Lamar-Dixon Equine Exhibition Center. ICS has been implemented. At this time the number of animals entering Lamar-Dixon must equal the number of animals leaving in order to maintain a stable population. There are approximately 1100 animals at Lamar-Dixon with approximately 100-200 animals leaving daily either with their owners or relocated to another shelter location to make room for the new animals being rescued.

VMAT veterinarians were sent to examine animals in vehicles outside the Lamar-Dixon Center during the time the Center was not accepting animals. News reports have covered the fact that at one particular time Lamar-Dixon was not accepting animals but failed to mention the fact that VMAT veterinarians were sent to the parking lot to examine animals and provide needed medical care. In fact, you could see VMAT personnel on the stories however no mention was made of the provided veterinary care.

United Animal Nations (www.uan.org <<http://www.uan.org/>>) staff and volunteers assisted VMAT initiatives at Lamar-Dixon by helping at the donations collection area by sorting medical supplies from the bulk drop-off location into usable and identifiable packages/containers.

VMAT-2: Mississippi

Submitted by Dr. Patrice Klein, VMAT-2 Team Commander

VMAT-2 is being stood down and the demobilization is scheduled to be complete by Monday. VMAT-2 will remain on alert and available to assist the other VMAT teams with backfill and augmentation in both MS and LA.

Animal Numbers for 9/16/05: 107 total cases: 83 dogs, 23 cats, and 1 horse.

VMAT-2 provided veterinary care to the local community and veterinary services to animals surrendered or found by ACO's (Animal Control Officers), HSUS (Humane Society of the United States) and Project Halo. Continue to assess the local veterinary infrastructure to determine any needs.

Assessment: Local community has continued need for veterinary care. However, many of the pets VMAT has examined belong to lower income families that do not appear to seek regular veterinary care or those families unable to pay for veterinary care due to the economic impact of the storm. Continued assessment of the local veterinary community shows most hospitals assessed by VMAT-2 are operational at 100%. However, several are low on certain medical supplies. VMAT offers to provide those supplies if available in our cache. If the supplies are not in our cache, we offer other means for those veterinarians to obtain those supplies such as direct order via NDMS or provide contact information for veterinary vendors. Veterinarians are slowly becoming able to receive supplies from their normal vendors.

Local radio stations have been notified of our presence in the area and asked to make a public service announcement. This method of announcement has been successful in notifying the public.

VMAT-3: Mississippi

Animals treated 9/16/05

15 dogs, 1 cat, 1 pot-belly pig, and 14 horses. Decontaminated 38 dogs, 24 cats, 3 rabbits, 1 goose, 1 pot-belly pig. The strike team in Waveland processed 17 dogs and 8 cats which includes medical treatment and/or decontamination. The personnel in Waveland will be rotated out and new members will be rotated in to take their place.

AVMA's disaster preparedness booklet Saving the Whole Family is 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.

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 Response. 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>> .

Texas Veterinary Medical Association

To post or search available veterinary jobs and housing!

TVMA CONNECT is a new online forum designed to enhance communication between members of the veterinary profession, especially during this time of need. To post information or get the latest updates concerning hurricane relief, visit www.tvmaconnect.org <<http://www.tvmaconnect.org>> .

Mississippi Animal Relief Fund

(662) 324-9380

Through Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association

Humane Society of the United States

For disaster updates: www.hsus.org <<http://www.hsus.org>>

To report a pet needing rescue: 1-800-HUMANE-1

To Volunteer: <http://www.hsus.org> <<http://www.hsus.org>>