

Event: Hurricane Katrina  
Date: September 19 2005  
Situation: AVMA Hurricane Katrina Disaster Situation Report

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

#### **VMAT-1: Louisiana and VMAT-5: Louisiana**

I have been asked by the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) not to include VMAT-1 and VMAT-5 activities in this report for the time being. For information please call the NDMS 24-hour line at 800-872-6367 and ask for the ESF #8 Desk.

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

Has been demobilized, but will remain on stand-by in case they are needed in LA.

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

Continues to be stationed in Hattiesburg, MS at the temporary animal shelter. Working in conjunction with humane organizations. Providing veterinary care to both owned and unowned animals at the shelter which is currently housing approximately 800 dogs and cats, 20 horses, 1 goat, and 1 pig. In addition to these animals on site, VMAT-3 took in 3 new dogs, 1 new cat, 1 tortoise, and decontaminated 17 new dogs entering the facility.

Each animal that enters receives vaccines, is micro-chipped, and is logged into [petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com) in order to facilitate reunion with the owner.

In addition to providing the medical care at the Hattiesburg shelter, VMAT-3, through a direct request from the State Veterinarian in consultation with affected veterinarians in the area, is also providing much needed supplies to the operational veterinary facilities in the affected area, assisting several severely damaged veterinary facilities with clean-up, staff, and supplies, providing veterinarians and technicians to short staffed veterinary facilities, and has a Strike Team in Waveland, MS providing triage and transport of animals back to the Hattiesburg shelter.

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