

Hello All -- This is a long message, please bear with me . . .

As most of you know Dr. Davis is now on the ground in Louisiana and I am back from Mississippi to continue coordinating deployment for HSUS/RAVS veterinary volunteers. It has taken me a few days to get a grip on the emergency deployment system Dr. Davis put together and to build that system up to handle the volume of scheduling that we are now requiring.

Thank you for your patience with the transition. I apologize in advance for any delays in communication on this end. Please be aware that I am currently the ONLY staff person to handle intake and deployment of the 800 current volunteer applicants (with up to 50 more coming in each day) and simply cannot reply to individual messages that are not of an emergency nature.

Though the response from the veterinary community and others has been amazing. WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE VOLUNTEERS in Louisiana. In addition, our operations in the affected areas are likely to continue for several months and we will continue to need support to care for the animals being rescued and housed in both Louisiana and Mississippi until local organizations are rebuilt and able to resume operations.

The HSUS is currently running major sheltering operations in both Hattiesburg, MS (with approximately 800 animals currently housed) and in Gonzalez, LA (approximately 1200 animals). We are also providing deployment support for the LSU shelter in Baton Rouge. Additional forward field operations are being deployed from these central locations to areas along the coast.

Please realize that, although skilled veterinary assistance is certainly needed in all of the locations where we are working, THE GREATEST NEED IS FOR BASIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND HUSBANDRY. If deployed, you may be doing anything from emergency medical stabilization to recordkeeping to cleaning kennels. If you are not interested in participating at this level, please do not ask to be deployed.

Due to the large number of volunteers involved and the need for adequate training and continuity of care at our temporary field shelters, we will be deploying veterinarians and veterinary technicians on a staggered 5 day schedule. We are currently scheduling through the month of October. The dates below are the rotations for which we are currently scheduling volunteers. The dates listed are actual working days, not including travel. You must be available to work starting 8 AM the first date listed through 5 PM of the last date of the deployment shift.

We realize that these shifts may not work for everyone, but we must have

a stable staffing situation. If conditions change to allow more flexible scheduling I will post an updated request. The only exception to this is for volunteers who would be available to deploy to Gonzalez IMMEDIATELY (24-72 hours)-please see below for more info.

It is likely that volunteers will be needed past these dates, but it is impossible to predict at this time how long we will be active in the affected areas. I will send further updates as we know more.

ROTATION #	DATES
1	9/25 - 9/29
2	9/29 - 10/4
3	10/4 - 10/8
4	10/8 - 10/12
5	10/12 - 10/16
6	10/16 - 10/20
7	10/20 - 10/24

If you are available for one or more of these rotations, please REPLY to this email (disaster@kattrap.net) with the following information, using the item numbers:

- (1) Name
- (2) Volunteer type (DVM, licensed tech, unlicensed asst., other)
- (3) Rotation# (s) and dates of the rotations you are available for (if listing more than one-will you deploy for all listed or just one?)
- (4) Who, if anyone you would be traveling with

We will get back with you in 1-2 days with a confirmation and specific location that you are needed to deploy to.

IMPORTANT NOTES: We do still have an IMMEDIATE URGENT NEED for personnel

at the Gonzalez, LA site. If you are available to deploy in the next 24-72 hours, please reply to this email (disaster@kattrap.net). Add "DEPLOYABLE ASAP" to the subject line.

If you are sent to Louisiana you must realize the Gonzales facility is EXTREMELY chaotic and conditions are changing constantly. A number of different groups have operations at the facility. VMAT and the USDA have taken control of the actual veterinary activities and VMAT has the authority as far as animal treatments and triage. There is EXTREME need for individuals with animal skills. You may or may not be doing medicine per se, but people who can handle animals safely, maintain appropriate sanitation and understand the importance of record keeping are essential to coordinating rescue and sheltering of the hundreds of animals being

held and processed there.

Wherever you may be deployed, you must be able to work independently as well as follow direction of the incident command and lead veterinary staff. Housing is up to you and involves camping. You will need to make your own travel arrangements and assume all related travel costs.

Finally, many of you have already been deployed and are on the ground now or leaving in the coming days. Please remember: disaster response is physically and emotionally trying. You will be affected in ways you can not predict. Please be safe and take care of yourselves. If I can help in any way please let me know.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HARD WORK. YOU ARE AMAZING. --ww

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