

09/07/05

Event: Hurricane Katrina

Date: September 6, 2005

Time: 8PM Update (Central Time)

Situation: AVMA Hurricane Katrina Disaster Situation Report

Contact Numbers for LA Animal Rescue Needs

Small Animal Rescue Requests: 225-578-9900

Large Animal Rescue Requests: 225-578-9501

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

Katrina@ldaf.louisiana.gov

(888) 773-6489, 225-237-5665 fax

Website: www.vetmed.lsu.edu

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) to assist in Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts and in future natural and animal disease emergencies. 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.

AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) Update

VMAT-1: 4 members are working with VMAT-5 at Lamar Dixon, and the rest of the team has been reassigned from the New Orleans Airport to another location, they are in transit and I will have their new location posted as soon as possible.

VMAT-2: In lower MS assessing veterinary facilities at the request of the State Veterinarian. VMAT-2 has assessed 50 veterinary facilities and recorded extensive damage, they are still trying to assess an additional 10 facilities that are a challenge to even locate and may not even exist anymore. Very sad situation for our members! VMAT-2 has been divided into mini strike teams of a couple people each to go to veterinary hospital locations to do the assessments. Once all of the veterinary facility assessments are complete, VMAT-2 will most likely be asked to setup and man a veterinary field hospital.

VMAT-3: In Hattiesburg, MS also doing veterinary facility assessments. More on VMAT-3 in a later update, communications has been very difficult from the VMAT-3 location. Their location is very rural and devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

VMAT-5: Tasked to provide veterinary medical care in Gonzales, LA at the Lamar-Dixon Equine Exhibition Center. VMAT-5 is also attempting to establish a veterinary medical care facility for the Search and Rescue dogs that are deployed utilizing a local VCA hospital that was not destroyed in the disaster. VMAT-5 and the hospital were in need of electricity and the LA Assistant State Veterinarian was able to provide □ AVMA thanks the MS State/Assistant State Veterinarian □s office very much for your help to the animals!!

Reports to me are that there may be approximately 800 animals at Lamar-Dixon, but that number is unconfirmed. VMAT-5 and VMAT-1 members are assessing and treating as needed approximately 150-200 animals a day. Their patients have included dogs and cats of course, a rabbit, ferret, duck, two parrots, and some mice! So far no serious injuries have been reported, but unfortunately we expect that to change. At this point so far, the animals that have survived and have been rescued and seen by VMAT are in pretty good shape. The Pit bull Mom and her puppies are doing great tonight! There are a lot of people and animals that are dead in the area, we are very sad to report. I have heard that there have been many a VMAT member tear with the reunions that are taking place between owners and their pets. Our hearts go out to all of the responders in the field and behind the desks □ it must be emotionally draining for each and every one.

The VMAT efforts are made possible from an annual grant from the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF). Please help support the VMAT program by donating to www.avmf.org, calling 800-248-2862 ext. 6689, or sending to **AVMFoundation, 1931 North Meacham Rd, Schaumburg, IL 601273-4360. The restricted fund designation is "Animal Disaster Relief and Response"**

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 is setting up something in our Veterinary Career Center to help displaced veterinarians find a job. Our Membership and Field Services Division is working very hard to contact each state to get information regarding their Practice Act and any provisions for this emergency. Please stay tuned to these updates or to www.avma.org for more information in the coming days on this effort.

Other Reports: For Immediate Release: September 1, 2005

School of Veterinary Medicine Sets Up Horse Hurricane Helpline

BATON ROUGE □ In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has set up a Horse Hurricane Helpline to help those horse owners with questions regarding rescue, shelter and veterinary care. Please call 225-578-9501 for your horse-related questions.

Media Contact:

Ginger Guttner

LSU School of Veterinary Medicine

225.578.9922

gguttner@vetmed.lsu.edu

The mission of the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine is to provide superior education in veterinary medicine and related fields, to offer a wide range of superior services to the general public and the veterinary medical community, and to maintain a relevant, high-quality research program in basic and applied fields.

Microchip Recovery Hotlines

AVID MICROCHIP ID (THEY ALSO OWN PET NET MICROCHIP COMPANY) CALL

800-336-2843

HOME AGAIN MICROCHIP RECOVERY CALL 866-738-4324

Audubon Aquarium of the Americas Update...

John Hewitt and a small team from the Aquarium is at the Aquarium preparing for an animal rescue. They plan to transport the following animals later this week to other Aquariums - sea otters, sea dragons (a miracle that they survived), penguins, about 120 gallon tank of freshwater fish, and a few saltwater fish.

The macaws, raptors and an electric eel will be relocated to the Audubon Zoo.

The white alligator is fine. Midas (the 250 lb. sea turtle) survived and has been coaxed into the holding area in the Gulf of Mexico Exhibit.

Five of their rehab sea turtles were released into the Gulf of Mexico yesterday with the assistance of the Louisiana National Guard.

Unfortunately, without a fully functioning life support system, most of the fish in their collection were lost.

The small staff at the Aquarium is working around the clock to manage the situation.

Please keep the Aquarium staff in your thoughts and prayers. This is a heartbreaking time for all of them.

The Audubon Zoo...

The staff at the Zoo is supporting the efforts of their colleagues at the Aquarium of the Americas. The Zoo staff has received needed supplies and is continuing clean up efforts at the Zoo.

Audubon Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species

The staff at ACRES is doing well -- in clean up mode.

There is a plan for them to receive needed supplies very soon.

The Audubon Nature Institute staff is aware that the AZA community has responded to this crisis in an overwhelming way and is extremely thankful. You still continue to provide generous offers of help. We are maintaining a list by categories of those offers. This will be a long- term effort and I know that our colleagues at the Audubon Nature Institute appreciate having your offers available.

AZA ACCREDITED ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS RALLY TO AID NEW ORLEANS ZOO AND AQUARIUM COLLEAGUES, ANIMALS AFTER HURRICANE DISASTER

SILVER SPRING, MD - Members of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) are responding to their New Orleans colleagues' need for help following the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina this week. The 211- accredited- member association today announced plans - including a national fundraising initiative -- to help the Audubon Nature Institute, which includes the Audubon Zoo, the Aquarium of the Americas, and the Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species (ACRES). The facilities and their staff, like all New Orleanians, are struggling in the aftermath of the disaster.

"The Audubon Nature Institute staff in New Orleans are not only colleagues, but they are also our friends, and we all share a passion for the animals in our care," said Bill Foster, DMV, president

of the AZA board of directors and director of the Birmingham Zoo. "The AZA community is committed to helping our colleagues in New Orleans as they move beyond this tragedy and begin to rebuild their homes, their lives and the wonderful facilities of the Audubon Nature Institute."

Dr. Foster asked Kevin Bell, President and CEO of Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, to spearhead the AZA member fund drive to help provide immediate and long-term relief to the staff and their families, the animals and the facilities in New Orleans. Bell said that in response to the overwhelming zoo and aquarium community interest in aiding the Audubon Nature Institute, a program is now in place enabling AZA members as well as the general public to donate.

To make a donation, people can visit the Lincoln Park Zoo web site at <http://www.lpz.org> and click on hurricane relief, or mail a check, made out to The Lincoln Park Zoological Society, and send it to: Lincoln Park Zoo, P.O.

Box 14903, Chicago IL 60614, Attention: Hurricane Katrina Relief.

All donations will be channeled directly to aid the zoo and aquarium and their staff members in New Orleans. The Executive Committee of the AZA Board of Directors will handle the distribution of these funds.

In addition to the fund drive, AZA is coordinating relief efforts that will provide animal food, veterinary medicine, fuel and other supplies directly to the facilities in New Orleans. "Getting help to our colleagues is problematic at this time due to emergency restrictions," noted Foster. "However we are preparing our plan and will be ready with immediate assistance when supply routes are open."

AZA is providing frequent updates on the zoo and aquarium situation in New Orleans at <http://www.aza.org/Newsroom/hurricaneupdate/>

If you wish to set a link on your website for people to donate, feel free to use this wording:

_____, an accredited member of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), joins with other member zoos and aquarium to respond to our New Orleans colleagues'

need for help following the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina this week. Today the 211-accredited-member association announced a national fundraising initiative to help the Audubon Nature Institute, which includes the Audubon Zoo, the Aquarium of the Americas, the Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species. The facilities and their staff, like all New Orleanians, are struggling in the aftermath of the disaster. Kevin Bell, President and CEO of Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, is spearheading the AZA member fund drive to help provide immediate and long-term relief for staff and their families, the animals and the facilities. To make a donation, visit the Lincoln Park Zoo web site at <http://www.lpzoo.org>

Texas Veterinary Medical Association: The Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation has established a fund to support animal care and rescue efforts and to help restore veterinary services in the hurricane impacted areas. TVMA has also set up an Internet based matching service to match DVMs displaced by the disaster with Texas clinics that are willing to employ them on a short-term basis. Doctors not licensed to practice in Texas must contact our State Board of Veterinary Examiners and apply for a Provisional license. The cost of this license is \$255, but Pfizer has agreed to pay this cost for the first 100 doctors to apply in the next 90 days. Information on either of these programs is available at (800) 489-7347 or www.tvma.org.

The Office of the Surgeon General and The Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness

TO: Healthcare Professionals and Relief Personnel

FROM: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Office of the Surgeon General

Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness

DATE: September 1, 2005

TOPIC: HHS - KATRINA RECOVERY EFFORT

URGENT ATTENTION

The Department of Health and Human Services is in the process of identifying and mobilizing healthcare professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. As our nation and the global community are now aware, the healthcare needs resulting from Katrina has reached an extremely critical nature. Please respond to this email immediately if you or your professional organization can provide assistance in the needed areas outlined below.

Mission Title: Hurricane Katrina Relief

Mission Need:
1100 Healthcare Professionals and Relief Personnel

Location: Southern Region affected by Hurricane Katrina (Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas)

Staff Needs: Multidisciplinary healthcare professionals and relief personnel with expertise in the following areas. * Identifies critical staffing demands.

Administration/Finance Officers	*Nursing Assistants/Nursing Support Technicians
*Chaplain/Social Worker	Nursing Staff Directors
Clinical Physicians	*Patient Transporters/Volunteers
Dentists	Pharmacists
Dieticians	Psychologists
Epidemiologists	*Physician's Assistants or Nurse Practitioners
Environmental Health	Physician Chiefs of Staff
Epidemiologists	Respiratory Therapists
*Facility Managers	*RNs
*Housekeepers	*Safety Officers
IT/Communications Officers	Security Officers
*LPNs	*Social Workers
Medical Clerks	*Supply Managers
Mental Health Workers	Veterinarians

Note: Additional critical needs are expected to be in the areas of Occupational Health, Medical Equipment, Facilities and Logistics.

Special Considerations/Needs:

Organizations/Associations/Health Professional Schools, and others who can respond in a consolidated effort with multidisciplinary teams of 5 professionals/volunteers or more (see Staff Needs) to meet Katrina healthcare recovery efforts.

Date/Length of Time Needed:

Immediate short and long-term assignments required for a minimum of 14 days up to a maximum of 30 days.

Volunteers

HHS plans to hire personnel as needed. These personnel will be hired as non-paid temporary Federal employees. What does this mean? Travel and per diem will be paid however they will not receive a salary.

Credentialing/privileging is required for healthcare professionals (details about credentialing will be provided to those who will be deployed). Temporary Federal employees will be covered under Workman's Compensation and under the Federal Tort Claims Act for malpractice and liability, while acting within the scope of your federal employment.

Additional Forms/Releases as Required

Signatures will be secured for necessary forms before deployment

To register please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/>, click on the Hurricane Katrina link, go to the Health Care Professionals and Relief Personnel Volunteer Page and complete the requested information. You may also call 1-866-KATMEDI (1-866-528-6334) for further information. The phones and website are now up. Callers are standing by to take your information.

*Cindy S. Lovern, DVM, MS
Assistant Director, Scientific Activities
1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173
Work: 847-285-6632
Fax: 847-925-9329
Cell: 630-253-4494
Web: www.avma.org/disaster
Email: clovern@avma.org*

URGENT ALERT

VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY TECHNICIANS NEEDED TO HELP WITH ANIMAL RESCUE IN HURRICANE DAMAGED AREAS

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN at LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

We at the School of Veterinary Medicine, like everyone else in the country, are overwhelmed by what we have seen on the news in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. In an effort to help our colleagues and fellow citizens, the School is working with the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, the Louisiana Animal Control Association, and the Louisiana SPCA to provide shelter and care for those pets that have traveled with their owners from the flooded areas and animals that have been rescued from those areas.

The School's faculty, staff and students are volunteering their time at the Parker Coliseum on the LSU campus and the Lamar-Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales, La., where animals are being sheltered. This is not something that will end in a few days. The School will require on-going support from the community.

We desperately need volunteers, especially veterinarians and veterinary technicians, to help us in this effort. Non-veterinary volunteers are also welcome, though only those people that have been vaccinated for rabies will be able to work directly with the animals.

The animal shelters are in dire need of large crates and cages. The volunteers also need ice, beverages and food. Other animal supplies, such as food, cat litter, pooper scoopers, vaccines, antibiotics, bandages, and catheters are also welcome and needed.

These items can be mailed to:

Mark any package:
FOR DISASTER RELIEF ONLY
c/o Louisiana State University, School of Veterinary Medicine
Skip Bertman Drive
Baton Rouge, LA, 70809

Monetary donations can be made to the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association by calling 1-800-524-2996 or 225-928-5862. You can also download a donation form at the LVMA website at www.lvma.org, or send a check or money order made payable to the Dr. Walter J. Ernst, Jr. Veterinary Memorial Foundation, 8550 United Plaza Blvd., Suite 1001, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

It is during times of adversity and tragedy that people must come together. The School of Veterinary Medicine, along with state and local animal organizations, wants to do our part by caring for as many animals as possible. Please help us in our efforts.

Veterinarians and veterinary technicians who want to volunteer assistance can contact Dr. David Senior at the School of Veterinary Medicine at 225-578-9551 or dsenior@vetmed.lsu.edu. Non-veterinary volunteers can contact the School of Veterinary Medicine at 225-578-9900. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Groves, DVM, Dean,
School of Veterinary Medicine
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
Phone: (225) 578-9900
Fax: (225) 578-9916
Web: www.vetmed.lsu.edu

09/06/05 UPDATES

Governor Announces Statewide Resource Coordination Effort, Michigan Hurricane Helpline, and Statewide "Michigan Cares/Michigan Gives" On-Air Fundraising Drive

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm this morning outlined Michigan's relief efforts to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina and announced new efforts to funnel goods and services to affected communities.

From the State's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Granholm urged citizens to visit the state's Website at <http://www.michigan.gov/> for up-to-date information on how to donate goods, services and money to the relief effort. Granholm announced a new Michigan Hurricane Helpline for citizens to pledge donations of goods and services and offer help. Pledges of help will be cataloged and coordinated so that when the affected areas ask for particular assistance, the state can deliver immediately. The Michigan Hurricane Helpline number is 1-888-535-6136.

□Citizens can help right now by calling our new Hurricane Helpline to report your group's activities, to volunteer your willingness to donate goods, services and housing, □ said Granholm. □If you have a cash contribution which is so critical at this moment please visit www.michigan.gov to donate to one of the relief organizations listed.□

Granholm said the state's EOC is coordinating all relief efforts underway in the state and is marshalling resources from State of Michigan departments, private entities, private citizens, and local organizations to ensure that Michigan support is coordinated and ready at a moment's notice to be delivered in the most impactful way to the affected areas. The State is also working to ensure that Michigan citizens and businesses are protected from the economic impacts of the Hurricane.

The Governor announced earlier this week that she has suspended rules that restricted transportation of gasoline in Michigan. The Governor has also asked Marathon Oil to lower its wholesale prices. The State has received more than 1,500 complaints regarding gas gouging. The Attorney General's office is investigating.

Granholm also announced that she is coordinating an on-air fundraiser next week for victims of the hurricane. She has partnered with Michigan Association of Broadcasters to reach out to organize a statewide, simultaneous on-air fundraiser to support Hurricane Katrina efforts.

□All across our state, next Friday, September 9, radio and television broadcasters, commercial and public, will take part in Michigan Cares/Michigan Gives.□

This effort will involve on-air fundraising throughout the day with a particular focus on the 6-9 a.m. morning drive time. Broadcasters will ask their listeners to call the Red Cross's relief hotline to donate funds. While the Michigan Cares/Michigan Gives fundraising effort will culminate in on-air activities next Friday, citizens can call and donate now.

Granholm has been briefed on numerous activities initiated by Michigan nonprofit organizations, churches, and businesses, and she pledged to support those activities.

□We are all moved by the outpouring of support by Michigan citizens and organizations. Outreach efforts like the one coordinated by the Legislative Black Caucus and efforts by local citizens to open Michigan's arms to evacuees are true examples of the spirit of Michigan.□

Granholm said that her office is supporting efforts like those announced by radio-host Tom Joyner to coordinate □adopt-a-family□ networks through churches around the state. Her office of Community and Faith Based Initiatives is working closely with religious leaders around the state to coordinate help and to dedicate a portion of their weekend services to remembering our brothers and sisters who are suffering.

□There is one more way that citizens can help right now,□ said Granholm. □Say a prayer for the families, the children, the parents, the volunteers who need to know we are thinking of them and sending our thoughts to them.□

Granholm detailed actions underway in state departments to provide badly needed relief and to prepare for the potential arrival of disaster victims to the state. State efforts are being organized into five key areas:

Security and Logistics Support

As commander of the Michigan National Guard, the Governor deployed nearly 500 soldiers. Military Police are en route to Mississippi. The Michigan National Guard has dispatched a water purification unit. Two C-130 transport aircraft have been dispatched and two are on call. The National Guard trucking companies are on alert as well. Michigan State Police has K-9, SWAT, and Forensics teams ready to deploy.

Housing Support

Available housing options are being catalogued through Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS is currently ensuring that housing is available for evacuees who have already arrived in Michigan. DHS is working closely with the faith community as well to identify housing and services.

Health, Human Services and Education Support

Health and human services and education services are being coordinated to ensure that children can be accepted into schools and that citizens have access to services.

Department of Community Health is coordinating with the Michigan Hospital Association to identify volunteer medical and nursing personnel and is preparing for possible immunization issues. The Department of Human Services will expedite food assistance/food stamp rules for evacuees. DCH is also delivering the message that the state will honor any out-of-state Medicaid cards.

Transportation Support

Department of Transportation is marshalling transportation services. An MDOT bridge repair rig is ready to mobilize. All charter bus companies in the state have been, or will be, contacted to determine capacity. The Department of Education is working with local school districts to catalogue excess school bus capacity. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has four C-130 aircraft prepared to mobilize to move evacuees.

Environmental Cleanup/Protection

Department of Environmental Quality is mobilizing 50 conservation officers with law enforcement capabilities and inventorying surplus equipment such as boots and waders. The Department of Agriculture is identifying veterinarians to assist with animal disease issues.

AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Team (VMAT) Update

* VMAT-1: (25 members deployed) Arrived in Baton Rouge Louisiana at 10:30PM 9/1/05. Mission Assignment approved from LA: 3 Goals: To assist State Veterinarian with agricultural and veterinary facility assessments, to assess issues at the zoo, to assist at animal drop-off locations once established.

* VMAT-2 (21 members deployed) Kessler AFB in Mississippi, will likely be stationed Biloxi, MS.

* VMAT-3 (25 members deployed) Have arrived in Jackson, MS with a state mission assignment to do initial assessments in MS.

* VMAT-5: (25 members deployed) Moved into Baton Rouge, Louisiana today. Will start assessments first thing in the morning with VMAT-1.

Under the direction of the State Veterinarian, the VMATs will begin with overall assessments of veterinary facilities, animal issues, and public health issues starting on 9/2/05. The VMAT efforts are made possible from an annual grant from the American Veterinary

Medical Foundation (AVMF). Please help support the VMAT program by donating to www.avmf.org or calling 800-248-2862 ext. 6689.

Other Reports:

Alabama - reports of veterinary facility damage in the state have been minor "not aware of any rescue efforts in the state." One area of need in the state is the number of refugees (and their pets) from MS and LA that are in need of care and services. Many veterinary hospitals in Alabama are housing animals for the displaced residents of MS and LA. In past disasters this was normally a short term situation. As many of these people now have no home to go back to, the Alabama VMA is looking at long term care for the pets and for the people. Assistance in the form of financial contributions to the Alabama Veterinary Medical Foundation (P.O. Box 3514, Montgomery, AL 36109) marked for disaster relief can be used to help offset some of the cost of care and housing costs for these pets.

Mississippi VMA and Board of Veterinary Medicine-- South of I-20 many animal clinics and hospitals have likely suffered considerable damage. Phone service to the area is poor right now.

Texas Veterinary Medical Association

The Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation has established a fund to support animal care and rescue efforts and to help restore veterinary services in the hurricane impacted areas. TVMA has also set up an Internet based matching service to match DVMs displaced by the disaster with Texas clinics that are willing to employ them on a short-term basis. Doctors not licensed to practice in Texas must contact our State Board of Veterinary Examiners and apply for a Provisional license. The cost of this license is \$255, but Pfizer has agreed to pay this cost for the first 100 doctors to apply in the next 90 days. Information on either of these programs is available at (800) 489-7347 or www.tvma.org.

8/31/05 8:39 P.M. - EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. (AP)

The Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association is currently accepting pets at the Blackham Coliseum in Lafayette, LSU in Shreveport, the Monroe Civic Center for small animals and the Ike Hamilton Center for large animals in Monroe.

Pets are also being accepted at the Farmer's Market in Alexandria, and the LSU Agriculture Center at Parker Coliseum in Baton Rouge. From WWLTV New Orleans news blog....

<http://www.wwlvtv.com/>

Georgia Department of Agriculture
Tommy Irvin, Commissioner
19 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

For information contact: Arty Schronce or Jackie Sosby
(404) 656-3689

138,000 birds salvaged

Georgia Department of Agriculture Helps
With Clean-up at Damaged Poultry Farms

The Georgia Department of Agriculture has been assisting with the clean-up of 17 poultry houses in Carroll County destroyed by tornadoes spawned by Hurricane Katrina, said Tommy Irvin, Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture.

"Our inspectors worked with the poultry companies and farm families to help salvage as many birds as possible. Approximately 66,000 three-week old chickens at one farm were relocated to another farm to continue growing, and about 72,000 birds that were about 40 days old were gathered and taken from one of the farms to a processing plant," said Commissioner Irvin.

Agriculture inspectors are also overseeing the burial of the remaining 374,500 chickens that were killed in the storms, said Irvin.

While the loss of property is tremendous," said Irvin, "the saddest part of the story is a poultry farmer was killed in the storms. I and all the employees of the Georgia Department of Agriculture send our condolences to the family of Craig Eidson."

The Humane Society of the United States - Situation Report
Date/Time: September 1, 2005, 11:00 AM
Event: Hurricane Katrina
Location: Mississippi and Louisiana

Mississippi:

Working with the Mississippi State Veterinarian's Office the HSUS DART gathered resources Tuesday and Wednesday in Jackson (MS). Their first task was developing the pet-friendly shelter and emergency animal shelter, currently with approximately 80 animals, at the Coliseum in Jackson and establishing the basis for taking in many more animals from the surrounding area.

This morning seven DART field teams left to conduct damage and needs assessments from Jackson south to Hattiesburg area, and to provide help as they find needs.

The HSUS team includes about 35 trained responders and 8-10 vehicles (plus trailers and RVs), including the HSUS Disaster Response Unit (truck & trailer), and members from the Okaloosa (FL) DART, Sumter County (FL) DART, Humane Society of Missouri, Day's End Farm Horse Rescue (MD), and others. Team capabilities include companion animals, horses, livestock, and wildlife.

The team leaders are pushing very hard to get help to Gulfport, but at this time Route 49 is open only to state-authorized emergency vehicles.

An HSUS DART member who lives in Gulfport and reports to us daily has told us that the Humane Society of Southern Mississippi (HESS) shelter has withstood major destruction. Early reports that the animals had been evacuated from this shelter were incorrect. In fact, many of the animals appeared to have perished, though some were able to float free. Reports are that people in Gulfport are leaving more animals at the shelter. Our team is pressing to bring relief there. Security is apparently still an issue in these areas of Southern Mississippi, even delaying some government response.

Louisiana:

Thousands of people being evacuated from the New Orleans Superdome are arriving in Houston to be sheltered in the Astrodome. The Houston SPCA is arranging sheltering for the pets of people who are staying in Houston area shelters and are preparing for the influx of more animals. HSUS volunteers are helping transport animals from the Astrodome to the temporary shelter, which will be fully operational by Friday. The HSUS Southwest Regional Office has been contact with the state veterinarian and is working closely with the Louisiana SPCA. Here is information that the Louisiana SPCA has sent out:

For people with pets who are currently evacuating New Orleans, the LA/SPCA will transport animals from pick-up points in New Orleans to a temporary facility outside Baton Rouge. The pick-up points have not yet been determined and are being coordinated with the agency charged with transporting people from New Orleans to other areas. Once the shelter is full, animals will be moved to temporary shelters in other areas of Louisiana and Texas.

For confined pets still in the disaster area, beginning on September 1, 2005, residents who left pets in their homes may call a hot line to leave information about the number of animals, species, and their confined location. As soon as the hotline number is obtained, we will advise the media.

A regional donation center is being established; the media will be advised of the address once determined.

For more information on disaster preparedness, training, and response for animals for individuals, animal facilities, and communities, or to support our efforts, please refer to www.hsus.org/disaster.

To donate to support our disaster relief efforts, please visit www.hsus.org or call 1-800-HUMANE-1 (1-800-486-2631).