

# Program Update

Florida State Animal Response Team Meeting,  
February 2011



Dr. Chester Gipson  
Deputy Administrator  
USDA APHIS Animal Care

# Pets are family members

- Pets are increasingly seen as family members
- In a disaster, people will not act in their own best interest, if it puts their pet at risk



Photograph courtesy of Kevin Dennison, USDA

## Specialists

- Bio-physiology
- Elephants
- Non-Human Primates
- Big Cats
- Marine Mammals

## Staff Officers

- Breeders/Dealers
- Transporters
- Birds
- Exhibitors
- Horse Protection
- Research

## Inspection Staff

- Veterinarians
- Animal Care Inspectors
- Supervisory specialists

## Emergency Programs

- 3 Veterinarians
- 1 Emergency Management Specialist

**Deputy Administrator – Dr. Chester Gipson**



# Emergency Management Missions



- Support our regulated populations in emergencies
- Support pet owners and their animals in disasters

# Pets are family members

- By giving pet owners good options, both people and pets are better protected



Photograph courtesy of FEMA

# Our Vision

A nation working together to protect the public through  
ensuring the safety and well-being of pets



# Our Pets Mission Areas

Provide Leadership  
and  
Facilitate partnerships

Promote effective  
Planning  
(National, State, Local)

Provide training

Mobilize personnel  
to support  
FEMA and States

Support contingency  
planning by  
regulated facilities

Support animal  
welfare issues in  
animal disease  
emergencies

## Projects

Annual meetings for pet emergency management in 2008, 2009, 2010 - in partnership with FEMA and National Alliance of State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs (NASAAEP)



# Projects

## Sponsor 9 National Best Practice Working Groups

- Animal Search and Rescue
- Evacuation & Transportation
- Planning & Resource Mgmt
- Preparedness & Community Outreach
- Sheltering
- Training
- Animal Decon, HazMat, & Radiological Issues
- Disaster Veterinary Care
- Zoo Best Practices

# Projects

## Funded exercises with States

- CA – California Animal Response Emergency System (CARES) exercises
- NC – emergency shelter equipment trailer exercises



Photograph courtesy of USDA

# Projects

Funded exercises with States

- LA – 2 transportation events



# Projects

## Funded exercises with States

- GA – add and exercise animal component to county emergency plans
- UT – exercise Animal SAR with human SAR



# Projects

## Funded exercises with States

- MA – exercise  
NGO, local, state,  
federal roles



Photograph courtesy of IFAW

# Projects

## Response Activity

- 2008 Wildfires in Northern California
- 2008 Hurricanes Gustav and Ike
- 2008 Midwest floods
- 2010 Deepwater Horizon





USDA APHIS Animal Care Emergency Programs

# Contact our Emergency Programs Team

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