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 Management Specialist

USDA APHIS Animal Care Emergency Programs

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
- Mobilize personnel to support FEMA and States
- Promote effective Planning (National, State, Local)
- Support contingency planning by regulated facilities
- Provide training
- 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
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
Projects

Response Activity

• 2008 Wildfires in Northern California
• 2008 Hurricanes Gustav and Ike
• 2008 Midwest floods
• 2010 Deepwater Horizon
Contact our Emergency Programs Team

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