

# UF Vets - Emergency Response team

# Hurricane Irma

**UF** Veterinary Emergency  
Treatment Service  
*College of Veterinary Medicine*  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



# As Hurricane Irma approached different groups within the CVM rallied to provide assistance



Members of the UF Aquatic Animal Health team assisted with several calls to rescue displaced manatees

- 1 from a canal in Bayport, and several from a pond in Melbourne
- Collaborating agencies included the FFWC, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, Sea World, the Brevard County Zoo and local law enforcement

Michael Walsh, D.V.M., also assisted in an inter-agency manatee rescue facilitated by Atlantis in Paradise Island, Bahamas on Sept. 23. The wild manatee had been found in high seas and was thought to have been displaced from his home range due to Hurricane Irma.

# College of Vet Med & UF VETS team

## **UF's Shelter Medicine group –**

- Supported the Alachua County Humane Society - distributing donated vaccines and medications for animals evacuating from rural shelters
- Delivered supplies to Taylor and Suwanee county shelters to care for animals arriving after the storm
- Assisted with animal relocation transports to Chicago, Atlanta and South Carolina

## **The UF Veterinary Hospital -**

- **Provided 24/7** emergency services while nearly every other veterinary specialty and emergency hospital in the state was closed
- Experienced one of the busiest 24-hour periods in the history of the Small Animal Hospitals ICU

# College of Vet Med & UF VETS team

## **CVM VETS Team –**

- Transported and delivered crates JIT for an additional shelter opening in Alachua County
- Investigated and assessed complaints of horse abandonment
- Spent a full week in the Florida Keys, providing patient care and assessments; working with SPCA, local businesses and veterinary clinics to provide assistance as needed
- Distributed donated resources from Marathon to KW
- Transported animals between KW and Marathon SPCA shelters

## **CVM Technical Rescue Team -**

- Along with other agencies rescued 5 stranded horses from swift moving waters

# UF Vets Team - Hurricane Irma



# UF Vets Team - leaving CVM



# Mission 1 - Investigation of horses not being cared for



# Temporary pens destroyed; sink holes formed





All equipment, animals and feed - OK



# Horses maintained by their owners



# Great place to weather a hurricane - -@ 500 acres



# Mission 1 - secondary location checked water, food provided, pens/stalls ok



# Leaving Kissimmee headed to the keys



# Offloading feed to be redistributed



# Ag Law escorts us into the keys...



After meeting with Monroe county EOC - we established camp at the Marathon Airport





# Marathon SPCA/Shelter initial visit



# Our location in KW - La Trattoria parking lot



Nothing was easy - had to cut, chop & sweep to get to our site ready



What could be better -  
no-see-ums & port-o-potties?



# Supplies and treatment tents



# Tents for AC's to keep from overheating



# Our Ag Law Partners



Provided security at camp, when we ran errands, deliveries and aided us in obtaining fuel, ice and supplies. They were great!

Our clients couldn't wait to see us





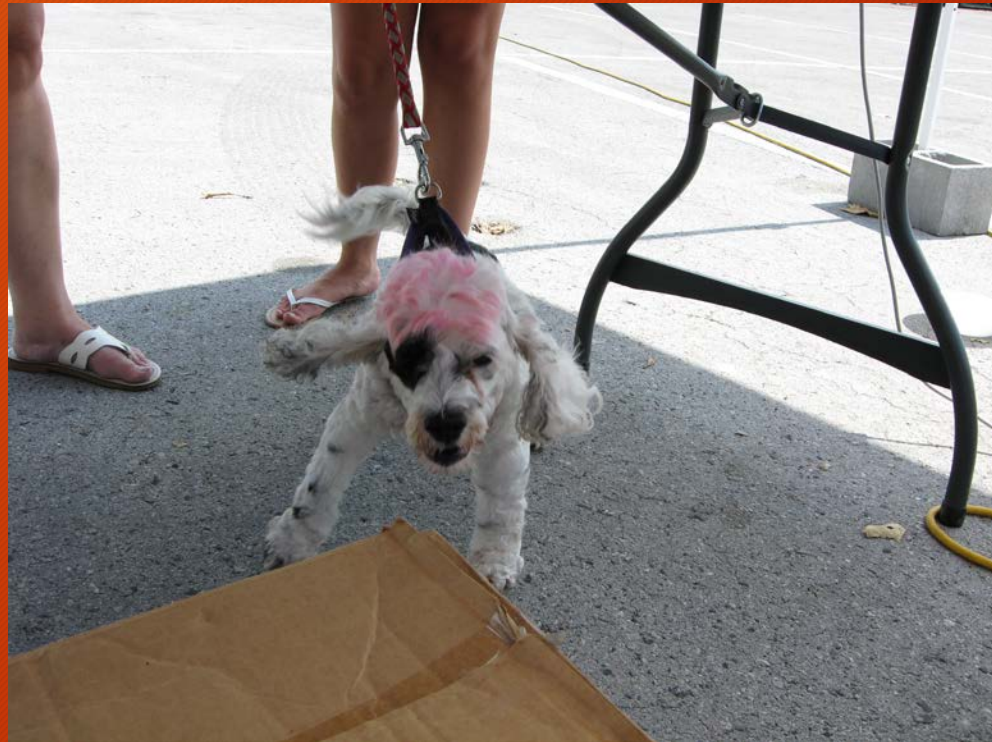
# Patients included

- Dogs attacked by neighboring dogs
- Diabetic dogs whose insulin supply was running low
- Dermatology cases exacerbated by the heat and stress from the storm
- A dog that ingested spilled rat poison as a result of a cabinet that fell over during the storm
- Several strays that were treated and released to SPCA for future adoption
- A dog who had surgery before IRMA and the owner was unable to remove their sutures

# Owners waiting for vets/clinics to reopen



This one wasn't happy



# Larry & May-Li in action



# Stray cat, relocated to Marathon SPCA



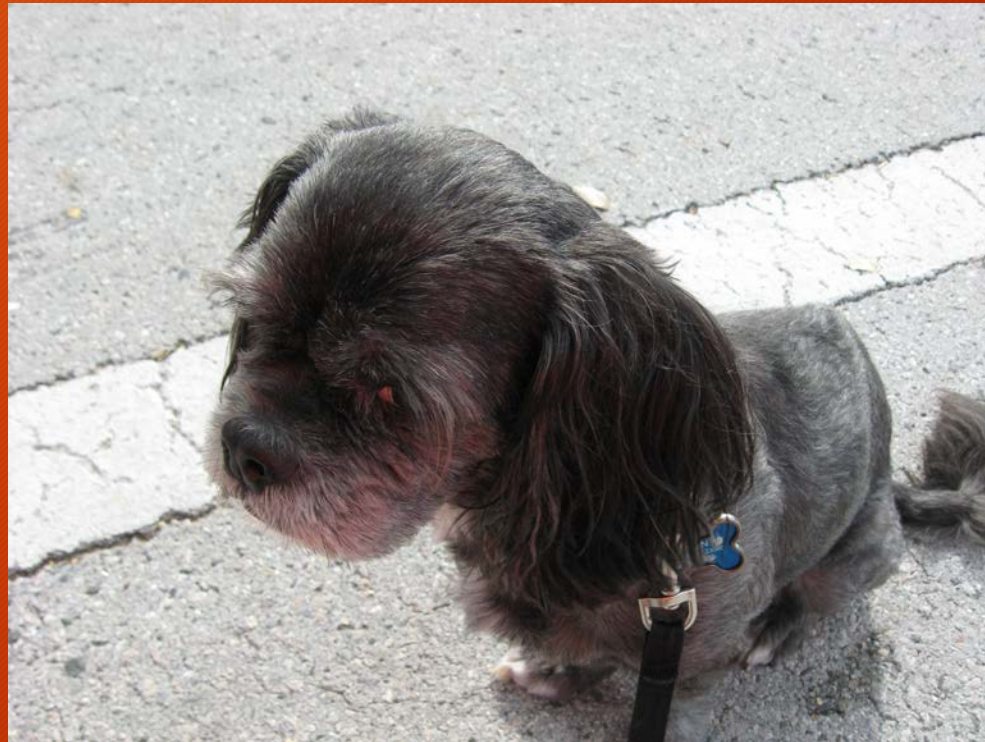
# Stray animals, treated and sent to SPCA for continued treatment and rehoming



Lots of rashes, diarrhea, vomiting



# Diabetics - low on inusulin

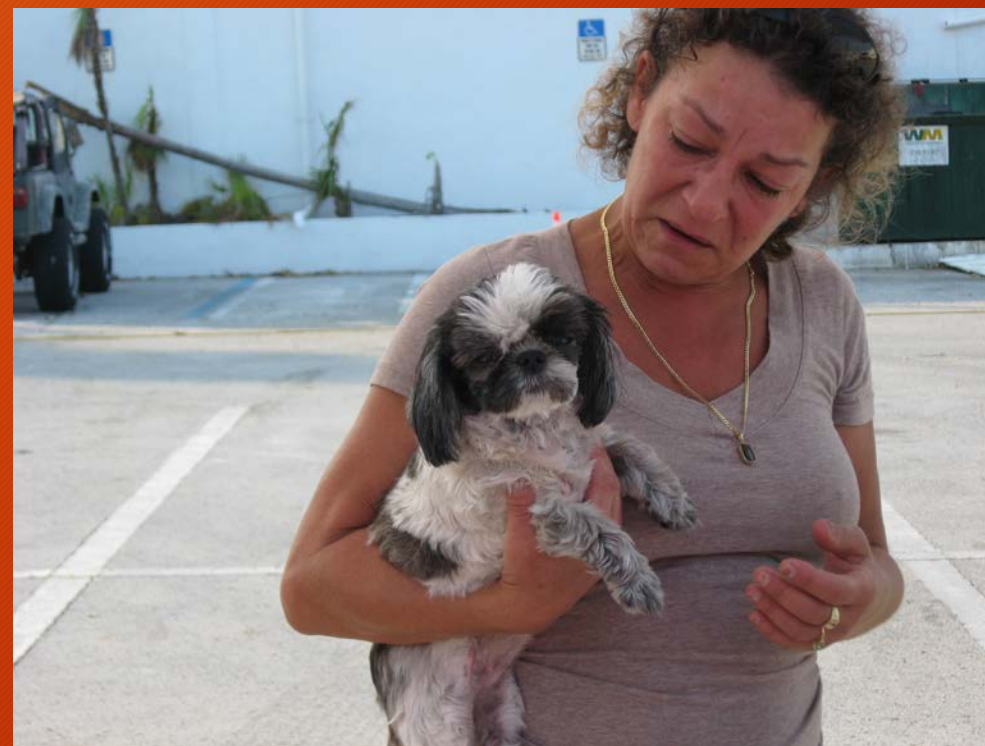




# Great learning Opportunity for students -



Unable to get to other clinics – 50 mi away



Provided SPCA veterinary services to shelter animals as there were no other vets available



# Mangrove mamas - hit hard by IRMA, but operating as a distribution center



# Aided everyone in need



# Local businesses & agencies helping



Headed home, happy to help KW get back on their feet - shelters, clinics and vets began reopening



# Horse rescue Santa Fe River

- Owner who failed to evacuate even though in a flood zone
- Had 5 horses caught in fast flowing waters

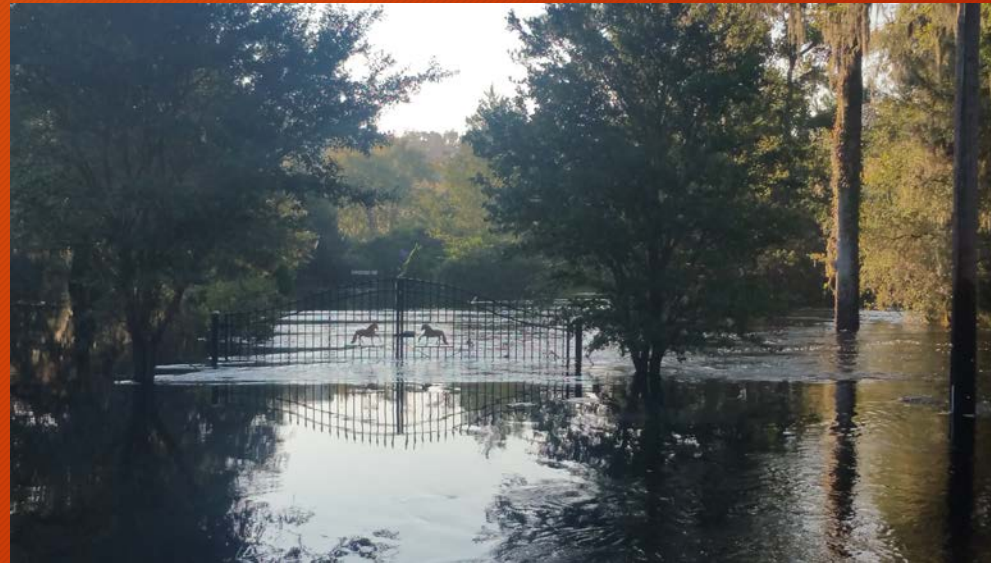




# Day 2 - taking supplies to the horses



# Day 3 - safe, successful rescue



This was a huge effort from National Guard, UF IFAS, UF CVM, Alachua and Columbia Sheriff deputies, FWC, and Spring Hill Equine team.