

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

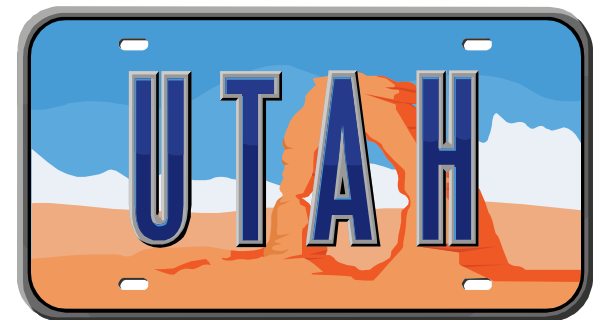
- LA – 2 transportation events



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



Photograph courtesy of USDA



USDA APHIS Animal Care Emergency Programs

Contact our Emergency Programs Team

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