

Animal Care Part Of Response Plan

SCHAUMBURG, Ill. — For the first time, animal care has been incorporated into the federal government's domestic disaster plan.

With the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the American Veterinary Medical Association and the U.S. Public Health Service, veterinary services were incorporated into the National Disaster Medical System, part of the Federal Response Plan for disaster relief.

"Veterinary medical assistance teams," or VMATS, consisting of volunteer veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and support personnel, will be mobilized as needed after disasters. The organization and functions of these VMATs is described in the newly published "AVMA Emergency Preparedness And Response Guide."

This guide and the "AVMA's Emergency Response Force" were developed out of veterinarians' desires to assist communities when disaster strikes.

Incorporation of veterinary services as part of the Federal Response Plan will fill unmet needs evident after Hurricane Andrew and last summer's floods. A veterinarian's knowledge and

skills in the areas of public health, animal health and welfare, and their understanding of the human-animal bond will facilitate relief efforts.

The VMATS will work cooperatively with state departments of health, agriculture, and wildlife, as well as with animal control agencies and humane organizations to provide for animals' needs after disasters.

Besides describing how veterinary services are incorporated into the Federal Response Plan, the 340-page emergency Guide contains practical information for private veterinary practitioners on business planning, record keeping, and insurance needs related to disaster preparedness. The three-ring binder and a mailing list of guide recipients will allow the notebook to be updated regularly.

"The guide answers the question of how we may best work together with federal emergency response plans to ease the suffering of our colleagues and their communities during a disaster," said AVMA President Dr. Leon Russell.

In addition, the "AVMA Emergency Preparedness and

Response Guide" provides information for development of local/state animal care plans that integrate with the federal plan. Emergency fact sheets from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a listing of disaster pre-

paredness officials, and other key contacts also are included in the guide.

The initial printing and distribution of the guide was made possible, in part, through a grant from the American Animal Hospital

Association Foundation. Copies of the guide may be obtained for \$25 from the AVMA Foundation, Disaster Relief Fund, American Veterinary Medical Association, 1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360.

Santa Gertrudis Association To Meet

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.) — Members of the Northeast Santa Gertrudis Association (NESGA) will gather for dinner, election of officers, and the planning of activities for the year on April 30 at 10 a.m. here at the Bonanza Restaurant.

The NESGA is an affiliate of Santa Gertrudis Breeders International, an organization interested in promoting this breed of beef cattle. Its territory includes all Northeastern states as far south as and including Virginia.

Interested persons may contact the president, James Quanbeck, 2328 Franklin Rd., Columbia, PA 17512, (717) 285-4639, or the secretary, Susan White, 1191 Ridge Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325, (717) 334-2044 for information or directions.

Topics for discussion include placing displays at state fairs, agri-

cultural expositions and other places where promotional activities would be fruitful; planning a summer or fall field day; participation in late summer cattle shows and meeting with the SGBI field

representative; and organizing a joint sale with the New York, Ohio, and Illinois associations.

People interested in learning more about the breed are urged to attend.

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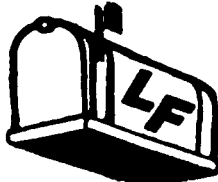
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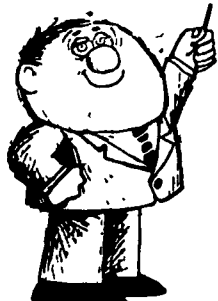


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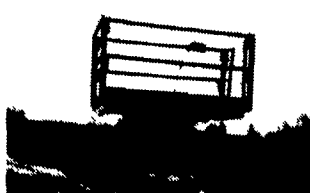
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