The Nature of Disaster, 3 Hurricanes, and the Great Cratepocalypse

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The Nature of Disaster: The Hierarchy of Response

Disasters DO NOT discriminate. As animal care professionals, we spend a significant amount of our time in response. Our efforts are finite in this phase.
To shift our focus, once again, to mitigation and to the future, on recovery, we may be able positively impact more animal lives/more families.
The Nature of a Disaster: Considerations

- Personal Preparedness: Practice what we preach.
  - Make sure this includes plans in the event you are not home or your residence is impacted.

- Humane Education: Focus on spay/neuter.

- Close Collaboration with OEM to source temporary facilities that do not have to return to function in 10-14 days (churches/schools).

- Corporate Partnerships for Longer Term displacement with commercial real estate, vet clinics, boarding facilities, etc.

In partnership with over 100 other animal welfare organizations, private industries, community partners, etc. - the HSUS and/or HSI:

- Transported 4,000 animals to safety (Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria with special thanks to our partner Wings of Rescue!)

- Assisted over 15,000 animals in total from basic veterinary care to food distribution and more.

- Directly cared for 1,500 in field rescue, sheltering, or emergency medical treatment.

- Partnered with Emancipet to offer 3,500 animals free veterinary services post-Harvey.

In partnership with over 100 other animal welfare organizations, private industries, community partners, etc. - the HSUS and/or HSI:

- Set up wellness clinics in Mexico and touched over 6,000 animals with direct care or food and resource support.

- Utilized our direct care facility in South Florida to give emergent care to over 400 wildlife impacted by Irma.

- Distributed 250,000 plus pounds of supplies in Puerto Rico alone (over 30 private charter flights of supplies).
Response and Recovery

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<td>TAHC/Not</td>
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Texas: Hurricane Harvey

- Nearly 780,000 Texans evacuated their homes. In the days after the storm, more than 42,000 Texans were housed temporarily in 692 shelters. Local, state and federal first responders rescued 122,331 people and 5,234 pets.
- The American Red Cross provided $45 million to more than 100,000 disaster survivors to help them with immediate needs. The Red Cross deployed more than 3,000 staff and volunteers, 171 emergency response vehicles, served 965,000 meals and 1 million snacks and operated shelters throughout the impacted counties.
- FEMA supplied 3 million meals, 3 million liters of water, 9,000 blankets, 8,840 cots and 10,350 hygiene kits to the state for distribution to survivors. FEMA quickly provided $186 million in Public Assistance funding to reimburse local and state agencies for the cost of emergency protective measures and debris removal.
- 400 state run shelters with 600 pets
- 99 animal shelters independent of TAHC opened with +/- 3,800 animals
- Many unreported statistics here

Texas: Hurricane Harvey and the HSUS Response

- 15 days
- Aerial Assessment
- 1007 animals transported
- Over 100 rescued
- Worked in 7 cities/towns
- Delivered:
  - 8 tons of feed
  - 1500 bags of shavings
  - Over 2,500 bales of hay

- 5/30/2018
Texas: Hurricane Harvey and the HSUS Response

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Texas: Hurricane Harvey and the HSUS Response
Texas: Hurricane Harvey and the HSUS Recovery

- Nearly 43,000 volunteers have contributed 1.5 million hours to muck out and repair homes. Additionally, 474 AmeriCorps volunteers have contributed 115,000 hours.
- FEMA provided travel trailers and apartment units to 318 households in Collier, Hendry, Lee and Monroe counties. These temporary housing arrangements keep survivors as close as possible to their schools, work and places of worship while they work on their individual recovery.
- Some displaced survivors who needed a place to stay have also received temporary help with rental assistance and hotel room expenses.
- Households have received $497 million to pay rent.
- More than 27,000 have participated in FEMA and state-funded hotel stays. FEMA pays 75 percent and the state pays 25 percent.
- Survivors have received $173 million for home repairs to make them habitable.
- Nearly $7.1 million in disaster unemployment assistance has helped some Florida workers whose employment was affected by the hurricane.
- 585 Shelters throughout the state, 100 were pet friendly. They housed 340,000 people and 21,766 pets (6%).

Florida: Hurricane Irma

- Nearly 43,000 volunteers have contributed 1.5 million hours to muck out and repair homes. Additionally, 474 AmeriCorps volunteers have contributed 115,000 hours.
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Florida: Hurricane Irma and the HSUS Response
Florida: Hurricane Irma and the HSUS Response

- 14 days
- 1 County for direct care
- Livestock and Equine Support in several counties
- Aerial Assessment
- Over 400 wild animals treated at SFWC

Puerto Rico: Hurricane Maria and the HSUS/HIS Response

- More than 30 days in active response
- We provided first response humanitarian and animal aid, with more than 30 flights delivering 300,000 pounds of urgent supplies.
- We distributed food, water and other essentials to at least 1,000 households with pets, mainly in low-income areas.
- We transported more than 3,500 animals to safety at 70 stateside shelters and Emergency Placement Partners.
- We delivered over $3 million worth of aid in supplies, emergency personnel and response, and critical resource support.
Puerto Rico: Hurricane Maria and the HSUS/HIS Response
And here is what we learned.....

3 months, 3 hurricanes:

- Door to Door is needed
- Distribution Centers are essential
  - Equipment caches and agreements for resource sharing are a must
- Temporary Shelters are not necessary if existing infrastructure supports the population and there is a mechanism to utilize existing resources, or offset their responsibility so focus can be on crisis response
  - The Hub Model
- Large Animal and farm animal response capacity is limited and requires a bit more of our attention and consideration

And here is what we learned.....

3 months, 3 hurricanes:

- The Good
  - Multi-Agency/Organization Collaboration
  - Varied Species Welfare concerns
  - Consideration for Recovery
- The Not so Good
  - Resource Limitations
  - Deliverables/Priorities
  - Airline restrictions/ $$$
- The Lessons Learned
  - Helicopters are our friends
  - What it means to be truly water-locked
  - The socio-economic variable in disaster greatly impacts animal welfare and we are still working to fill this “gap”.

Placing 4,000 animals...

How is that even possible?

1. “Pet overpopulation” is now “population disparity”
2. Incredible work of the animal welfare community
3. Aviation transport has opened doors
4. OUR PARTNERS!
Getting in before the storm to empty out animal shelters is **LIFESAVING.**

**Benefits of aviation transport...**

- Avoid gridlock traffic
- Different fuel source
- Moving populations to different region of country can make placement easier!
- We still have a lot to learn!

**The impact of the Cratepocalypse and how it happen in the first place:**

1. Wire crates cannot be used on planes
2. Gridlock traffic
3. Lack of fuel
4. Size really does matter
THE CENSUS!
Labels: Why they matter
1. Ordinances
2. Balanced population
3. Regional decisions

Puerto Rico barriers....
1. Ocean
2. Language
3. Disease
4. Volume of animals
5. Commerce
Waiving Health Certificates.....
Some states do it and some don’t!

No census, no problem!
And here is what we learned.....
Questions?

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