



Animal Advocacy & Disaster Response

Denice M. Bain

Director Of Operations

How It All Started

Bastrop Complex Fires Of 2011

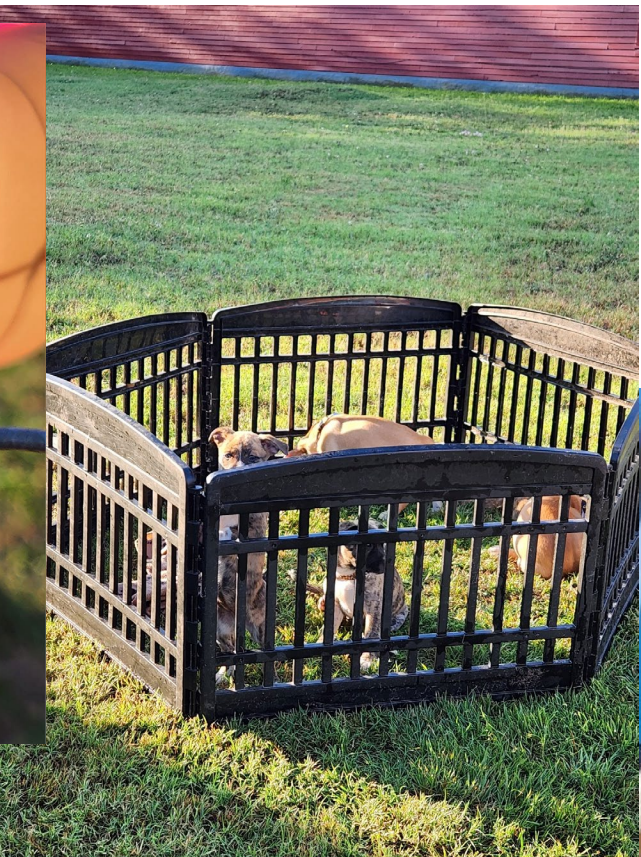
- Where Was I
- How Did I Get Involved
- I Fell In Love





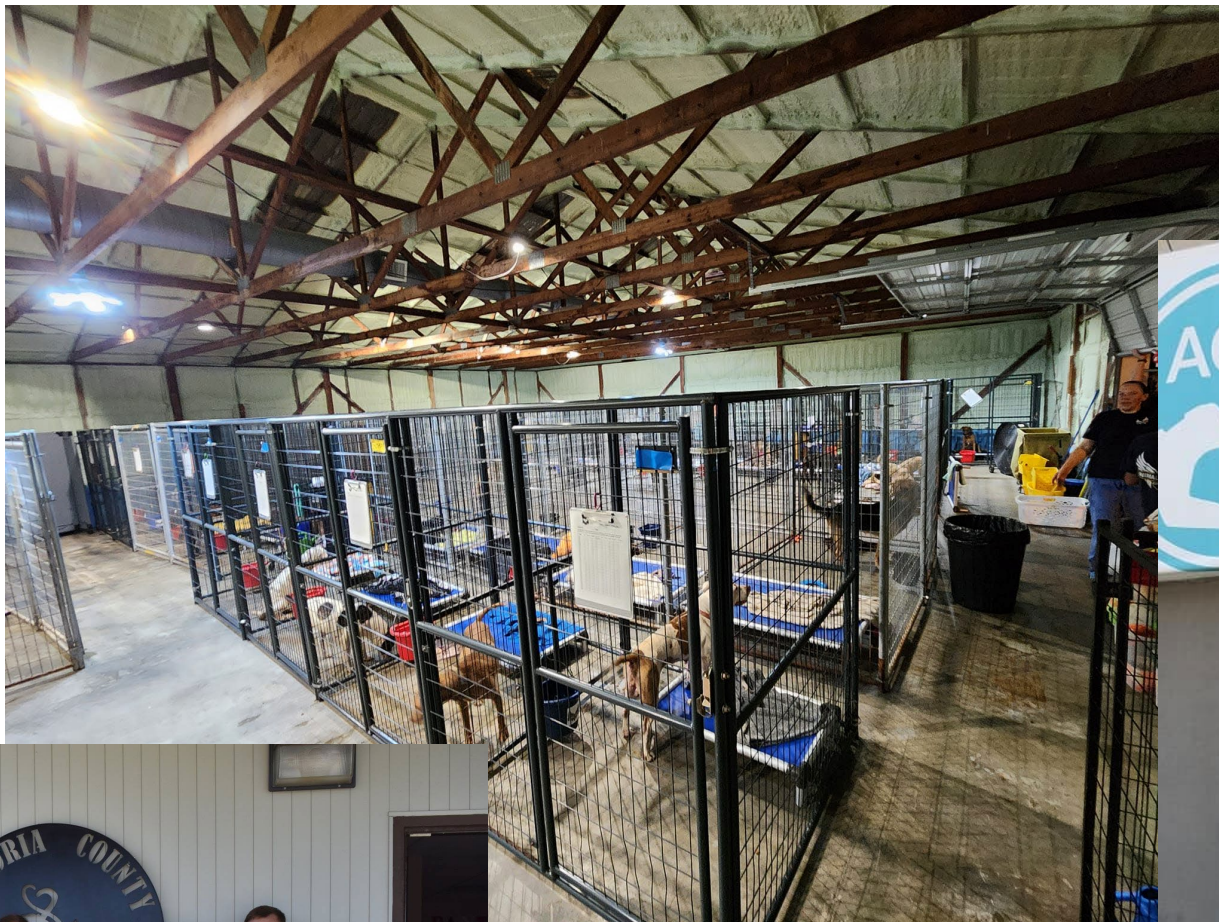
Glaring Issues

- Huge Gaps In Resources In Rural Communities**
- Responders Were Not Equipped To Care For The Animals**
- Animals Weren't Part Of Shelter Plans**
- Worth Mentioning That Most Water Rescue Boats Didn't Allow Animals To Board With Their Families**



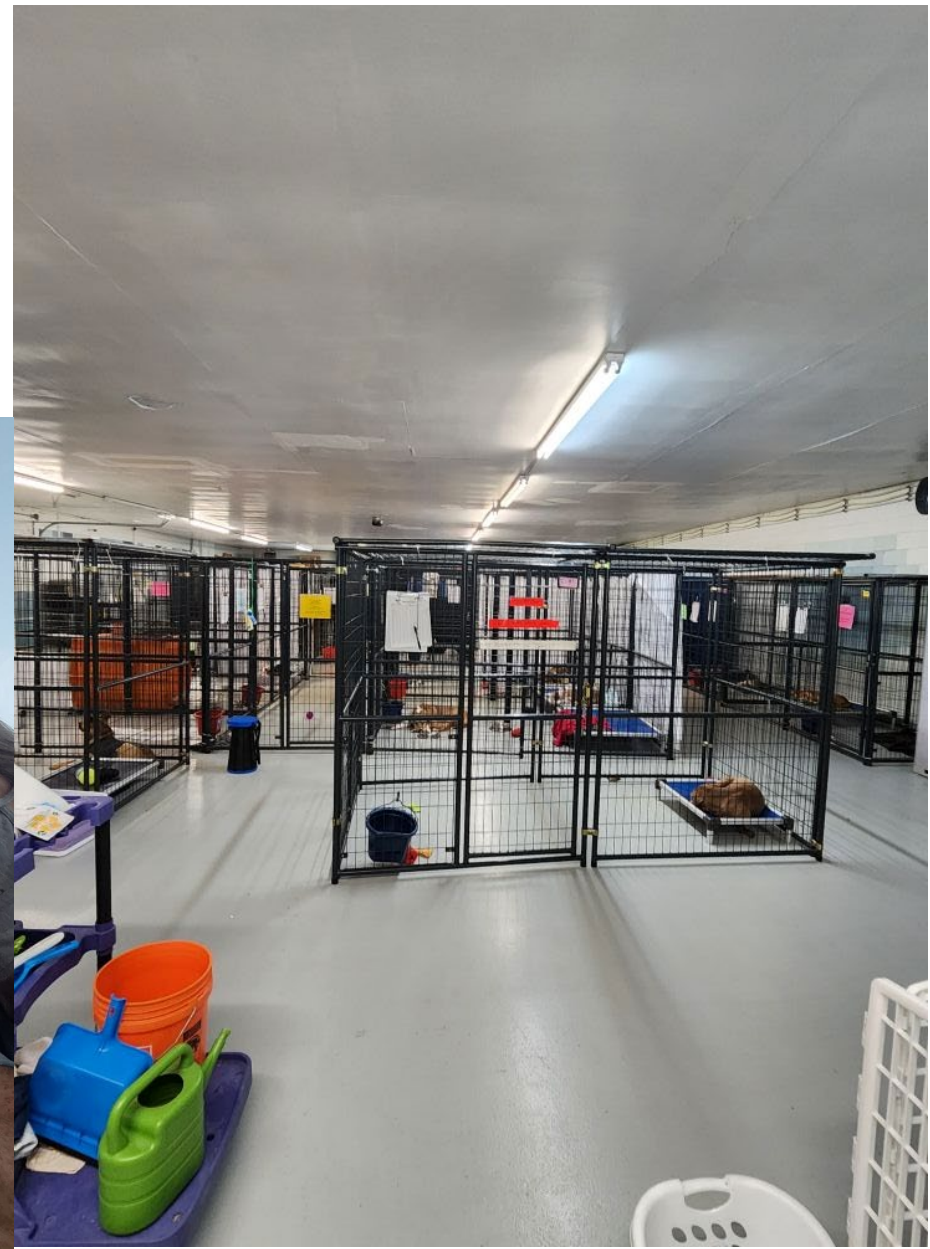
My Involvement Began

- Bastrop Animal Rescue**
- Austin Pet's Alive! Corporate Ambassador**
- Transporting Became Increasingly Important**



The Countdown Began

- In 2017 I retired from Dell**
- In 2019 We Gave Ourselves A Name**
- In 2020 We Got A Land Offer and Created A Business Plan**
- At EOY 2020 We Received An Ultimatum**
- In 2021 We Formally Filed and Received Our 501(c)3**
- In 2022 We Added A Reverend To Our Team**



Our One Week Business Plan

DARN Programs

- Disaster Response**
- Inter and Intra-State Transporting**
- Litter Quitters**
- Momma's With Babies**
- Community Engagement**
- Neighborhood Cat Colony**



What We Have Achieved

- We have 209 Rescue & Shelter Partners**
- We have done Ops in 35 US states**
- We have been involved in Ops in 7 countries**
- We have personally transported animals over 75,000 miles**
- We have worked 11 natural disasters**
- We have participated in over 15 law enforcement ops, including judicial lab and breeder closures, hoarding and domestic violence cases.**



What We've Learned

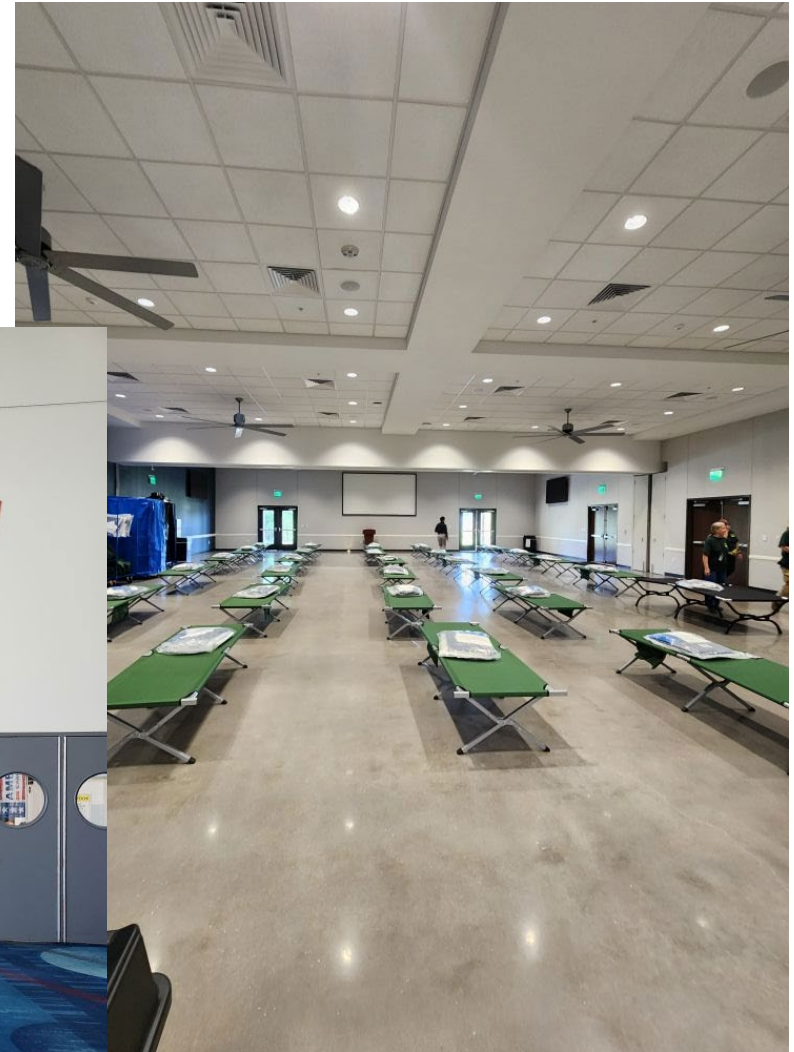
Animal Advocacy Has Special Considerations

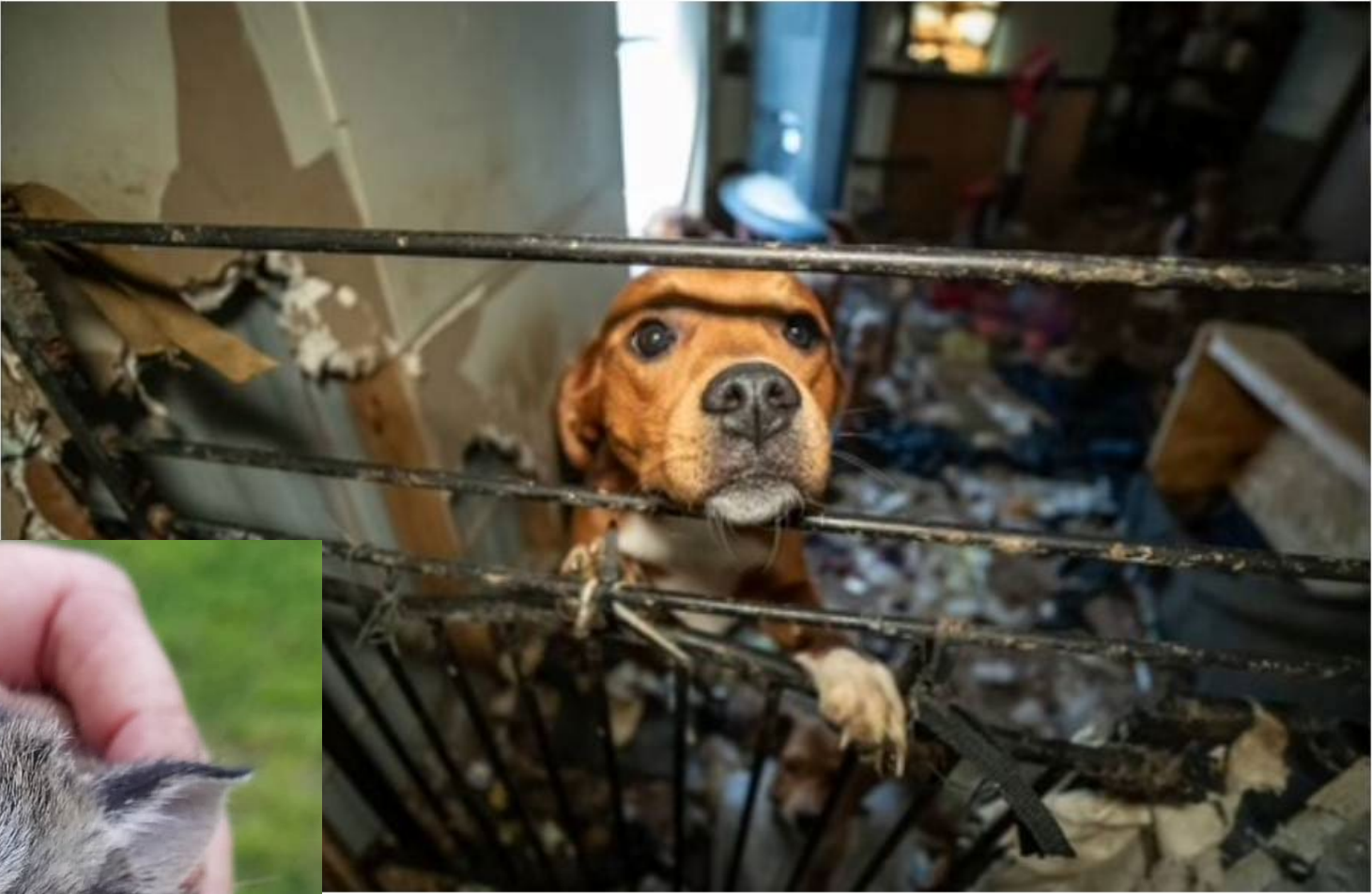
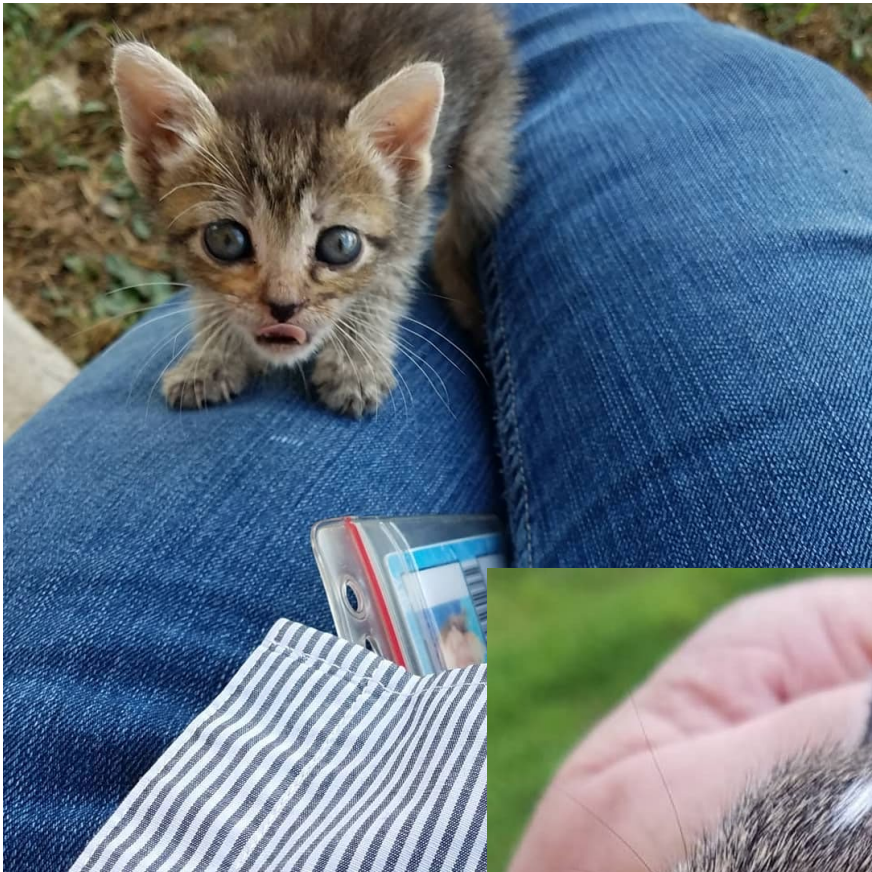
- Animals must be part of family response and recovery plans**
- A lot of helpers have mental health issues**
- The animal advocacy industry has a high rate of suicide**
- Responders should be prepared to deal with loss of all kinds**
- Drama hurts the animals**



What To Consider In Getting Involved

- There is a lot of fraud in disaster response**
- There are many considerations to considering when deploying, never self deploy**
- Things change constantly and quickly**
- We are not First Responders, we are second tier**
- There are many ways you can get involved and help**
- Both victims of events and responders could use coping help**





Why We Do This

