



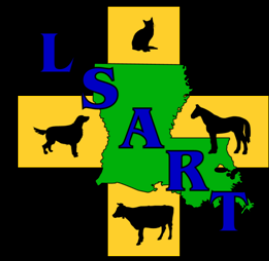
2008 Hurricane Review

Louisiana Pet Emergency Response

National Evacuation Conference
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Renée Poirrier, DVM & Rebecca Adcock, DVM
Louisiana State Animal Response Team

Gustav By The Numbers



- Category 3 hurricane aimed at the center of Louisiana. (a worst case scenario)
- 12 coastal and 3 inland parishes evacuating
- 1.5-2 million under mandatory evacuation
- 7500 plastic transport carriers configured by La Prison system in 48 hours. 1200 used.
- 75 refrigerated trucks contracted by the state
- 12 Transport vans for exotic or special needs pets

Planning



Just how many pets are there in Coastal LA?

- Calculate no. of pets using AVMA formula and latest census estimates:
 - Human Population \div 3 = No. of households
 - Households \times 70% = No. of households owning pets
 - No. of households owning pets \times 1.5 = est. no. of pets with human population
- Estimate no. of humans who could require assistance (average ~ 10% of total population) and use formula to estimate how many pets would require state-assisted evacuation and sheltering
 - Designated as CTN (Critical Transportation Needs) residents in LA
 - Unable to safely evacuate on their own
 - Includes indigent, elderly, medical special needs
- Pre-storm estimate: 12,000 - **23,500** pets in 12 coastal parishes might need transportation and shelter!

Planning



What supplies will we need?

- State of LA (LDAF)
 - 7500 plastic transport kennels, pre-positioned at Dixon Correctional Prison north of Baton Rouge
 - 7500 wire shelter kennels, pre-positioned at warehouses near Shreveport and Alexandria (location of pet mega shelters)
 - bowls, leashes, other supplies
- LSART
 - Purchased and pre-positioned shelter kits in Shreveport, Alexandria & Monroe (shelter locations in North LA)
 - Requisitioned transport and shelter forms and supplies
 - Purchased and distributed evacuation kits to parishes

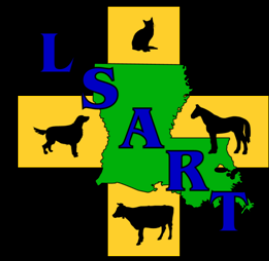
Planning



How many people are needed to help? A LOT!

- Shelter workers/management
 - 10 workers/500 pets if owners are present
 - 30 workers/500 pets if owners not
 - Must arrive at shelter 48 hours pre-storm for set-up
 - Asked National Humane Organizations (AHA, ASPCA, HSUS, IFAW, Noah's Wish, UAN)
- Filling the gaps
 - LA Dept. of Corrections inmates
 - Sheltering: kennel set-up, unloading, cleanup, maintenance
 - On-site shelter at DCI for special needs pets and pets in transit
 - Transportation: configuring and loading kennels on trucks
- Parish Pickup Point Liaisons/Van drivers
 - 24-48 hour shift, 2 days pre-storm
 - 2 per parish minimum
 - Accompany pet transport trucks to mega shelters, transport special needs pets
 - LSART volunteers, LSU Veterinary students, LA Dept of Ag employees

USDA Exercise



- Evaluated safety of long haul transport of household pets in 53-foot refrigerated trucks
- Measured oxygen and carbon dioxide levels in closed trailer over time
- Truck fully loaded with 130 medium dogs and cats in plastic transport crates
- Findings:
 - O₂ levels decrease faster than CO₂ levels increase
 - Critical levels reached at



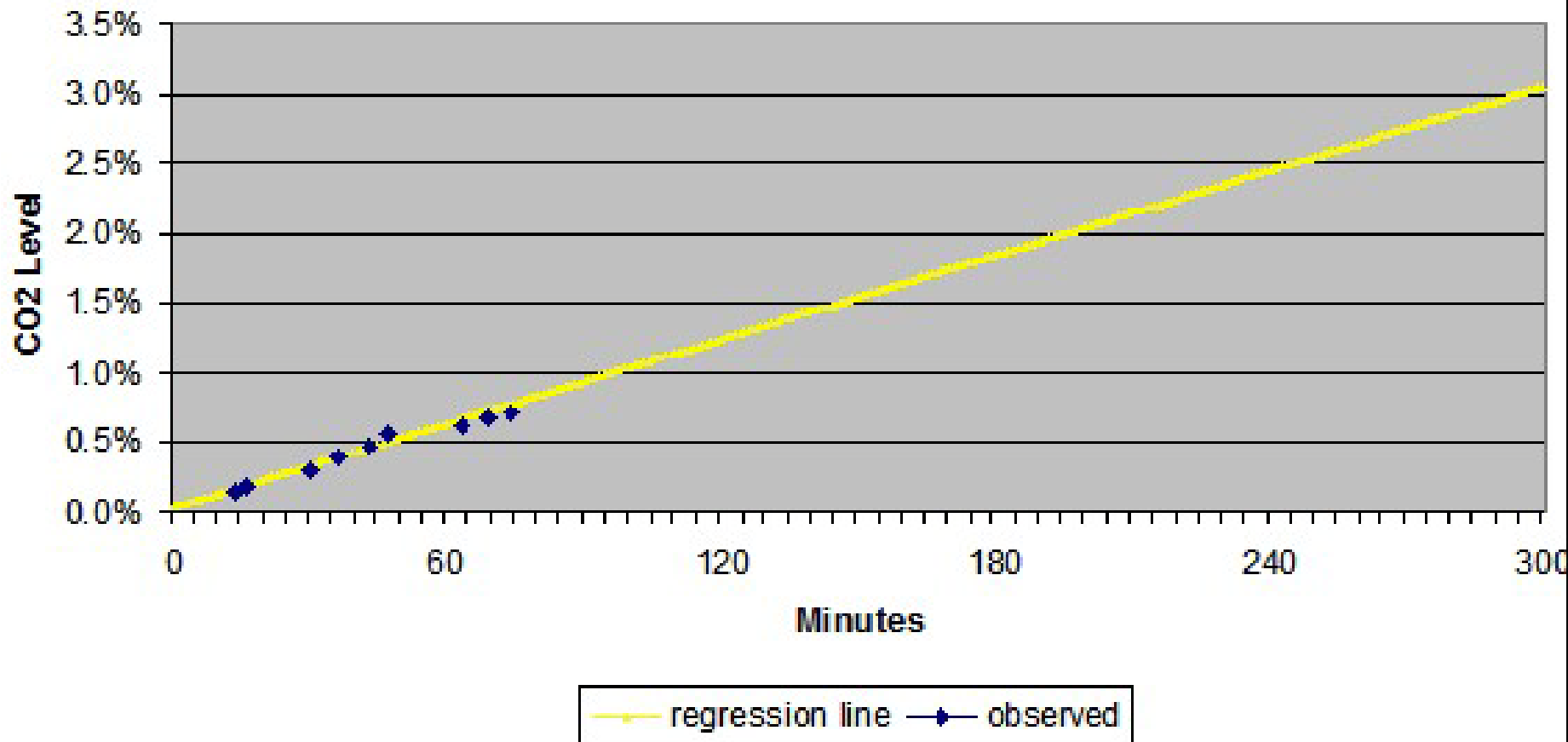


Exercise Results



- Findings:
 - O₂ levels decrease faster than CO₂ levels increase
 - Critical levels reached at 150 minutes
 - CO₂ levels equilibrated rapidly when rear doors opened
- Mitigation:
 - Decrease maximum number of pets allowed in trailer (2 rows high instead of 3)
 - Stop trucks every 2 hours, open rear doors and ventilate for 30 minutes

CO2 from 89 dogs (2 tiers of cages) on a 53' Refrigerated Truck



Ready?



Who is ready and who isn't?

- Shelter management training in Shreveport & Alexandria
- Coastal parish evacuation protocol trainings for ACOs
- Regional evacuation, search & rescue exercises
- Transportation safety exercises
- Daily conference calls with animal control officers
- LSART Evacuation and Sheltering Manual

Set...



Last minute modifications to state pet plans made a huge impact on response success.

- DOTD amended human transport contract to allow lap pets in soft carriers to travel on owner's lap - 42% of pets qualified as lap pets
 - Fewer pets separated from owners during transport
 - Lessened the load on pet transportation assets by almost 50%
- DSS agreed to prioritize transport of pet owners to Shreveport co-located shelters
 - Allowed 80% of pet owners to care for their pets
 - Volunteers had to provide full care for 200 pets, not 1000
- USDA and FEMA came through with vans to transport special needs and exotic pets
 - High risk animals did not have to travel in refrigerated trucks

GO!



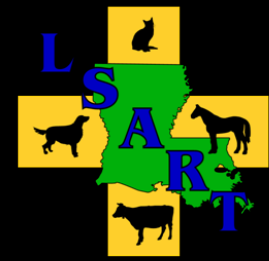
Evacuation = Registration + Transportation

- Most coastal parishes used version of LSART PPP protocol to register and load pets
 - Standardized system – Easy to implement
 - Assured reliable tracking of pets from parish to shelter to parish
- USDA Animal Care Teams joined LSART liaisons at PPP to monitor heat stress and loading safety
 - Greatly helped communication between LSART and parish officials
- Transport protocol required periodic stops at vet check stations in route to shelters



- 15 parish pickup points operational in a 48 hour period.

Gustav By The Numbers



- 37,000 people actually needed transportation and sheltering assistance.(CTN)
- 1174 pets associated with the CTN population (10% of the estimated number of pets)
- 42% of the pets were “lap pets” (less than 15 lbs., transported on the owner’s lap)
- 58 % of the pets were “truck pets”(larger pets transported in pet trucks separate from owner)

Gustav By The Numbers



- 2 USDA Animal Care heat stress monitoring teams arrived to assist with evacuation and parish coordination.
- 6 national humane organization partners arrived in 24 hours to assist with sheltering. AHA, ASPCA, EARS, HSUS, IFAW, Noah's Wish



NOAH'S WISH
Volunteer

ASPCA
Disaster Response Team

AMERICAN
HUMANE

americanhumane.org

HSUS

IFAW'S
ANIMAL
RESCUE

Gustav By The Numbers



- 2 CTN pet mega shelters (1174 pets)

Species in CTN Shelter

Cats 21%

Dogs 75%

Exotics 2%

(Exotics included birds , guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbit, rat, and iguana)



3 regional co-located self evacuator shelters (647 pets)

Sheltering



Did the Mega-Shelters really work?

- We knew where everyone was!
 - All pets on state transport trucks went to Hirsch Coliseum in Shreveport (1054)
 - Lap pets went to LSU-A Ag Coliseum in Alexandria (120) Management provided by regional LSART sheltering teams (mostly veterinarians)
 - Six National Humane Organizations provided trained shelter workers – Teamwork!
 - **100% of pets transported and sheltered by LSART/LDAF were returned to their home parishes**

The Perfect Response?



Not Exactly...

- Communication woes (of course)
 - Power/computer failure at LDAF Command Post
 - Unable to coordinate effectively with other state agencies (transport, shelter, re-entry)
 - Some parishes still don't have an animal plan or a designated animal emergency coordinator
- Way off on our numbers for CTN pets
 - Actual CTN pet nos. were about 10% of lowest estimates for total coastal evacuation
 - Why? Demographics, reluctant to use system, not informed about availability of pet transport

Other Cool Stuff



- Having resources pre-staged hastened readiness during the event
- Established relationships with trusted, trained volunteer partners. Everyone knew and used ICS. Animal control officials were able to maintain control of their parishes during recovery.
- Transportation safety protocols we developed are being adopted as national standard.
- Standardized evacuation protocol enabled us to track pets from parish to shelter and back to home parish.



All of the pets transported and sheltered by the state were returned to their home parish.

Needs Improvement



- Public Messaging
 - Some parishes still not prepared
 - People don't know their rights as pet owners
 - People still think pets are safer at home
- Documentation and Record-Keeping
 - FEMA Reimbursement Policy for Pet Evacuation
 - New policy - nobody is sure how it works (even FEMA)
 - Shelter statistics to enable better population est.
 - Where are they from and how did they get to the shelter?
 - What types of animals? How many animals?
 - What medical care needed? Length of stay?

Want More Information?



- LSART Web Site
 - www.lsart.org
 - PowerPoint presentations on sheltering, evacuation, public messaging, community preparedness, personal preparedness
 - LSART Evacuation and Sheltering Manual
- LSART Training Seminars