

## Equine Relief Efforts Follow Hurricane Destruction

Horse lovers and equine organizations across the country continue to respond to the needs created by Hurricane Katrina. Efforts are underway to care for horses and other animals displaced in the storm's wake. To learn about the most urgent needs and how help can be offered, please check with the following groups.

### **United States Equestrian Federation**

www.usef.org  
 4047 Iron Works Parkway  
 Lexington, KY 40511  
 859-258-2472

USEF is putting together a state-by-state list of people who can transport, house, and provide veterinary care for displaced horses. Those who can help are urged to e-mail their name, address, phone number, and e-mail address to [kcadams@usef.org](mailto:kcadams@usef.org). The list can be accessed from the USEF Web site. Tax-deductible donations for relief efforts can be made online, or may be sent to the USEF office. Checks should be written to USEF Hurricane Equine Relief Fund. To access an extensive list of shelter facilities and veterinary help for equine refugees, go to the USEF Web site.

### **The American Horse Council**

www.horsecouncil.org  
 1616 H Street NW  
 7th Floor  
 Washington, D.C. 20006  
 202-296-4031  
[Ahc@horsecouncil.org](mailto:Ahc@horsecouncil.org)

The AHC asks for donations to assist horses and owners. The foundation's board of directors will determine where the funds can best be utilized. Donations are tax-deductible. Please call the AHC office for details.

### **American Quarter Horse Association**

www.aqha.com/hurricanerelief  
 PO Box 200  
 Amarillo, TX 79168  
 806-376-4811

AQHA has teamed with USEF to channel disaster aid. The association suggests that people should not send supplies or financial donations to its office. Instead, the AQHA needs people who can transport, house, and provide veterinary service to displaced horses. Check the Web site to submit information if you can help with this effort.

### **United States Pony Clubs, Inc.**

<http://ponyclub.org/katrinahelp.php>  
 4041 Iron Works Parkway  
 Lexington, KY 40511  
 859-259-0451

Monetary donations may be sent to the Pony Club national office to benefit the USPC Relief Fund, which supports Pony Club families and horses touched by natural disasters. In addition, Pony Club suggests cash contributions to the American Red Cross ([www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)). Finally, Pony Club urges those who can to assist with the USEF relief efforts (see details above).

### **National Thoroughbred Racing Association**

[www.ntra.com](http://www.ntra.com)  
4063 Iron Works Parkway  
Bldg. B-2  
Lexington, KY 40511  
800-792-6872

NTRA Charities is accepting cash donations for relief efforts. Please send tax-deductible contributions to NTRA Charities—Racing to the Rescue Fund, c/o Bessemer Trust Company N.A., attention Robert Elliott, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10111. Funds will be distributed in consultation with the national office, Louisiana NTRA officials, and Churchill Downs Inc. NTRA is also selling a Ruffian portrait, with proceeds to go to hurricane relief efforts. See the Web site for details.

Anyone needing assistance with horses displaced by the storm is urged to contact one of the following state agencies:

**Louisiana:** Check with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture assisted by Louisiana Horseman's Guide at [www.lahg.net](http://www.lahg.net). Call Bonnie Clark at (cell) 225-721-1571 or (office) 225-784-8760. The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has set up a help line to answer questions regarding rescue, shelter, and emergency veterinary care. Call 225-578-9501 to access this service. The state veterinarian, Dr. Mack Lea, can be reached by phone at 225-925-3980.

**Mississippi:** The Board of Animal Health provides a site for emergency management information at <http://www.msema.org/index.htm>. The state veterinarian, Dr. Jim Watson, can be reached by phone at 601-359-1170.

**Alabama:** Contact the Alabama Horse Council at [www.alabamahorsecouncil.org](http://www.alabamahorsecouncil.org). To contact Dr. Tony Frazier, the state veterinarian, phone 334-240-7253 or e-mail [stvet@agi.state.al.us](mailto:stvet@agi.state.al.us).

**Florida:** For information on emergency equine shelters, check with the Division of Animal Industry at [www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/). The state emergency programs administrator, Dr. Greg Christy, can be reached at 850-410-0902.

**South Carolina:** Contact Billie Jones at Clemson University Livestock-Poultry Health at 803-260-6433 or Mary Ellen Tobias at the South Carolina Department of Agriculture at 803-734-2200. The state veterinarian, Dr. Tony Caver, can be reached at 803-788-2260. For information on equine evacuation, check [www.clemson.edu/lph](http://www.clemson.edu/lph), click on Emergency Preparedness, and scroll to the bottom.

**Georgia:** The Georgia Department of Agriculture has stabling information at [www.agr.state.ga.us](http://www.agr.state.ga.us). Click on GDA Divisions, then Animal Industry, then Equine Health—Emergency Contacts, or call Melinda Dennis at 404-656-3713. The state veterinarian, Dr. Lee Myers, can be reached at 404-656-3671 or 404-895-5658.

Countless individuals, groups, and companies have made generous donations of money, feed, and other supplies to benefit horses in the disaster area. For information on how Kentucky Equine Research Team Members can lend a hand, please see the accompanying information sheet.