



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1232 • Voice (301) 734-7799 • Web: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

Contact:
Dave Sacks (301) 851-4079
Lyndsay Cole (970) 494-7410

USDA Assists Pets Affected by Hurricane Sandy

As part of federal efforts to provide necessary support to those affected by Hurricane Sandy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is facilitating the delivery of pet food to those impacted by the storm.

"We are doing a variety of things to help those impacted by Hurricane Sandy," said Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Administrator (APHIS) Kevin Shea. "Specifically, APHIS is helping to ensure that pet food is delivered to those who need it. We know the critical importance of the response efforts, and we are proud to be able to assist with these efforts."

APHIS continues to support its non-governmental partners to facilitate effective and efficient delivery of pet food to pet owners impacted by Hurricane Sandy and the Nor'easter. APHIS worked with the Department of Transportation to obtain relief convoy status for tractor trailers transporting the pet food and supplies from various warehouse locations throughout the United States to the New York metropolitan area. Employees also worked with FEMA's Donation Support staff to identify donated transportation services to move supplies from Brooklyn to distribution points on Long Island, in New York City, and in New Jersey.

A total of 70,000 pounds of pet food arrived at the Brooklyn warehouse location yesterday. By tomorrow, a total of 300,000 pounds of donated pet food will be on hand for distribution. The American Red Cross is distributing pet food from their bulk food distribution sites and emergency response vehicles. APHIS and the National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC) are working the logistical issues now and expect distribution to begin today.

Additional information about assistance programs, safety tips and updates about USDA's hurricane relief efforts are posted at www.usda.gov/disaster. Information about the U.S. Government's hurricane response efforts is available at www.ready.gov.

#

Note to Reporters: USDA news releases, program announcements and media advisories are available on the Internet and through Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).