



PETA

SPECIAL REPORT:

PETA's Disaster Response Team on the Ground in the Wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Maria

Following the historic devastation of Hurricane Harvey, PETA's Community Animal Project rescue team members, along with a staffer from our sheltering partner the Virginia Beach SPCA, were on the ground in Texas to assist with relief efforts, trudging through noxious floodwaters searching for abandoned, lost, and injured animals. Not long after they had returned to Virginia, Hurricane Maria tore through Puerto Rico, leaving an estimated 3.4 million residents without electricity and many also without running water. After a week of

anceled flights and a waiting list a mile long, PETA chartered a plane to take our highly skilled team members and their equipment to the island, where they rescued distressed and injured animals from the streets and took them to veterinary clinics for care, assisted with cleanup and recovery efforts at shelters, and delivered supplies to those in need. Nearly 80 animals who had been homeless before the storms were brought back with them to Virginia from overburdened shelters in Texas and Puerto Rico for a chance at adoption.

Getting Stranded Animals to Safety in Texas



We found two dogs in a backyard in floodwaters up to their necks and took them to a local animal shelter.

When neighbors told us that they had been hearing barking in someone's garage, we carefully climbed in and found three dogs who had been there for days, stranded on top of cars and storm-damaged furniture. We rescued them and got them to a local shelter.



We found dozens of chickens trapped in flooded coops and moved the survivors to higher ground along with fresh feed and water.

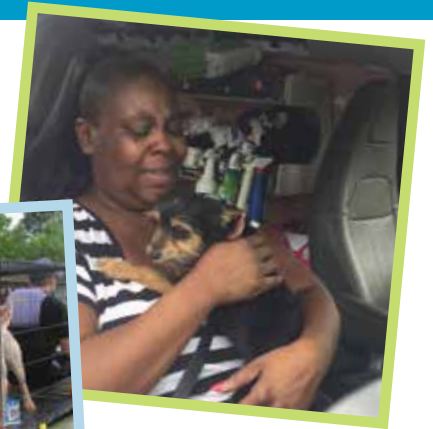
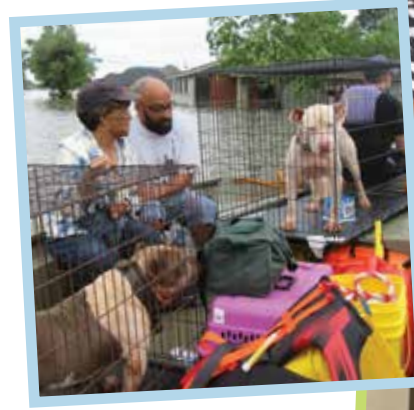
We heard soft mews and followed them to a terrified kitten clinging to an umbrella for dear life, with littermates huddled nearby. They were all taken to a safe shelter.



When we heard barking behind a house, we found dogs stranded on a makeshift wooden shelf in a flooded storage shed and took them to a local shelter.

Reuniting Families After Hurricane Harvey

- We helped a man get his dogs out of his flooded neighborhood and onto dry ground, where the rest of his family was waiting.
- With permission, we broke a window to gain access to a flooded house, where two dogs were crated in the kitchen, with water almost up to their elbows, and took them to the local shelter, where they were later reunited with their family.
- We reunited a worried man with his equally worried dog, who had been stranded on a couch inside their flooded home, and took them both to dry ground after their happy reunion.



Helping Shelters Recover and Rebuild After Hurricane Maria



We helped clean a shelter that was still flooded. Among other supplies, we purchased a power washer for staff members to use once the floodwaters had completely receded.



We cleaned enclosures, walked dogs, and gave fresh food and water to hundreds of animals housed at one facility.

We cleared debris and rebuilt enclosures at a facility that had sustained structural damage.

Taking Supplies to Families and Comforting Traumatized Animals in Puerto Rico

- We canvassed devastated neighborhoods and distributed dog and cat food to families in need.
- We carefully handled injured and distressed animals, taking those in need of medical attention to local veterinary hospitals for assessment and treatment.



Helping Local Shelters Make Room



Following our Hurricane Harvey relief efforts, our team returned to Norfolk with 67 dogs and cats from overburdened shelters in Texas and Louisiana to help free up space for incoming flood victims. The evacuated animals were divided up among several animal-protection groups—including PETA, the Virginia Beach SPCA, the Chesapeake Humane Society, Chesapeake Animal Services, the Norfolk Animal Care and Adoption Center, the Norfolk SPCA, the Peninsula SPCA, the Heritage Humane Society, Southampton County’s Partners Among Cats and Canines, and the SPCA of Northeastern North Carolina—for adoption.

Three cats, Harvey, Storm, and Rain, and one dog, Dallas, have already been adopted through PETA’s shelter.

Following our Hurricane Maria relief efforts on the ground, we worked with the Norfolk and Virginia Beach SPCAs to bring 11 dogs back to the mainland for additional veterinary care and a chance at adoption. One of our team members became so attached to an older dog named Dolly that, once they got back to Norfolk, she adopted her.

As recovery efforts in Puerto Rico continue, PETA remains in touch with shelters and others there working to help animals. PETA plans to continue its long-term assistance to overwhelmed facilities.