

**New York State Office of the Attorney General
Charities Bureau**

Hurricane Sandy Relief Information (1-11-13 and 2-11-13 Supplements)

Name of Organization: The Humane Society of the United States ("HSUS")

1.	What is the approximate dollar amount of donations and pledges that your organization has received to date in response to Hurricane Sandy?
	<p>HSUS does not solicit funds for use exclusively in any particular disaster. HSUS has an established, dedicated fund—the Disaster Relief Fund—contributions to which are spent on rescue and relief activities for both immediate and future disasters. For the period October 25 through November 30, 2012, approximately \$1.9 million were contributed to the Disaster Relief Fund, including a relatively small amount—c.\$61,000—that was restricted by donors (on their own initiative) for uses relating to Sandy. Those restrictions were, of course, honored.</p> <p>(1-11-13)</p>
2.	Will these funds be used solely for Hurricane Sandy relief? If not, approximately what portion will be used for Hurricane Sandy relief and what other purposes will funds be used for?
	<p>Donations to the Disaster Relief Fund are, unless restricted by the donor, used for rescue and relief activities both in any immediate disaster as well as in future disasters. In early November, 2012, HSUS budgeted approximately \$706,000 for Sandy-related relief activities. Budgeted items included field staff (contractors' fees), travel and hotel expenses for HSUS employees and volunteers, animal care supplies/food, the costs of boarding animals, related equipment, fuel, leasing expenses for field facilities, veterinary care, call center expenses, and grants to local shelters.</p> <p>(1-11-13)</p>
3.	Approximately how much has your organization spent to date on Hurricane Sandy relief?
	<p><u>Supplemental information</u> (February 11, 2013): As of December 31, 2012, HSUS has spent \$659,502 on Hurricane Sandy relief, including \$79,600 in grants to other organizations, some of which are committed but not yet paid.</p> <p><u>Supplemental information</u> (January 11, 2013): Based on expense data available through November 30, 2012, \$321,521 has been spent. That total (1) does <i>not</i> include approximately \$70,000 in grants to local shelters and (2) will increase as HSUS staff expense reports and bills from third-parties continue to be received and paid. (My letter to Jason Lilien of</p>

December 10, 2012 has turned out to be optimistic in terms of the date by which Sandy-related expenditures can be fully accounted for. We expect to have a complete compilation of Sandy-related expenses for 2012 by the end of this month, and will supplement our responses by February 11, 2013.)
(1-11-13)

4. What services has your organization provided to those affected by Hurricane Sandy? What populations or geographical areas are being served by your organization in response to Hurricane Sandy? What services does it expect to provide in the future?

In response to Hurricane Sandy, HSUS responded in and to three of the hardest hit areas in New Jersey and New York—Ocean and Monmouth Counties, New Jersey, and Nassau County, New York. We worked with emergency management officials and law enforcement in the three counties to rescue more than 350 animals stranded or displaced because of the storm, cared for more than 700 evacuated pets in three emergency shelters, and reunited more than 400 pets with their owners. We deployed more than 140 HSUS staff and volunteers to rescue and care for the animals, helped set up four distribution centers for needed supplies, and partnered with more than 30 private organizations and government agencies in New York and New Jersey to help families reunite or stay with their pets.

In Nassau County, HSUS partnered with Nassau County Emergency Management, North Shore Animal League, Nassau County SPCA, and the Pet Safe Coalition to care for more than 400 pets in an emergency animal shelter at Garden City. The shelter was operated to provide families made homeless by the storm with a place to take their pets while the families recover. HSUS assisted with the care of the animals at the Garden City facility soon after the storm hit and, as part of our partnership, we provided more than 40 trained staff and volunteers; arranged for needed pet care supplies (food, bedding, kennels, etc.) through Pet Smart Charities, vendors hired by HSUS, and other partners; and provided professional guidance on shelter, disease and volunteer management in a disaster situation.

More, specifically, HSUS initially assisted at the Nassau operation with moving the shelter to a larger facility. We transported animals, crates and other supplies, and helped set up the new shelter with puppy pads, clean dishes, fresh water and the appropriate paperwork. Every day at the Nassau facility, HSUS staff and volunteers and staff walked dogs at least twice a day, deep cleaned all kennels in the morning and spot cleaned later in the day, provided fresh food and water, filled out daily care sheets, and assisted with owner visits and reclaims. We also provided specialized daily care to exotic animals such as ferrets, turtles, birds, fish, rabbits and guinea pigs. Other tasks included answering calls from owners on the shelter phone line, cleaning the dog walk and visitor area, organizing the supply room, organizing community donations, and cleaning the break area and bathrooms.

Outside Nassau County, we worked with our partners in the New York City Office of Emergency Management Animal Planning Task Force to run a toll-free hotline and (along with staff and volunteers from other organizations) accepted more than 1,000 calls for assistance which we referred to appropriate law enforcement.

In New Jersey, we worked with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and the Governor's Office to establish and staff a toll-free hotline for people who were forced to leave their pets behind when they evacuated because of Sandy, handling more than 1,700 calls. The HSUS also entered into agreements with emergency management authorities in Ocean and Monmouth Counties to do animal sheltering and rescue of pets impacted by the storm. We initially operated an emergency animal shelter in each county. Eventually, all animals in Monmouth were transferred to our Ocean County facility. HSUS rescued 352 stranded pets from devastated areas of New Jersey; 302 from Ocean County and 50 pets from Monmouth, and we sheltered more than 300, including animals rescued from strandings, animals transferred from other emergency shelters, and animals brought in by their owners. . Our Ocean County facility closed on December 3rd after 267 animals were returned to their owners, at least 47 were placed in a long-term foster care program, and a small number were placed with partner shelters for rehoming.

Underlined text indicates updated data as of January 10, 2013.

5. Has your organization provided funding to other organizations for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts? If so, which organizations have received those funds and what is the approximate dollar amount provided to them? How does your organization determine the need for funding?

Because we worked on an official basis with state and local emergency management in New Jersey, we committed to assisting local, existing shelters in that state that were directly impacted by the storm -- either because they suffered significant structural or other damage or because they were having to respond to increased need for services in their community. St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center, in Madison, for example, developed a critical foster program and helping families not surrender their pets. To date, HSUS has committed at least \$20,000 in grants to St. Hubert's. In addition, we have committed more than \$50,000 in additional grants (in the aggregate) to other agencies in New Jersey including Monmouth County SPCA, Jersey Shore Animal Center, Humane Society of Atlantic County, and various Ocean County shelters. HSUS will also be reaching out to see if funding assistance is needed for shelters in New York State. We have been coordinating with the ASPCA, however, and we understand the ASPCA is covering many of the needs there.

6. Has your organization provided, or does it intend to provide, direct financial assistance to individuals, families or businesses for Hurricane Sandy relief? If so, what is the approximate dollar amount that your organization has provided to date and approximately how much direct financial assistance does it expect to provide in the future? How does your organization determine the need for assistance?

HSUS does not typically provide “direct financial assistance” in the sense of cash grants, to individuals, families, or businesses. HSUS’s approach is to respond to the needs of *animals* affected by disasters by providing and/or paying for rescue operations, shelter facilities, food and other supplies, and veterinary care (HSUS pays the veterinarians directly for their services). Most of these animals belong to individuals or families. Such emergency relief services are provided by HSUS without charge. Therefore, a great deal of indirect financial assistance to individuals or families is provided.
(1-11-13)

7. Does your organization have a plan in place on how to use any surplus funds not spent for Hurricane Sandy relief? If so, please describe that plan.

As explained above, the Disaster Relief Fund is a restricted fund that is drawn upon as needs arise throughout the country due to specific events—floods, hurricanes, fires, etc. The exact times and places of these needs cannot be predicted ahead of time, of course. So the “plan” for spending funds contributed to the Disaster Relief Fund is based on a long-established rescue and relief program buttressed by a dedicated fund. However, there are no “surplus” funds in a sense of donations solicited or received specifically for Sandy, but not already spent for that purpose.
(1-11-13)


Name and title of representative
Roger A. Kindler, General Counsel & CLO

February 11, 2013
Date

Please email this document with your responses to sandyresponse@ag.ny.gov by December 11, 2012. You may obtain an electronic copy of this document by emailing a request to that same address.