The 2017 hurricane season required an unprecedented response. Thanks to the federal Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act, passed in Katrina’s wake at the urging of The HSUS, there were more resources to keep pets and families together, but the needs were still massive here and abroad. The HSUS and Humane Society International provided assistance in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica and the Virgin Islands, and assisted in the aftermath of an earthquake in Mexico. After the storms, we provided search and rescue capacity, wildlife expertise and support to pet owners in impacted communities. We assisted over 15,000 animals and provided thousands of pounds of human and animal supplies.

**HURRICANE HARVEY – TEXAS**

In total, we evacuated 1,007 adoptable animals from Texas, which freed up space in local shelters for the influx of displaced and lost animals who arrived in the storm’s wake. We conducted 16 transports out of Texas by air and ground to partners around the country and coordinated the delivery of 8 tons of feed, 1,500 bags of shavings and 2,554 bales of hay to the Delta Equine Center in Galveston.

After the storm, we worked with local officials to conduct search and rescue operations, helping local authorities recover 138 animals stranded in homes. The HSUS also carried out an aerial assessment of stranded cattle in Southeast Texas, providing their coordinates to the Texas Air National Guard, who were able to drop hay to feed the cattle until the water receded.
HURRICANE IRMA – FLORIDA
We transported more than 900 adoptable animals out of harm’s way and provided 10,000 pounds of donations to shelters and human service agencies in impacted areas as the storm approached.

Our own South Florida Wildlife Center was caught in the crosshairs of Irma; it sustained significant damage and lost power for days. But that didn’t stop our staff from opening the day after the storm and taking in more than 400 injured wildlife while simultaneously working on repairs. Many of the animals taken in were injured and orphaned young who had been blown from nests.

HURRICANE MARIA – PUERTO RICO
Through our Humane Puerto Rico program, The HSUS has close relationships with animal welfare organizations on the island. With the cooperation of the Puerto Rican government, we launched a transport to evacuate 2,000 adoptable dogs and cats, placing them through our networks with help from St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center. With help from South Florida Wildlife Center, we organized dozens of relief flights and shipments, delivering 300,000 pounds of human and animal supplies to hard-hit neighborhoods on mainland Puerto Rico and the island of Vieques.

STAYING THE COURSE IN PUERTO RICO
In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, The HSUS has maintained a presence on Puerto Rico, working with FEMA to conduct an assessment of needs and repairs and deliver more supplies. We provided emergency disaster-relief grants to shelters and will continue our close collaboration over the year ahead.

In December, on the hard-hit island of Vieques, we hosted a series of veterinary clinics, treating 350 animals who were brought in by grateful residents. We persuaded several airlines to allow transport of pets out of Puerto Rico, facilitating assistance and providing crates for owners trying to evacuate with their beloved furry family members.

Road to recovery
The need didn’t end when the storms ceased

LONG-TERM TLC FOR TEXAS
Through a partnership with Texas clinic Emancipet Houston, and with support from the Alex & Elisabeth Lewyt Charitable Trust, we offered three months of free veterinary clinics to storm-battered Houstonians and their pets, providing free care to 6,461 pets impacted by the storms.

Services provided include spay/neuter, exams, vaccinations, up to 3 months of flea/tick or heartworm preventatives, puppy/kitten de-wormer, microchipping, heartworm testing and treatment, nail trims, treatment for infections, skin and ear issues, wound care and more.

Our own veterinary staff and volunteers worked on the ground with Emancipet’s team to keep services moving quickly and efficiently. Relieved pet owners lined up with their animals hours before the clinic even opened. After losing so much, they were grateful to have one less thing to worry about.

25,419 people have called or emailed the Houston hotline

13,523 vaccines have been administered

988 pets have been spayed or neutered

$1,370,091 what these services would have cost at a traditional vet office

Top left: On the tarmac in Fort Myers, Florida, HSUS teams prepare adoptable animals in the hurricane’s path for travel to partners in San Diego. Above: HSUS responder Dave Pauli comforts and examines a horse on the hurricane-devastated island of Vieques.