



# Pet Friendly Shelter

## Marion County, Florida

Jill Lancon, Animal Center Director

[jill.lancon@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:jill.lancon@marioncountyfl.org)

352-671-8709

# When Disaster Strikes "We'll Be Ready"





# PURPOSE

Provide a safe haven for pet owners and their domestic pets in the event a disaster strikes Marion County and a Red Cross shelter is open for evacuees.



# BASICS OF THE PROCEDURAL PLAN

- Animal Housing area set up
- Check in
- Registration
- Animal Photo
- 24 Hour monitoring  
(staff and owners must leave during impact of storm)
- Sign out
- Break down and clean up



# STAFFING:

## Animal Care Technicians

shelter set up, animal intake, instructions, overall pet care

## Code Enforcement Officers

assist in shelter setup, animal intake

## Volunteers

assist technicians and owners

## Resident Pet Owners

care of own pets



# Acceptable Animals at the Pet Friendly Shelter

- Dogs under 80 lbs
- Cats- Friendly
- Domestic Breeds
- Birds
- No Exotics
- No Reptiles
- No Aggressive Animals

## Projected Capacity

120 Large Dogs  
240 Small Dogs & Cats



# WHERE?

VANGUARD HIGH SCHOOL

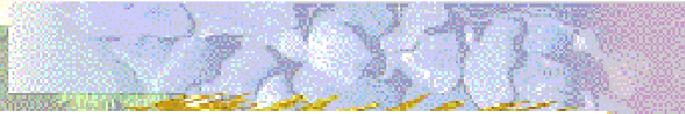
7 NE 28<sup>TH</sup> STREET OCALA

352-671-4900



# ANIMAL HOUSING AREA







# LOADED AND READY TO ROLL

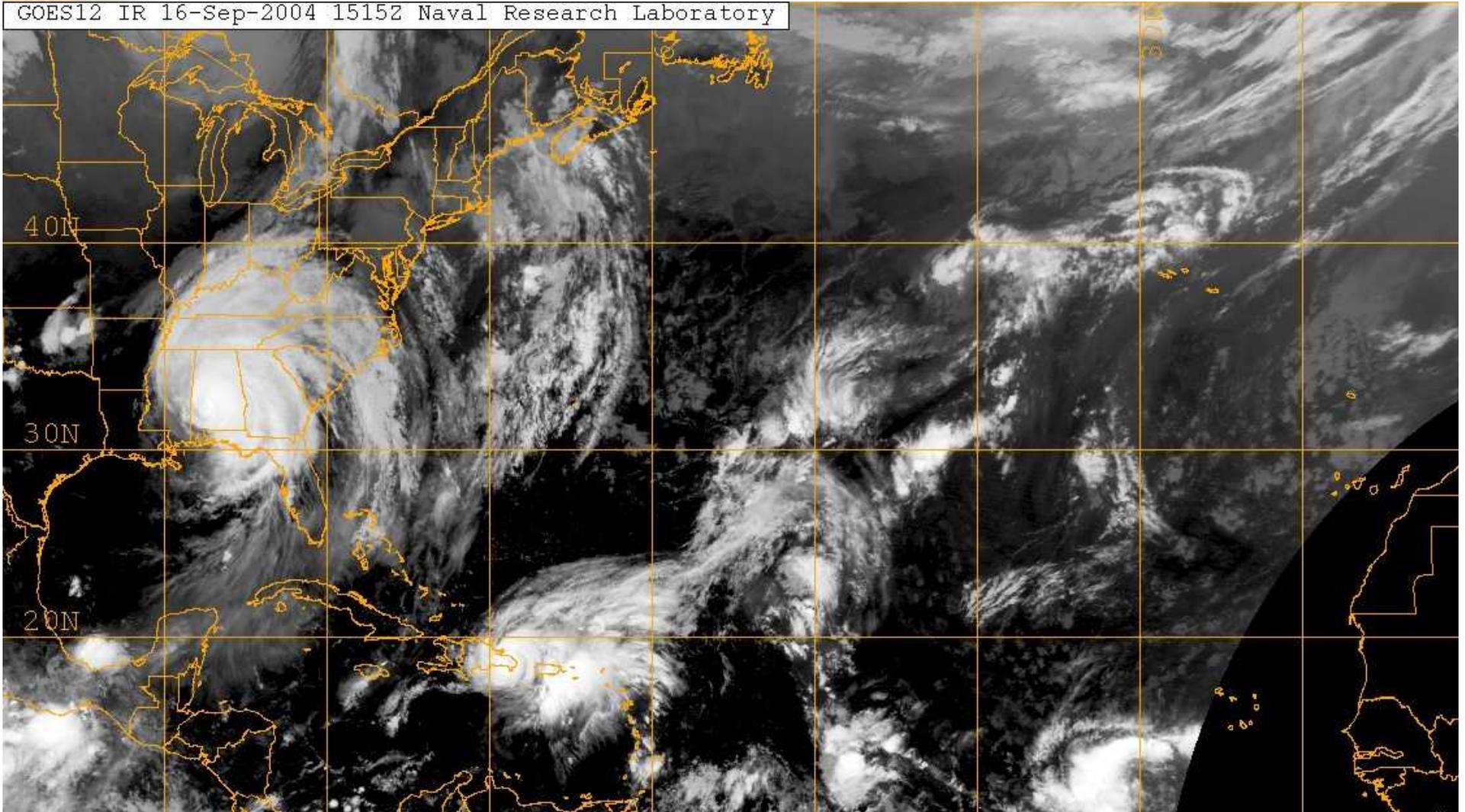






# As the hurricanes formed....

GOES12 IR 16-Sep-2004 1515Z Naval Research Laboratory



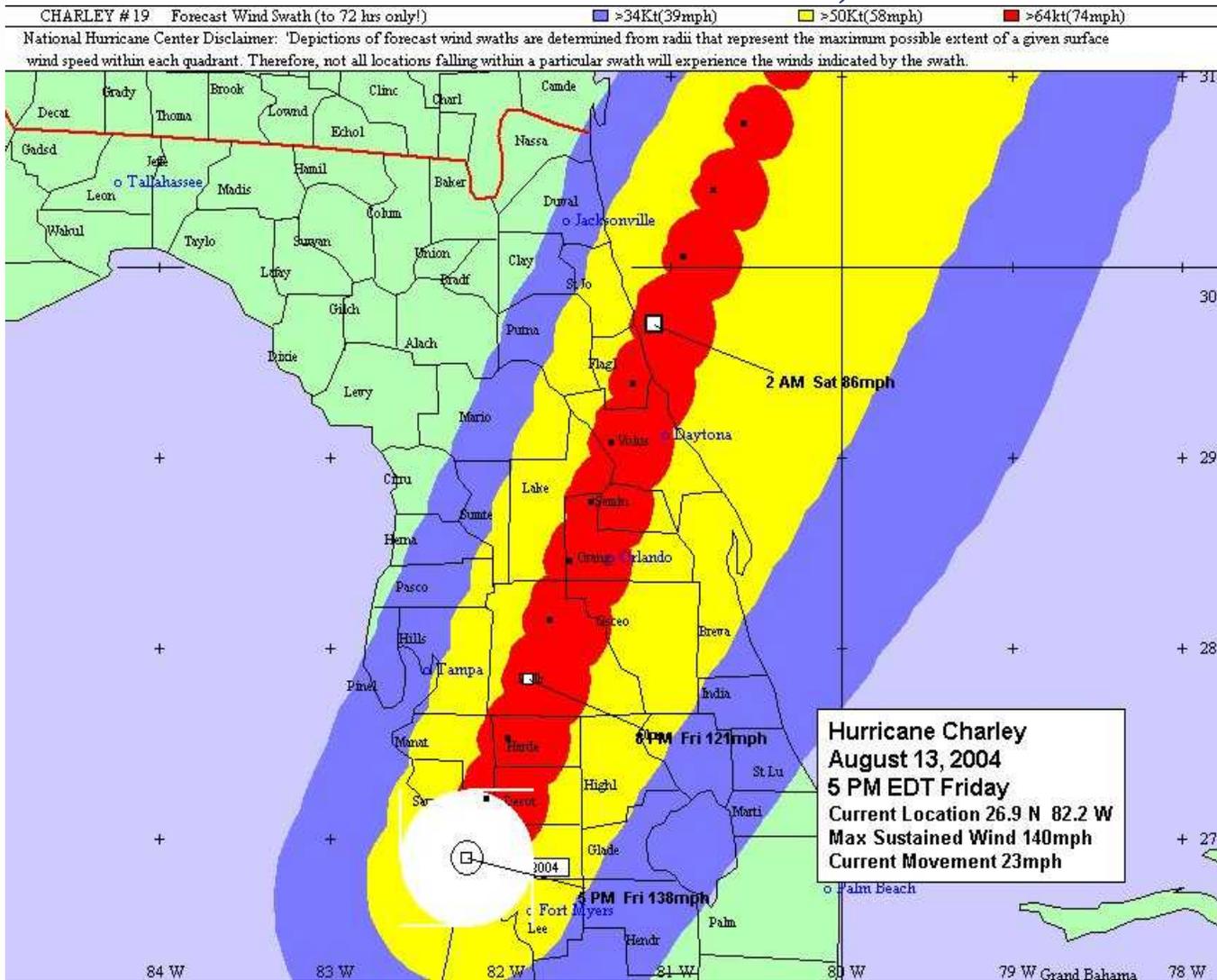


# Hurricane Charley



# HURRICANE CHARLEY

## SEPTEMBER 13, 2004





# Hurricane Charley

August 13,14 2004

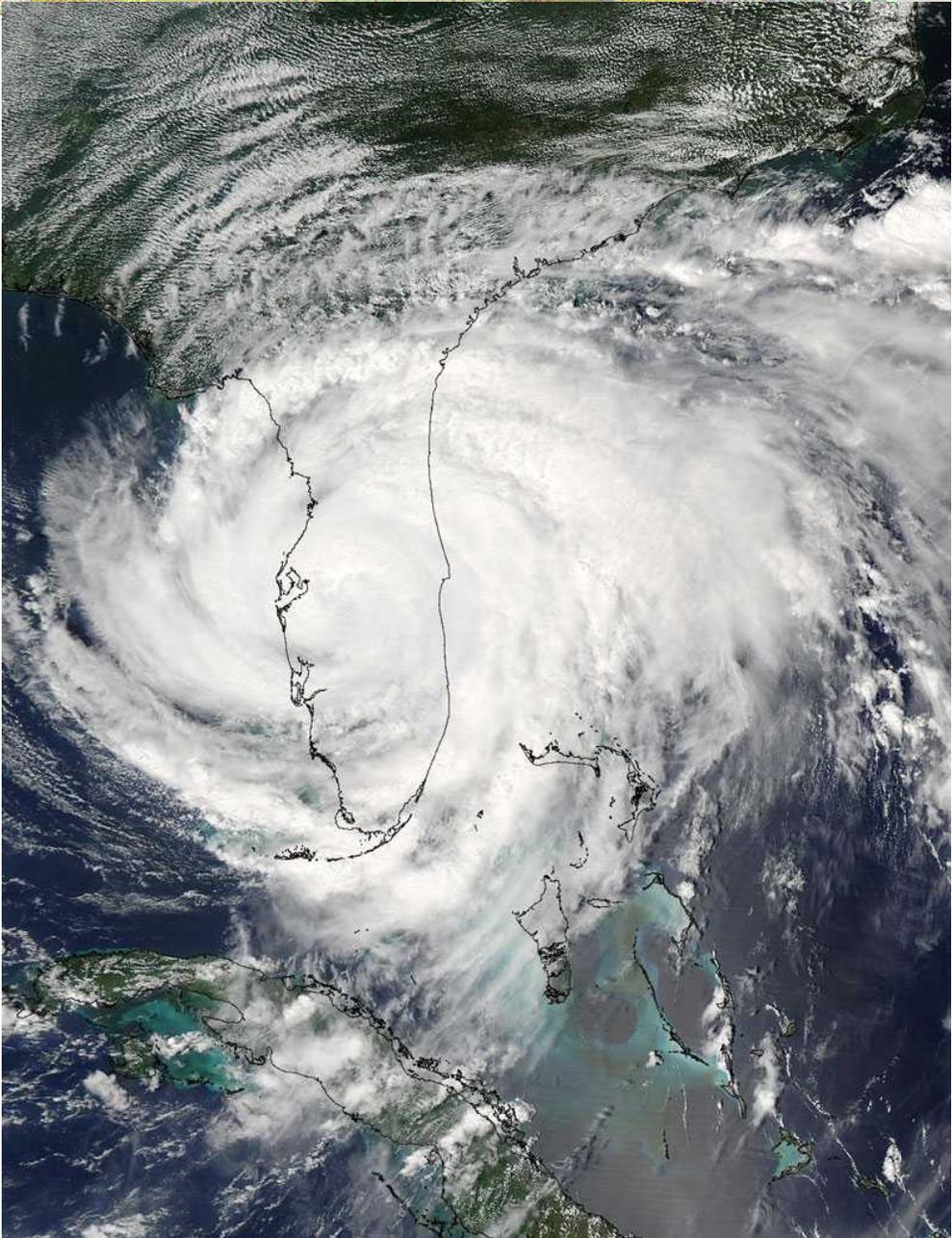
## Staff hours

■ Volunteers	66
■ Staff	<u>235</u>
	301

## Animals registered

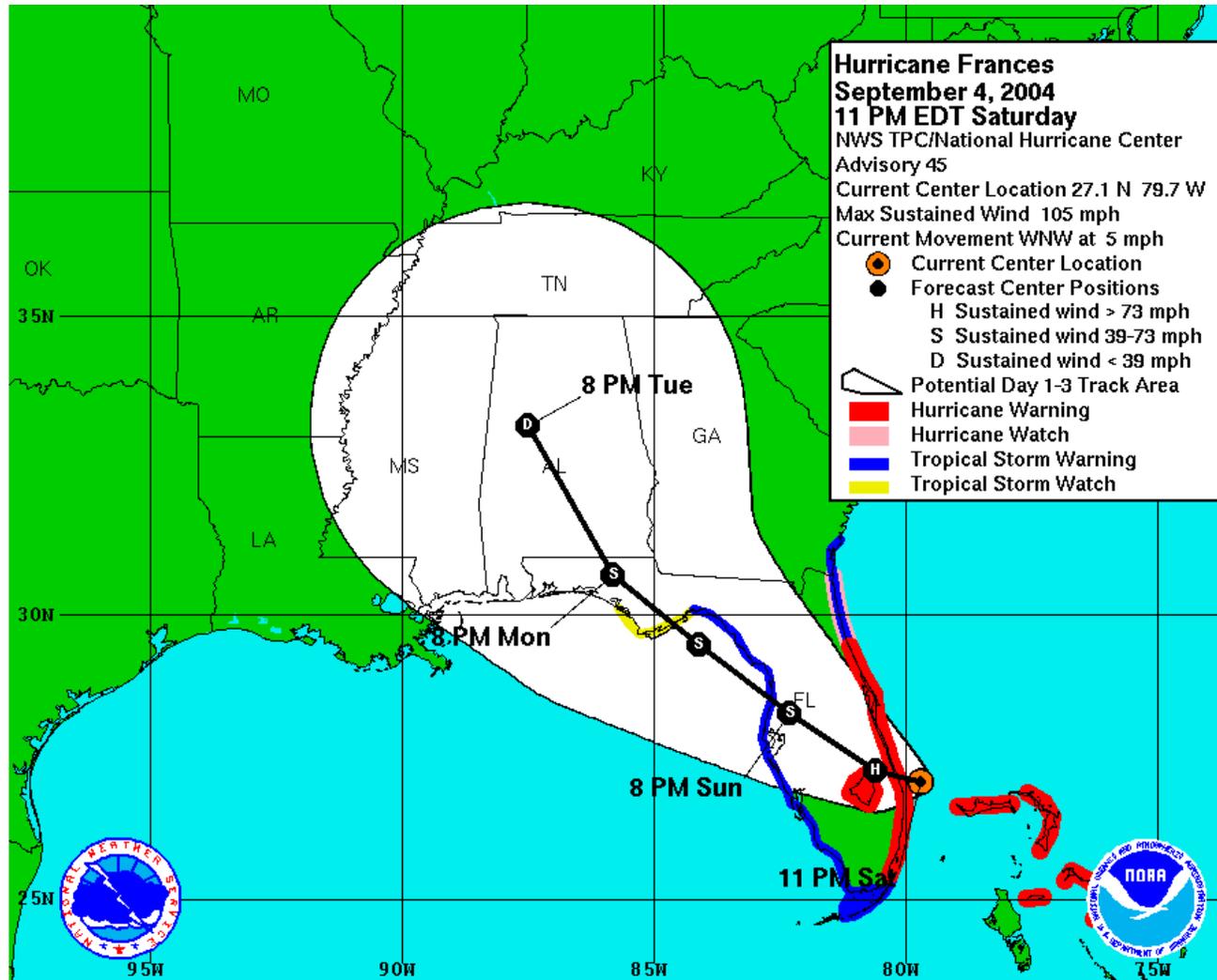
■ 48 cats
■ 140 dogs
■ 3 birds
■ 1 ferret
■ <u>1 rabbit</u>
193

H  
U  
R  
R  
I  
C  
A  
N  
E



F  
R  
A  
N  
C  
E  
S

# Hurricane Frances Path





# Hurricane Frances

September 2-7, 2004

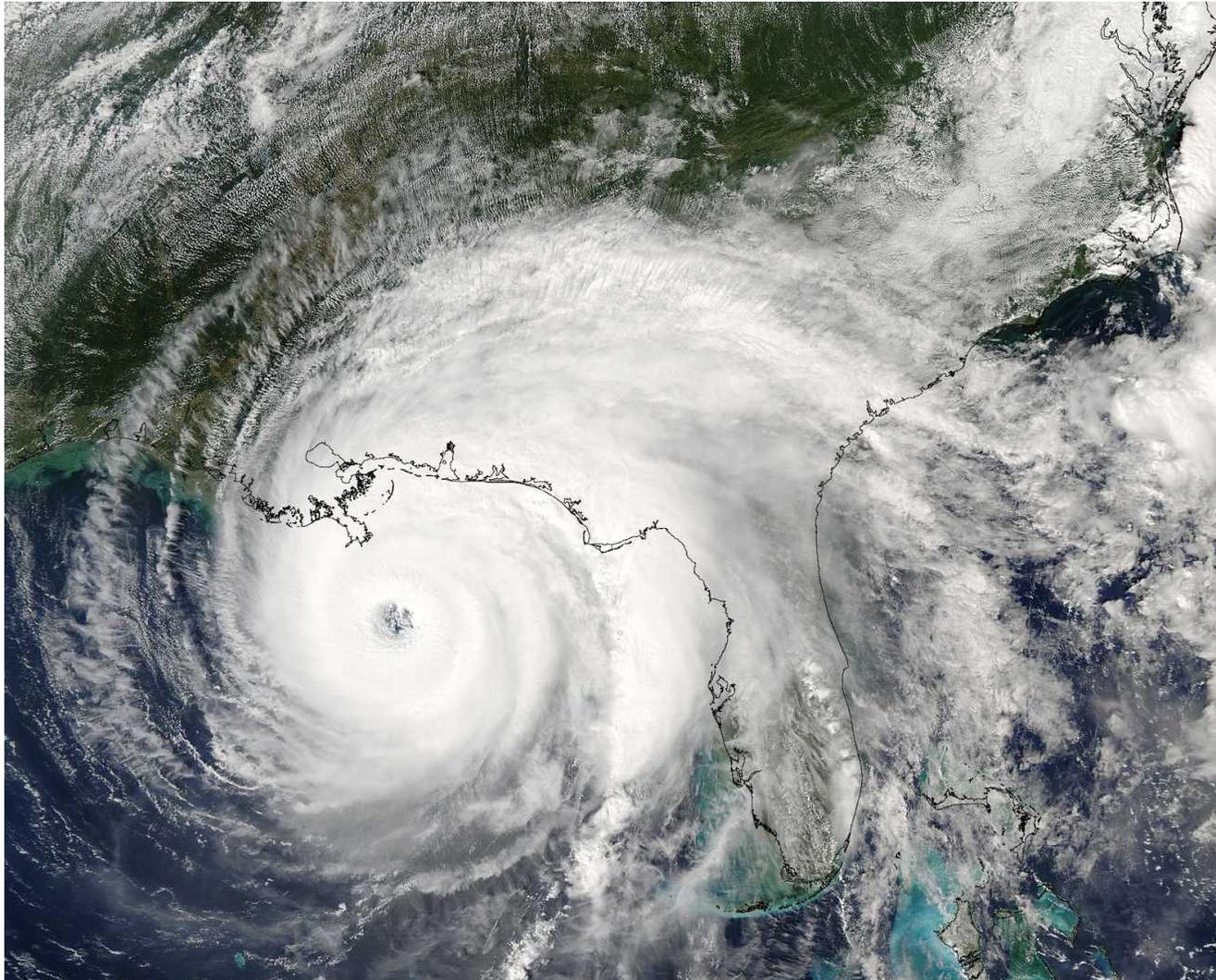
## Staff Hours

■ Volunteers	185
■ Staff	<u>575</u>
	760

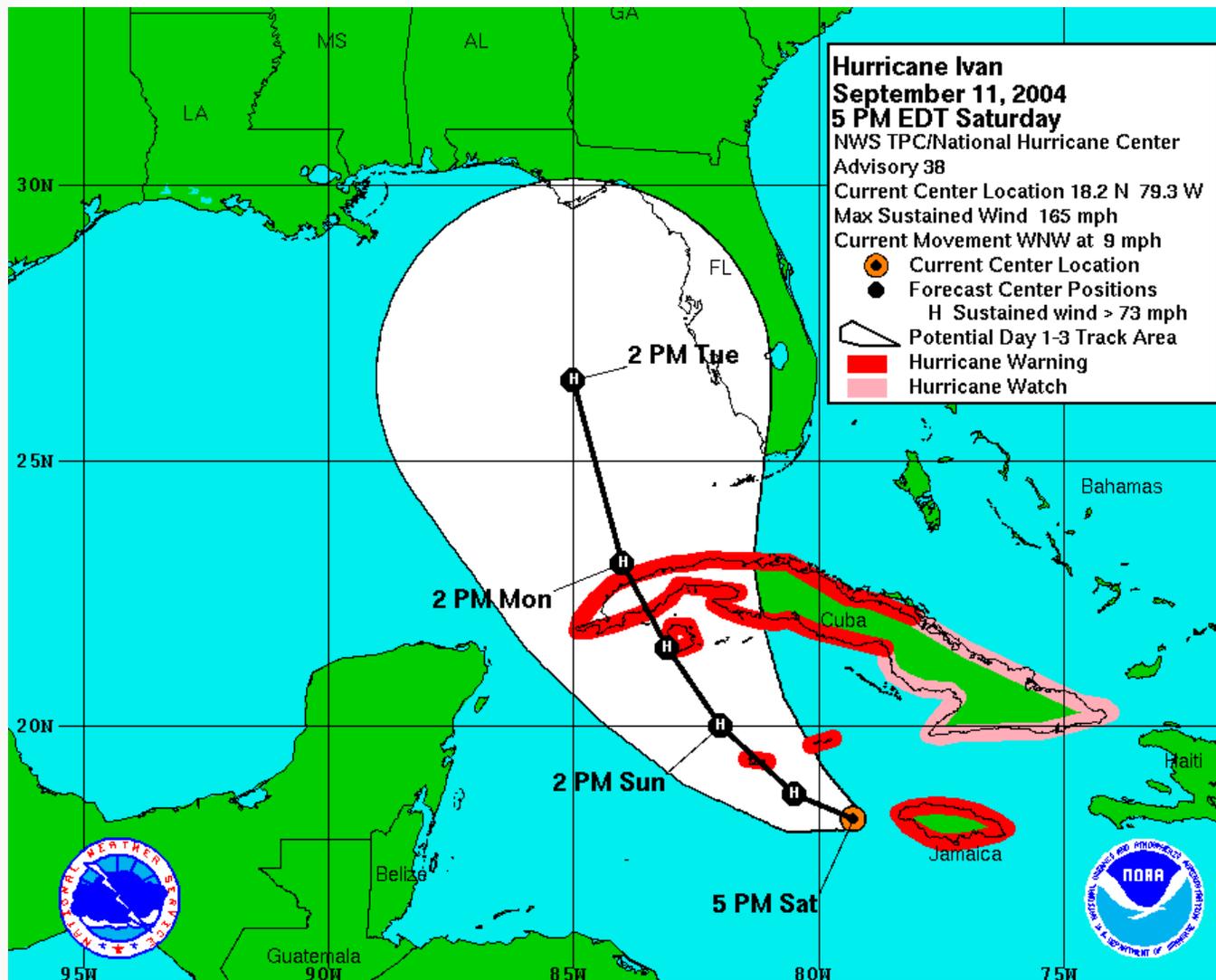
## Animals Housed

- 87 cats
  - 211 dogs
  - 28 birds
  - 3 rabbits
  - 1 guinea pig
  - 2 ferrets
  - 5 hamsters
- 337

# Hurricane Ivan



# Ivan's projected path





# Jeanne



# Jeanne's predicted path





# Hurricane Jeanne

September 24-27, 2004

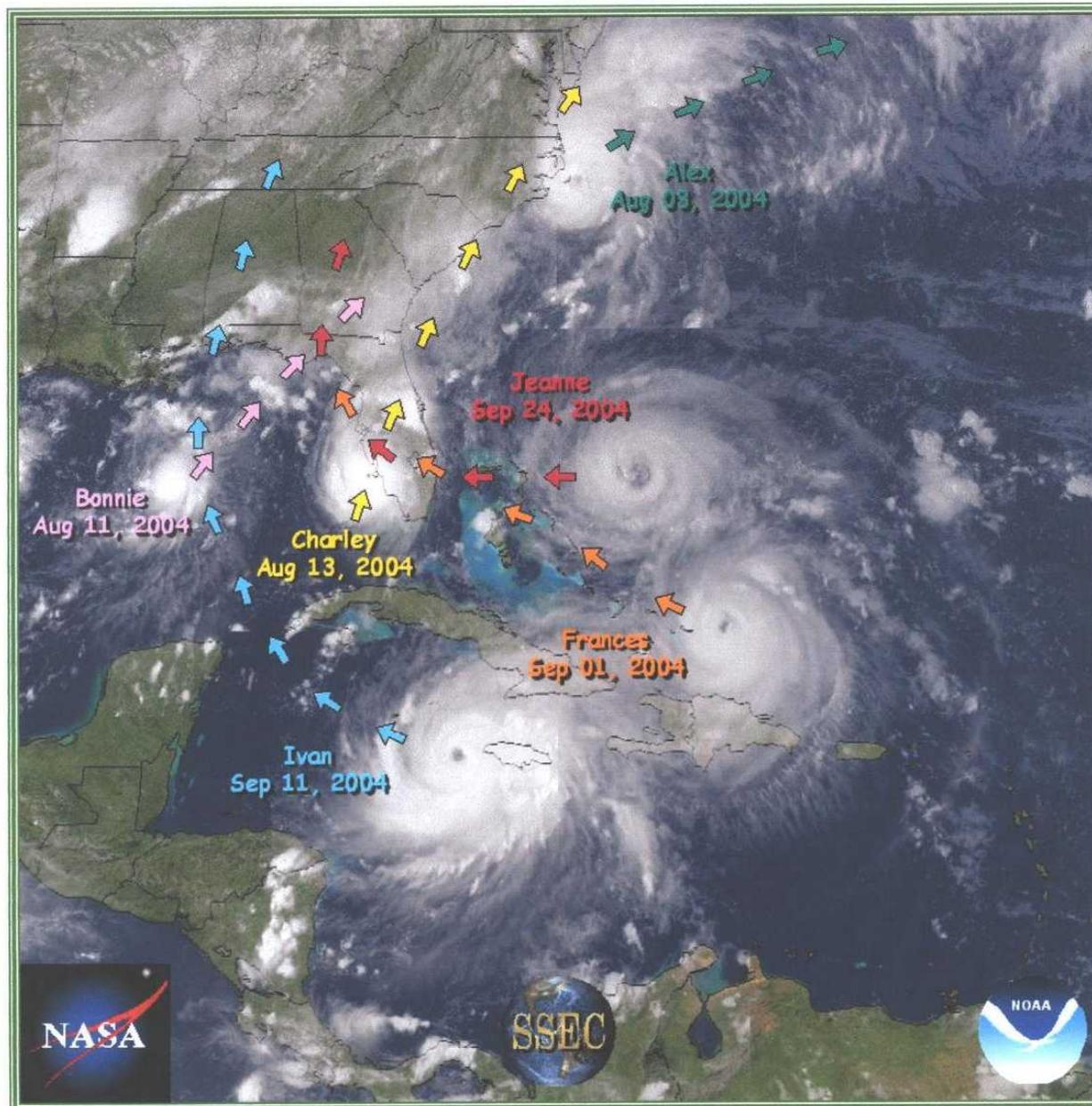
## Staff Hours

■ Volunteers	120
■ Staff	<u>498</u>
	618

## Animals Housed

■ 64 cats
■ 138 dogs
■ 21 birds
■ 23 rabbits
■ <u>1</u> guinea pig
226

# Florida Hurricanes ~ 2004





## Deployed Pet Friendly Shelter the evening before each storm was due to impact Florida

1. Load Truck (pet food/kitty litter)
2. Staff and volunteers on scene
3. Truck and trailer arrives
4. Began unloading truck and trailer
5. Stocked storage room with supplies
6. Started constructing cages
7. Laid out 140' plastic, taped up onto walls
8. Heavy duty rubber runner in the center
9. Lined one wall with large crates
10. Lined opposite wall with medium crates
11. Set up registration table/chairs
12. Lined garbage cans
13. Filled Kitty litter bins
14. Filled Dog Food barrel



The trailer unloaded and ready to assemble cages







# Lining the hallway with plastic

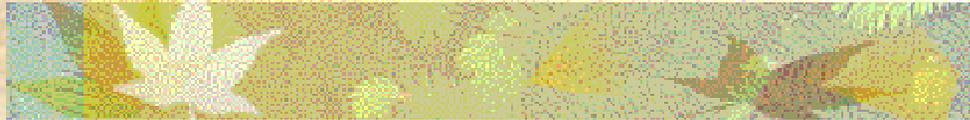






# Rubber Runner







# Setting up cages















# Supply setup





# Registration Process

- Registration form filled out
- Photos taken
- Cages Assigned
- Neckbands placed on dogs
- Wristbands placed on owners
- Instructions given individually



# Registration begins

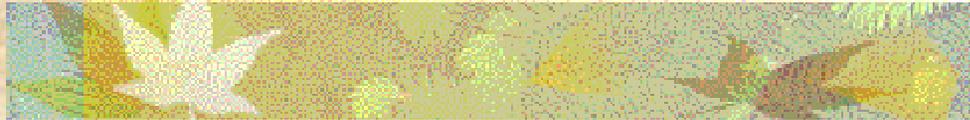














# PETS AND OWNERS IDENTIFIED







# Owners caring for pets











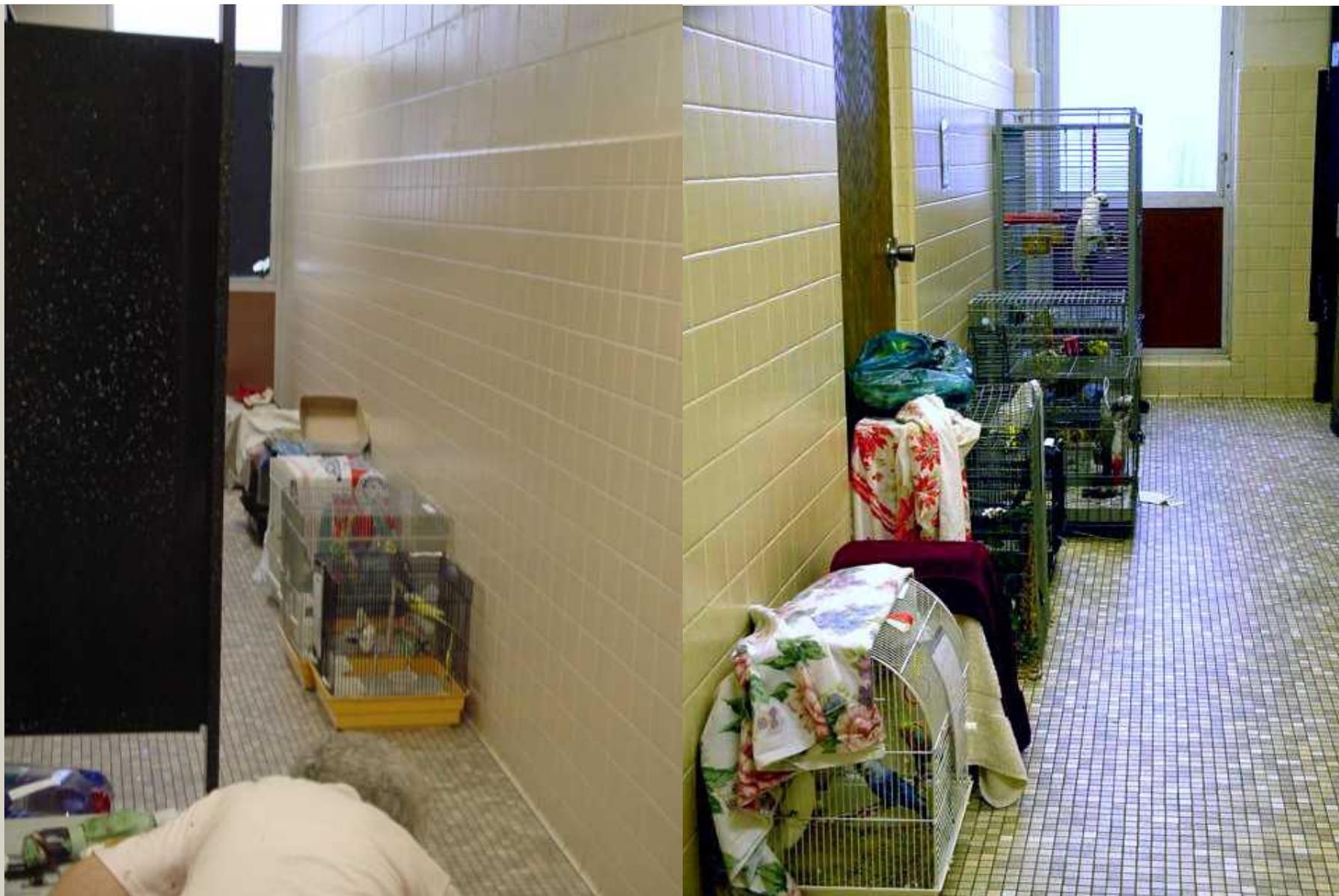








And there were birds, rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs and hamsters



Animals were in every corner of the building





No Power going on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day....

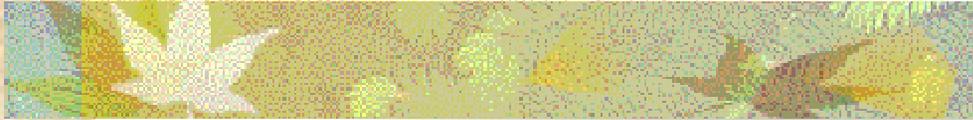




# Our youngest volunteers caring for special needs pets

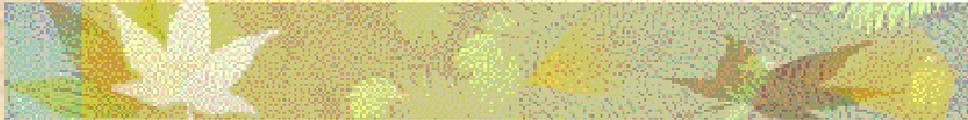












# Team work fixed the generator





# Tear down and clean up





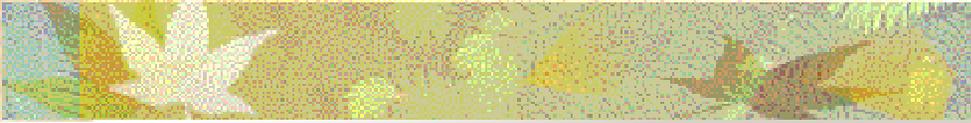






The shine was left on the floor...easy clean up





# Family storm shelter





## MARION COUNTY FLORIDA BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Belleview High School 10400 SE 36th Ave. Belleview, FL

Special Needs

West Port High School 3733 SW 80th Ave. Ocala, FL

Special Needs/General  
Population

Madison Street 401 NW Martin L. King Ave. Ocala, FL

Special Needs/General  
Population

Saddlewood Elementary 3700 SW 43 Ct. Ocala, FL

Special Needs/General  
Population

Vanguard High 7 NW 28 St. Ocala, FL

General Population/Animal

Lake Weir High School 10351 SE Maricamp Rd Ocala, FL

General Population

North Marion High 151 West HWY 329 Citra, FL

General Population

Ft. McCoy School 161 60 NE Hwy 315 Ft. McCoy, FL

General Population

East Marion Elementary 14550 NE 14 St. Rd. Silver  
Springs, FL

General Population

Belleview Middle School 10500 SE 36 Ave. Belleview, FL

General Population

**[www.marioncountyfl.org](http://www.marioncountyfl.org)**

# Know your plan and route





Stock up and be ready...don't forget  
your pet food and medications....



Leave early - expect delays.....



Keep your pet with you



Be sure to keep your pet on a leash and have identification on it.





# Watch the weather and stay informed





Animals left behind puts everyone at risk.....



.....left behind to watch the storm?





.....lucky to be rescued





# A BIG THANKS TO.....

- Animal Center Staff
- Code Enforcement Staff
- Volunteers
- Marion County Administration Staff
- Marion County School Board Principals
- Pam Stewart, Principal of Vanguard High School
- Scott Borth, Assistant Principal of Vanguard High School
- Debbie Dugan, Cafeteria Manager
- Steve Huffstutler, Director School Board Risk Management
- Dr Kierstein, for volunteering his services if needed

DEDICATED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY



## Phase 2

- Additional emergency management plans are needed
- Where do we take the pets if we have direct impact from a storm and schools need to reopen?
- Owners may still be displaced from homes



# Lessons Learned



- ✓ Comfortable bedding is a must!
- ✓ Restocking had to be fast, didn't know when next storm was coming
  - Funds taken from the Animal Center operating budget
- ✓ Hard work
- ✓ Long hours
- ✓ More volunteers needed for relief hours
- ✓ Post the rules
- ✓ Set open and close times and post
- ✓ Have a sign in/out sheet for staff and volunteers hours
- ✓ Large industrial fans are needed
- ✓ Volunteer cooks are important
- ✓ Let's face it were spoiled so comforts from home were important

ENOUGH WAS ENOUGH!!



WALT HANZEWSKY Newsday