

## Louisiana State Notes New Animal Reponse Unit

**Series of events accompanies the introduction of the new animal emergency response unit.**

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The Louisiana State Animal Response Team will aid pets affected by disasters such as hurricanes, floods and tornadoes. Photo courtesy LSART The Louisiana State Animal Response Team introduced its new animal emergency response unit at a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 18 at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine.

The vehicle was acquired through a grant from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

The 36-foot trailer will provide specialized services, such as sheltering, veterinary care and search and rescue, for animals affected by disasters. Disasters may include hurricanes, floods and tornadoes.

The unit can also function as a communications command center or serve as on-site housing for first responders.

"In the wake of disasters like Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav, we are thrilled to partner with IFAW and the ASPCA to provide this service should another natural disaster strike areas of Louisiana and other nearby states," said Renee Poirrier, DVM, director of the Louisiana State Animal Response Team. "We look forward to serving our four-legged friends and their families with this response unit should an emergency situation arise."

In addition to animal rescue services, the unit will provide public education, training and participation in preparedness activities, such as pet microchipping clinics and evacuation exercise.

The LSART Response Unit, the ASPCA and IFAW will roll out the new response unit at a series of community events and training seminars throughout the state this fall. The public is invited to attend. Upcoming events include: Oct. 3: Bark in the Park in Monroe Oct. 17: Delgado Animal Expo in New Orleans Oct. 25: Bark in the Park in Lafayette Nov. 1: Pet Fest in Jefferson Parish