

## Volunteer drives animals impacted by Hurricane Harvey from Corpus Christi to Nebraska

By Vincent T. Davis, Staff Writer Published 3:30 pm, Saturday, September 23, 2017



---

Nebraska animal advocate John Rypma holds one of a dozen dogs rescued from shelters flooded by rains during Hurricane Harvey. Kay Wlodarek, a Fort Worth volunteer with Tall Tales Rescue & Transport, drove the animals from Texas to Nebraska, to the welcoming arms of volunteers and staff at Beatrice Humane Society. Rypma is the chairman of the board at the shelter.

---

After long hours of driving, Kay Wlodarek steered her white truck into a Nebraska animal shelter, across from three bright colored signs that read, "Welcome to Nebraska Hurricane Harvey Survivors."

Wlodarek drove a dozen dogs and one ferret rescued in Corpus Christi to the Beatrice Humane Society in Beatrice, a small town 40 miles south of Lincoln, Nebraska, where welcoming volunteers took them in. By 5 p.m., 10 of the dogs and the ferret had been adopted.

"It feels good," Wlodarek said in an interview with a Nebraska TV station in mid-September. "It was a long drive. We literally come into our bays, set the truck and trailer and leave."

Wlodarek, who volunteers for Tall Tales Rescue & Transport near Fort Worth, is one of the hundreds of people and rescue groups who used vehicles and aircraft to save animals affected by the storm.

In San Antonio, Animal Care Services, the San Antonio Humane Society, the Animal Defense League of Texas and San Antonio Pets Alive! took in hundreds of animals. In one mission, ACS officers and volunteers partnered with Wings for Rescue to send 200 dogs and cats in one of the nonprofit's aircraft to the East Coast.

---

### Local Channel

**BCSO: Drunk man killed after he ran in road, got hit by SUV**

A gas station attendant at the Murphy Express on North Foster Road was providing the victim, who has not b...



▶ 10 00:00

00:42 ▶ ◀ ↺

### Now Playing

**BCSO: Drunk man killed after he ran in road, got...**

mysa

**2017-18 NBA Preview: Can Any Team Dethrone the Warriors?...**

SiTime

**Parts of U.S. 90 closed after woman flips car into...**

mysa

**Masked armed robber hits Jim's Restaurant...**

mysa

Crews from the San Antonio Zoo traveled to the downtown aquarium in Houston and the Texas Zoo in Victoria to deliver supplies and assist with rebuilding efforts. And Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation in Kendaia took in more than 150 critters swept from nests and rescued from swollen rivers.

When word of the floods and devastation reached the Beatrice shelter, director of operations Bryce Caulk said the staff started gathering supplies and making space for possible arrivals.

Caulk, originally from North Texas, called a friend in the Lone Star State to offer shelter for pets that had never been adopted and in need of a home. He said it was nice to work with Wlodarek to save the animals and witness the overwhelming support from their community.

"I might not be in Texas, but I still have family there," Caulk said. "Aside from it just being tragic, it meant a lot to reach out and help. It's home, even if it's not physically."

John Rypma, chairman of the board, watched Wlodarek as she parked her truck that hauled a big, brown trailer with precious cargo. He said he was pleased by the outpouring of care for the well being of animals.

"It's amazing how this whole situation of saving animals from this disaster has swept the country," Rypma said. "Everybody is in awe of how quick it all happened."

*vtDavis@express-news.net*

© 2017 Hearst Communications, Inc.

**HEARST**