

"ALL stray dogs to lucky dogs ... NOW!"

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Straydog Inc., The Arnold Family's Happy Home for Strays, a No-Kill Dog Shelter
A TEXAS NONPROFIT CORPORATION * With 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Status from the IRS * DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE
P.O. Box 1465, Gun Barrel City, Texas 75147 * (903) 479-3497 * EMAIL: straydog147@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

Hurricane Rita evacuates our entire Straydog Shelter!

What an ordeal! Thank Goodness we're all safe and sound! All the doggies now are back in their kennels and are doing fine after evacuating Straydog starting last Wednesday (September 21st) when the Hurricane Rita Tracking Map was showing Straydog to be about a half inch to the right of the center of the projected path of Hurricane Rita and the resulting Tropical Storm Rita. As you can see on the tracking map of last Wednesday (copy enclosed), the wind speeds were forecast to be between 39 and 73 miles per hour. We can withstand winds of 39 miles per hour, but winds of 73 miles per hour would have literally blown us away.

Fortunately Morton Small Animal Clinic had kennel space in their sturdy building for 24 dogs and our one resident cat, Star Kitty. But what would we do with the other 72 dogs? Jim Hanson, longtime Straydog supporter, offered to foster one dog during the storm, leaving us 71 dogs. We called schools in our area to see if we could use one of their gymnasiums, but they were already booked up for possible area human refugees from the pending storm.

Fortunately (again) my daughter, Erin, is renting a 20-foot by 60-foot steel building next door to Straydog (her "apartment"), where she cared for three litters of feral and/or stray kittens before taking them to her house in Plano, Texas, where she's still caring for them as she tries to adopt them out. Our only option was to transport the 71 remaining dogs to Erin's steel rent-building. Now we would need 71 crates. We already had 10, so we would have to buy 61 new crates, which we did, spending \$5,141.67, which funds we didn't have, so we had to borrow.

Erin spent a lot of time on the phone Thursday (the 22nd) trying to find crates and reserving them for Straydog, and Friday (the 23rd) I drove the empty van to PetsMart in Plano, where I bought the first 33 new crates for \$2,660.17 (including a 15% discount and no sales tax), and then I drove on to Canine Commissary in Plano, where I bought another 17 crates for \$1,729.63. Erin picked up the other 11 crates for \$751.87 in her little car at the PetsMart in McKinney, Texas.

Friday night and early Saturday morning (while the weather was still good) we were kept very busy putting the crates together and stacking them in rows inside Erin's steel building. We were in the midst of evacuating the 71 remaining dogs from Straydog, one van load at a time, when the first of the rain and winds began to hit us.