

## **FRIDAY, September 12, 2008 - Juana reports, continued**

in case we couldn't get anymore for who knows how long. We got prepared for the worst as we really didn't know what was going to happen. Even though a lot of people thought that nothing was going to happen, we just couldn't take that chance. We have a responsibility to 100 plus dogs. We have to take care of them and protect them, one way or another. We want to give many thanks to our crew for helping get everything ready in anticipation of this coming storm.

### **All the crates we need are now set up in H2**

After our last trip to the vet, we left these thirty of our babies hoping that they would be fine. We know that they were all scared, but safe. Back here at our shelter once everything was done and we were ready, most of the crew went home. I asked Rhonda to come later on, to help Randy our overnight guy through this possibly difficult night. Even though we hadn't brought any of our dogs in just yet (and didn't intend to until the storm was upon us), we were getting prepared and ready. As soon as the wind and rain should pick up, after midnight or whenever, we would start bringing every single dog inside.

### **Covering the evening shift**

Just as we were coming back to the shelter from buying our last supplies (gas, groceries, batteries, water, rain slickers, etc.), we had a phone called from overnight man, Randy, saying he was very sick and couldn't make it to work tonight. Oh, no! It is almost always bad when someone cannot show up to work because it makes it much harder on the rest of us, but this had us really in a bind, especially since we had already been working over 10 hours. Now what? Randy was too sick to come in, and my three children and I had to leave for a scheduled special memorial service in San Antonio for my father who passed on 15 years ago tomorrow. Because the storm hadn't reached the Texas coast yet, and because San Antonio was supposedly west of the path of the storm, my kids and I now were planning to leave Straydog as soon as I could get away tonight, hoping to get to our destination before any bad weather hit. (Bill wanted to go with us for the memorial service, but he had to stay at Straydog and ride out the storm with the dogs.) Lacie and I stayed at Straydog until 9 p.m., covering the early night duties and making sure everything was in place and ready to bring our dogs inside whenever the storm might hit. Fortunately the rain and wind hadn't started yet, and the radar showed Hurricane Ike was still out in the Gulf of Mexico heading straight for Galveston. Rhonda had gone home at 3 p.m. but came back in at 9 p.m. to relieve us and cover for Randy. She took over, knowing James was coming at 4 a.m. to help her with her early morning duties and help her if the hurricane should hit early. James had stayed with us all day, helping to assemble and set up all the crates that we needed for all the dogs that we still had here at Straydog. Rhonda let us borrow some crates because she had some extra ones. We also borrowed some crates from Sidney Bush at Friends of the Animals of Cedar Creek Lake. Mrs. Bush and Friends of the Animals, we really want to thank all of you for helping us out. Many, many thank-yous to you all! Now we were prepared and ready. We were praying that whatever happened, it wouldn't be as bad as the news and weather forecasters were saying it was supposed to be.

### **Sandy-man's hind legs suddenly become paralyzed in the middle of the night**

During the night Rhonda called us saying that when she was walking the Hospital I doggies to the park, taking Sandy and Misty out, going down the ramp out of the hospital trailer, Sandy fell down and couldn't get up. Sandy was trying to bite Rhonda when she tried to help him up and she didn't know what to do. I told her to get a muzzle and a towel and try to get him up or carry him back inside to his bed. She said that Sandy tried to get up, but he couldn't move his back legs