



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER TYLER HARPER

SUBJECT: Evacuation of Animals from Areas Impacted by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Helene
Enforcement Discretion Policy re: Importation of Companion Animals and Equine

EFFECTIVE: September 23, 2024

Effective immediately and in accordance with this Notice, due to the emergency conditions created by the anticipated Hurricane/Tropical Storm Helene, the Georgia Department of Agriculture will exercise enforcement discretion regarding the interstate movement health requirements for companion animals and equine established in Chapter 40-13 of the Georgia Rules and Regulations. Companion animals and equine temporarily relocated to Georgia as a result of the emergency conditions created by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Helene must return to their state of origin or comply with all Georgia Rules and Regulations by October 23, 2024, unless otherwise indicated by the Department. This discretion does not apply to livestock, including dairy cattle, and poultry.

A copy of this Notice must always accompany companion animals and equine admitted to Georgia for temporary relocation due to emergency conditions created by Hurricane/Tropical Storm Helene. This notice will not be construed to waive the Department's ability to take enforcement action where animals have been permanently relocated to Georgia without meeting all applicable interstate movement health requirements.

This notice does not apply to the importation of wild animals, which is regulated in Georgia by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

If you have any questions, please contact the GDA Animal Health office at 404-656-3667 or AnimalHealth@agr.georgia.gov.