SUBJECT: Evacuation of Animals from Areas Impacted by Hurricane Ian
Enforcement Discretion Policy on Importation of Animals

FROM: Gary W. Black, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Agriculture

EFFECTIVE: September 26, 2022

Effective immediately, due to the emergency conditions created by Hurricane Ian, the Georgia Department of Agriculture will exercise discretion with the Georgia Rules and Regulations in Chapter 40-13 regarding enforcement action on the importation of pets and livestock (including equine) from evacuation areas into Georgia for temporary relocation where importation does not comply with the requirements established in Chapter 40-13. This policy will be in effect between the issuance of this notice and October 10, 2022, unless otherwise rescinded or extended by the Department.

Any person transporting pets or livestock (including equine) into Georgia from evacuation areas for temporary relocation must have a copy of this Notice accompanying the animals while they are in Georgia; and this notice will not be construed to waive the Department’s ability to take an 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.