



# RESPONDER SPOTLIGHT

# RED STAR ANIMAL EMERGENCY SERVICES™



## EMANUEL MACIEL — PART OF AMERICAN HUMANE'S RED STAR FAMILY

Emanuel “Manny” Maciel has been working with animals since 1989, first for the Animal Rescue League of New Bedford, Mass., and now for the city of New Bedford. During his recent career, he prepared himself for animal response and rescue by undergoing training and getting certified. So when Hurricane Katrina hit and American Humane and the Humane Society of the United States called on him, Maciel was ready.

Since Katrina, Maciel has been an in-demand responder. In last year alone, he arrived at the flooding scenes in both Illinois and Iowa, and was on the scene following the onslaught of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in Louisiana and Texas. As a team lead, Maciel has learned a lot with every response: “You never see the same thing twice. I’ve been doing this for years, and each call is different.”

Maciel’s favorite part of responding to disasters is the family feel of the Red Star team. “When you arrive, it’s like you’re reconnecting with your family. It’s a caring atmosphere, like a brotherhood or sisterhood,” he explains.

While Maciel says the most difficult part is being away from his own family during a response, he finds comfort in joining his responder family. There is an inherent risk in



the work, but he says it’s satisfying to know he’s with quality rescuers who know what they’re doing, and for whom safety is a priority.

“My goal and American Humane’s goal is to get to those animals and to report back in one piece,” he says. “We’re there for the same reason. We’re there to get it done.”

Maciel respects his fellow responders and the entire American Humane Red Star team for their dedication and compassion. “It takes an all-around good person to do the work we do,” he acknowledges.

Red Star Program Manager Tracy Reis knows Maciel is that all-around good person. “He is wonderful. We are privileged to have him on our team,” she says.

Because of the dedication and bravery of responders like Maciel, thousands of animals have been saved and reunited with their owners. And the reward for Maciel: “You come out feeling really good. After each response, it feels like you’ve been given a million dollars.”

Interested in becoming an American Humane Red Star Animal Emergency Services Responder? Get information and training dates at [www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org). ■

## FACTS ON MANNY

**Occupation**  
Director of Animal Control

**Hometown**  
New Bedford, Mass.

**Years with Red Star**  
4

**Number of responses**  
5

**Most vivid responder memory**  
Saving pigs during the blizzards in Colorado. “Nothing prepares you for that,” Manny laughs.