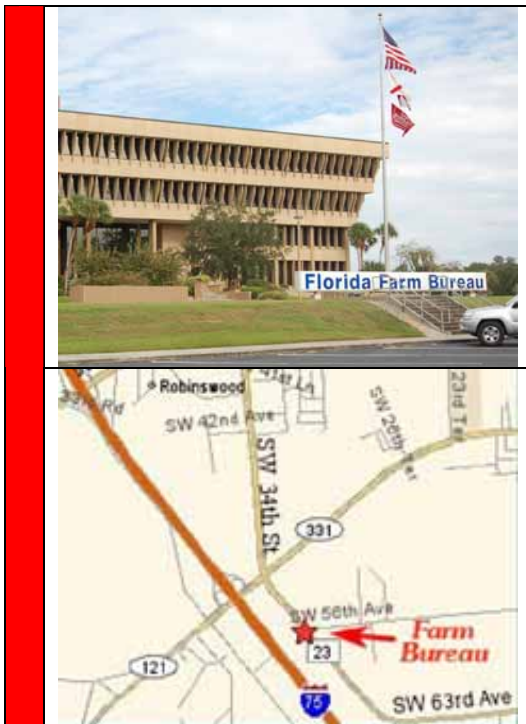




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Mark Your Calendar!

It almost seems appropriate to announce that the Quarterly SART Advisory Board will meet on December 5th at 10:00 am in the Florida Farm Bureau conference room in Gainesville with “Gentlemen – and Ladies – Start your engines.” But it isn’t that time of year yet. So, let’s get together for a review of outstanding business and a preview of 2008 are on the agenda. The Farm Bureau building is located at Florida Farm Bureau Federation Building, 5700 SW 34th St., Gainesville, Florida 32608 (352) 374-1543. (This location is adjacent to Interstate 75 in south Gainesville. Exit at SR 121 “Williston Road,” turn east to 34th Street and then south. The Farm Bureau building is on the right side of the road just two blocks south.)


Through the Grapevine

David Perry and John Haven are not the only SART members who have completed FEMA's train-the-trainer program. In addition to being a National Wildfire Coordination Group-trained and recognized Type 3 Plans Section Chief with years of experience in state-wide and national disaster deployments, Martha Wagaman is an FEMA/FDEM-certified Advanced ICS Instructor and a member of a multi-agency (Fire, Law Enforcement, Public Health and Emergency Management) training team!



Martha Wagaman

Wagaman notes that her group holds monthly I-300 and I-400 courses. They are open to all city, county and state emergency response and "infrastructure" agencies (power, transportation, medical, local government, key business leaders, etc.). "We have had attendees from as far away as Tennessee," she says. Contact Dawn Wood, Training Coordinator, at the Emergency Management office in the Duval County EOC for

information and registration: dwood@coj.net 

Pet Friendly Special Needs Shelters



Photo courtesy City of Chesapeake, VA

Duval County Emergency Management is revising its Pet Friendly Special Needs Shelter protocols. Several disaster shelters have been designated as "Special Needs Shelters" designed and staffed to support citizens who need daily medical assistance or the support of health care professionals. Very often these citizens will refuse to evacuate without their companion pets.

By providing for Pet Friendly SpNS facilities staffed with County Health Department personnel, and pre-registering individuals with disabilities or health care needs, the county can better serve their at-risk population during a disaster. Those citizens who

have pre-registered will be contacted during an evacuation to ensure that transportation for both owner and pet are available if needed. Volunteers to assist the disabled with pet care at these shelters are welcome. Contact Kathy Barnett, RN (904-253-1026, Kathy_Barnett@doh.state.fl.us) for more information.

Florida State NAACP Joins Florida SERT

In a Memorandum of Understanding signed September 22, 2007 between Craig Fugate as Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Adora Obi Nweze as President of the Florida State Conference of the NAACP, the NAACP has become a standing member of SERT. Broadly speaking:

- The state will contact the NAACP whenever the Emergency Operations Center is activated and will include the NAACP in opportunities for education and training.
- The NAACP will work with SERT to inform and educate members about hazards facing the citizens of Florida, and will actively work to prepare for, coordinate during and to alleviate the effects of a disaster.



The principal contact for the state Division of Emergency Management is John Cherry in the Office of External Affairs [850-413-9969 john.cherry@em.myflorida.com] while the principal contact for the Florida NAACP is Beverly Neal [407-702-2656 flanaacp@aol.com].

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Announcing the Formation of the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs

John Haven, Director of the UF College of Veterinary medicine has let us know that a network of SART-type programs, state veterinary medical reserve corps programs and state programs of a similar nature called the National Alliance of State Animal and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAAEP) will hold a formative meeting during the North American Veterinary Conference in Orlando January 22-23, 2008.



The Veterinary Conference will include a NASAAEP organizational working group meeting on the afternoon of January 22, an evening reception that same evening and a day of presentations and updates on January 23rd. If you are registered for the Veterinary Conference, you can attend this meeting for no additional fee. If you would like to attend only this session, you can register for \$85, which includes lunch, at <http://www.tnavc.org/mynavc/Default.aspx?tabid=257>.

Presentations will include:

- Federal agency updates on animal emergency management issues
- Veterinary opportunities in emergency management and response
- The Social and Political Impacts of Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreaks in Britain (Dr. Steve Van Wei)
- Developing local resources (a panel of state programs)
- From 0 to 60 in Two Years: Funding programs through grants, sponsorships and donations
- Annual meeting: finalize of an incorporation plan

The NASAAEP sessions are open to all NAVC attendees. In addition, this would be appropriate for all SART/VMRC (and similar programs) leaders and participants, local program (such as CART) leadership, national organization personnel and federal personnel.

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Leptospirosis

Question:

Where can we have our dogs tested for leptospirosis? We suspect all of our dogs are infected, and have been giving them antibiotics and other medicine per directions from our local internal medicine veterinarian. I want to make sure however that the other dogs will be okay. So far none are showing signs of sickness, but all have blood and green stuff in their stools just like a pup that died. We have fenced off a small area and have been bleaching everything of course – before, during and after – perhaps a bit of over kill.



A traditional show of loyalty and affection between this man and his best friend could actually be harmful. Researchers are finding an innocent lick to the face could unwittingly spread leptospirosis, a re-emerging disease that can cause kidney failure or even death in dogs, and flu-like symptoms in humans. (Courtesy University of Guelph, Guelph Ontario, Canada)

Carol Christopherson, president of Florida Service Dogs, Inc. (800-549-2600, www.floridaservicedogs.net and buddynme@bellsouth.net) says that her organization provides education and advocacy regarding service animal legal rights and responsibilities.

(“Unfortunately, no state keeps statistics about service animals because there are no licensing requirements,” Christopherson says. “We have looked for assistance with this very issue, but the laws allow persons to use their own animals...and there are no specifications or standards for trainers or training.”)

Answer:

According to Julie Levy, DVM, PhD, DACVIM at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of

Florida (352-392-2226 ext. 5717 levyj@vetmed.ufl.edu) leptospirosis “may be a re-emerging disease in dogs. We used to think of it as a disease mostly restricted to free-roaming and rural dogs, but now there are more suburban and urban infections in pampered house dogs. Perhaps this is due to development in rural areas that brings pets *and* people into closer contact with wildlife.

“The clinical signs of leptospirosis are nonspecific and may mimic other diseases. Therefore a thorough diagnostic evaluation including hematology, serum chemistries, urinalysis and fecal parasite testing should be completed on sick dogs. If leptospirosis is suspected, serum should be sent for leptospirosis serology at the time of illness and again four weeks later.

“There are now four-way leptospirosis vaccines available that are indicated for dogs at risk of infection. The vaccines protect against the most common strains, but not all strains. Leptospirosis vaccines may have a shorter duration of action, perhaps lasting less than a year in some animals, than most other vaccines. They are also associated with a higher rate of reactions than many other vaccines, but this is mostly in toy breeds. The new vaccine guidelines [from the American Animal Hospital Assn.] that we follow at UF-CVM are at:

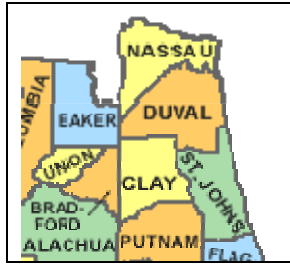
www.aahanet.org/PublicDocuments/VaccineGuidelines06Revised.pdf.”



Dr. Julie Levy – College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida

NEFCART News

NEFCART, the Northeast Team, has catalogued a large and equipment resources animal/agriculture response disaster. Resources include their equipment, caging and trained shelter personnel for animals, plus exotic animal species as diverse as tigers, ostrich and koi. Resources/contact information should be added to the FLSART website soon. In addition, NEFCART –



Counties Animal Resources number of skilled personnel that would be available for during and after a chemical capture experts and transport equipment, and domestic and agricultural rescue groups that deal with

- refined its "Guiding Goals & Principals" wherein members resolve to help raise pet safety awareness and to provide education and training opportunities.

- asked HSUS to conduct its Disaster Animal Response Training course in Northeast Florida. (Good attendance would significantly increase the number of volunteers available for pet-friendly/special needs shelters in disasters. Our special needs population has physical or health disabilities that make it difficult to care for pets away from their homes. Dates for the DART course will be announced when confirmed.)

- supports the Technical Large Animal Rescue Course January 28-31, 2008. The class is open to individuals from a cross-section of disciplines in the Northeast Florida area: search and rescue teams, county animal control officers, veterinarians, equine trainers/handlers, county emergency management/planners, and FDACS employees.



Tomas Gimenez, Dr. Med. Vet. (right) and Rebecca Gimenez, PhD (left) will conduct the four-day course.

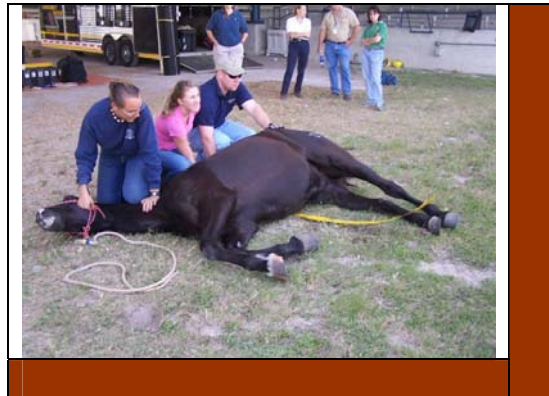
Renowned equine handlers and technical large animal rescue experts Tomas and Rebecca Gimenez will conduct the four-day course. Class-work provides technical understanding, and a hands-on portion allows the Gimenezes to demonstrate, and students to exercise, rescue skills (including deep water and night scenarios). Cost per participant is \$150. Contact John Haven,

Director, UF-CVM for availability, location, and logistical details:
havenj@vetmed.ufl.edu.

NEFCART general meetings are open to all interested individuals. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5th. For details please contact NEFCART chair, Kelly Cuppoletti at kcuppoletti@co.st-johns.fl.us (904) 824-5550. (Thanks to Martha Wagaman for this update.)

Last Minute Special Note!!

Due to the overwhelming response and requests to register for the January 2008 "Technical Large Animal Rescue Course," an additional class is being formed for the early spring. Please contact Martha Wagaman at martha_wagaman@doh.state.fl.us as soon as possible to reserve space for yourself or your organization. The class size is capped at 30.



Hurricane Westy



Hurricane Westy came ashore in Tallahassee recently and most people didn't notice! But Hurricane Westy was on a mission, to test the ability of the residents residing in the Independent Living section of Westminister Oaks and the administration and management team of the Nursing Home and Adult Congregate Living Facility also located within Westminister Oaks to work together in planning and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a strong Category Two hurricane.

The three-hour tabletop exercise provided 74 participants an opportunity to learn the importance of working together when disaster strikes. Participants worked within their neighborhood and workplace groups to coordinate activities such as neighborhood/business planning and preparedness, threat assessment, needs assessment and recovery.

Hurricane Westy was developed and facilitated by the Capital Area [Chapter of the American Red Cross, Citizen Corps and Medical Reserve Corps], the City



of Tallahassee, Fire Department, Leon County Health Department and the Leon Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management on Wednesday afternoon, October 10th.

If your community would like to participate in a Disaster Tabletop Exercise please contact your local chapter of the American Red Cross by logging onto <http://redcross.tallytown.com/chapters.html>.

UF-CVM Hosts HAZMAT Training

John Haven and Mary Ring e-mailed to let us know that the Hazardous Materials Training course recently hosted by the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine and instructed by Gainesville Fire & Rescue HAZMAT instructors had an impressive 42 attendees.

The awareness-level introduction to HAZMAT course included both classroom instruction and a static display of GFR's heavy response and tower trucks. Attendees included individuals from the College of Veterinary Medicine (faculty, staff and students), members of FDACS, USDA, recent applicants for the new Veterinary Corps program and members of SART (NEFCART, HSUS DART and Habitat for Horses).



Photo courtesy IL Fire Service Institute, U. of Ill. Champagne-Urbana

Member Highlight



Florida SART member Rob Robison says that if you are not familiar with the Best Friends Animal Society, you can learn more about this organization by contacting him at kat_ranch@peoplepc.com or checking out their web site at www.bestfriends.org.

"Best Friends is working with you – and with humane groups all across the country – to bring about a time when there are No More Homeless Pets." Best Friends operates a sanctuary in Utah's Angel Canyon to house 1,500 homeless pets: dogs, cats, farm animals, horses, rabbits, birds and other animals. In addition it provides adoption, spay/neuter, and educational programs around the country; and publishes *Best Friends*, the nation's largest general-interest animal magazine.

When we spoke by phone, the semi-retired Robison was searching for funding to travel to Mexico to work with animal rescue and recovery efforts following the severe storms and flooding in the state of Tabasco. Besides being a member of SART, Robison notes that he is a member of: HEART (the Hernando County Emergency Animal Response Team), HSUS' DART, UAN EARS Crisis Response Team, Hernando CERT team, Best Friends Rapid Response Team and SAR team leader, and the Director of Kat Ranch Rescue (a private sanctuary for about 50 rescued animals).



Horses stand among flood-covered cars during recent flooding in southern Mexico. Photo courtesy Merco Press

[As we “went to press” with this issue of the *Sentinel*, I received this note from Rob Robison: “If everything works out I will be leaving Thursday for Villahermosa, Mexico. Just like after Katrina we will be deploying food and water teams in boats to get to the most animals possible as quickly as possible. With additional resources we intend to then rescue as many animals as we can. These animals have been stranded in the second floors and rooftops for days and they are hungry and dehydrated. The estimated numbers of companion pets in need exceeds 10,000 and livestock over 1,500,000!”]

About the SART Sentinel

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The SART SENTINEL is an E-mail newsletter prepared monthly by Rick Sapp and the members of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team. Past issues of the *Sentinel* are archived on the Florida SART Web Site, www.flsart.org.

If you have a story or photo that you would like to have considered for publication in *The SART SENTINEL*, please contact the Editors.