

***Florida Animal Control Association  
(FACA):***

**Role in ESF – 17  
Local & Statewide**

***Paul Studivant, Division Chief of  
St Johns County Animal Control***

**FACA members:**

**Experts when it comes to  
companion animals**

**Resource for other animal issues of  
concern for ESF-17 Response**

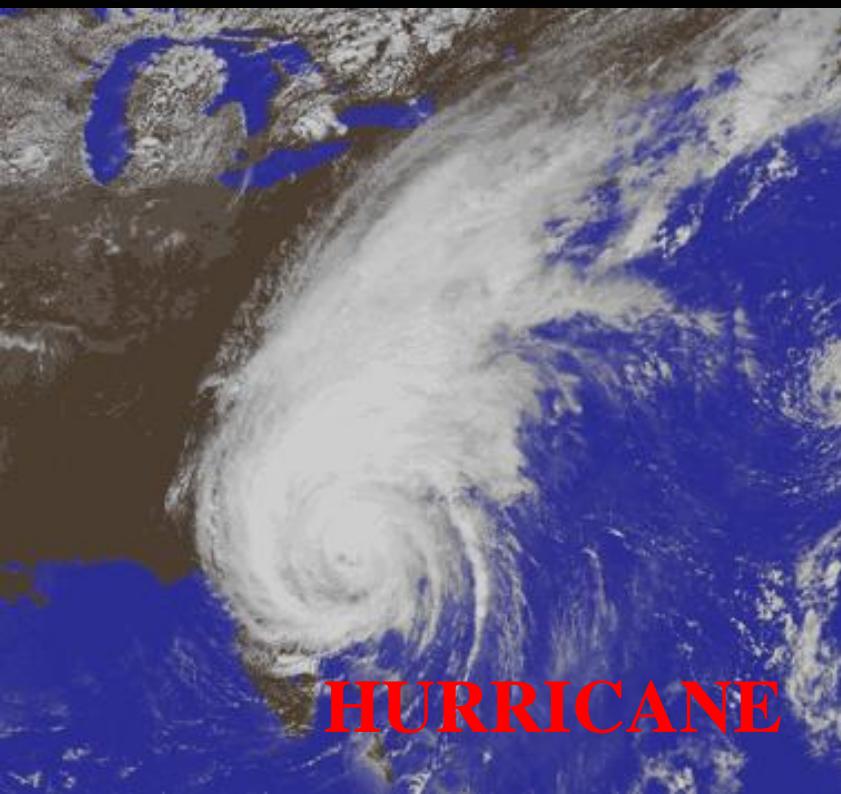
*Whether it be.....*



**fire**



**flood**



**HURRICANE**



**Assisting w/ foreign animal  
disease outbreak**

***A common thread in all disasters is :***

**Where  
there  
are  
people  
issues:**

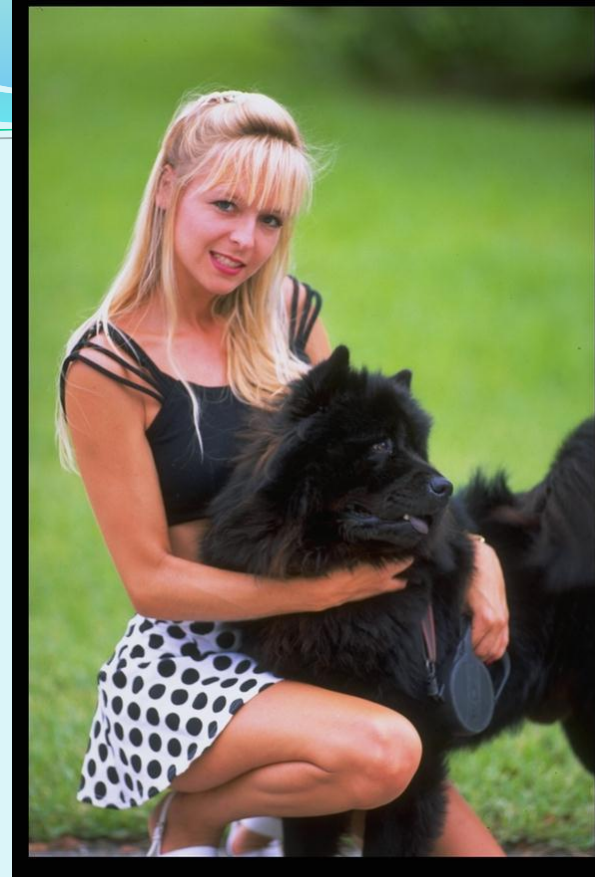


**There  
will be  
animal  
issues!**





**pets,  
friends,  
companions, or**



**replacement for lost family members.....**



**Coworkers**



*Or as livestock & livelihood*







**Bonds  
are real**



Photo by Cabal

**strong  
as steel  
cable.**





# Basic things that need protection:

- **Family**
- **Residences/Homes**
- **Personal Property/Possessions**
- **Pets**
- *What is the most important?*



When asked which one should get rescue priority -  
**family & pets nearly tie** – this is how we think of pets



Primary responsibility for County  
ESF-17: Animal Protection  
rests w/

**local ESF-17 Coordinator**

Through local Emergency  
Management Agency



**Why choose local animal care  
& control agency  
for this role?**

**it is most logical selection.....**



## ***First:***

**When local, state, or federal government issues Emergency Declaration, as county agency, our public resources become available to citizens at risk.**

**Legal authority exists for animal control officers, similar to law enforcement and code enforcement officials, making them first responders.**

**Volunteer groups or private industry alone cannot offer total resources.**

**Lead needs to be someone w/  
permanent stake in local area  
& true responsibility to  
citizens(i.e. local government)**



## ***Second:***

### **Statutory Authority mandates through Chapter 252...**

**252.38 Emergency management powers of political subdivisions.**--Safeguarding the life and property of its citizens is an innate responsibility of the governing body of each political subdivision of the state.

**252.34 Definitions.**--As used in SS. 252.31-252.60, the term:

(1) "Disaster" means any natural, technological, or civil emergency that causes damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to result in a declaration of a state of emergency by a county, the Governor, or the President of the United States

### ***Third:***

Our state certified, trained animal care professionals, & other contacts w/ volunteers & other organizations ready to assist in impacted area.

Can respond to assist citizens in less time than outside groups that don't know area or may have to be dispatched from distance. Local animal Control already does this daily!



## **Goal Of ESF-17 Animal Protection**

- To provide rescue, protective care, feeding and identification of animals separated from their owners.
- To provide for public health and safety.

## **FACA Can Provide:**

- Expertise
- Experience
- Training
- Special Skills/Equipment
- Highly Trained Animal Handlers
- State Certified Staff for Chemical Immobilization & Euthanasia when Required

## **FACA's Mission:**

Provide professional support & companion animal expertise for disaster & ESF-17 response.

Florida response to Katrina showed that FACA agencies able to work as cohesive & professional group even w/ members from different agencies working together due to training & continued support provided by FACA to animal control agencies throughout state.



Done through  
mitigation activities,  
preparedness plans,  
response to emergencies,  
& recovery operations



# Some Resources:

**Florida Animal Control Association**

**Florida Veterinary Medical Association**

**Florida Cattlemen's Association**

**DART**

**Disaster Animal Response Team**

**EARS  
Emergency Animal Rescue Service**

**Sunshine Horse Council**

FACA can assist w/  
emergency disease control...





Coordination of animal  
evacuation & rescue...



**Temporary confinement, shelter,  
food & water for displaced animals...**

**Assistance w/  
disposal of dead animals**



**Prevent or control spread  
of disease of public health  
significance**

# Our Policy

**ESF 17 implemented  
At request of local  
Emergency Operations Center.**

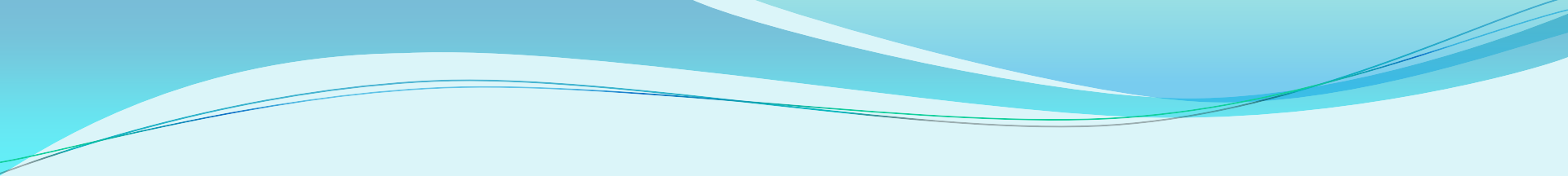
# Our Policy

**ESF 17 may seek assistance from  
animal control agencies,  
humane or volunteer groups,  
livestock or farming organizations,  
or other animal industry or govt. agencies.**



# Our Policy

**ESF 17 works through  
the County's Designated  
Animal Issues Coordinator  
Only!**



**Disaster's effects may be larger than abilities of local agency to handle, & exceed its available resources.**

**Need to have well defined support agencies & develop partnerships to assist us.**

# Partners In Protection



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Florida Division of Emergency Management

Department of  
Community Affairs



ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

USDA

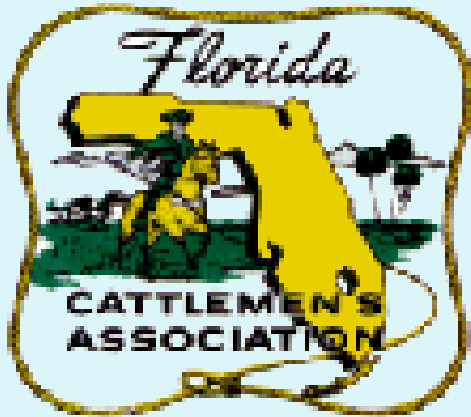
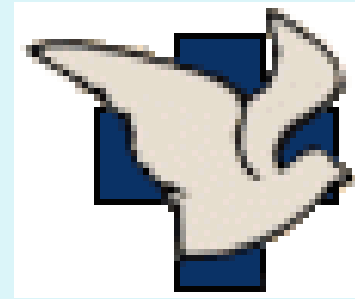


Law Enforcement



Marine Patrol

# Partners in Protection





*Old saying:*

*“Chain is only as strong as its weakest link”*

**never more true  
than in Disaster Management!**

# **Local, County, State, & federal response agencies:**

**must maintain strength of chain by  
having well defined & written MOUs, or  
plans .**

**FACA will not serve as replacement for  
lack of planning - will help fill support  
function to local plans when resources  
are needed.**