THE SENTINEL
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UF VETS Team Builds Skills

Above left: John Haven operates the tender system during a student demo by David John. Above right: Alachua County's David Bates rides the highline while Josh Fleming and others observe.

During the week of January 4-11, UF VETS team members John Haven, Josh Fleming and David John, earned a Qualified Rope Instructor II (QRI II) certification. They taught a combined class of nine Alachua County Fire Rescue and Gainesville Fire Rescue firefighters, advanced rope rescue skills as part of a Rope Rescue Technician/Rope Tech II course.

QRI II includes teaching complex rigging and rescue techniques such as "pick offs" which allows a rescuer to move an impaired or injured person off of their line onto the rescuer's own rope system, and carefully guide them to safety. This advanced skill ensures the VETS team members are capable of rescuing people injured at an incident rather than waiting for a technical rescue team, which could be hours away. "Suspension Syndrome" could kill a victim in less than 30 minutes according to some literature.

Similarly, QRI II includes "litter tender" skills, which not only include how to attach a person to a basket/litter with a victim in it, but to build and operate more complicated systems which allow the "tender" to move up and down and around the basket as needed to help maneuver around obstructions and hazards. Such skills allow the VETS team to assist in combined injured horse and rider incidents or, in the event a VETS team member was injured during an animal rescue, to rescue that person without having to wait for assistance.

Additionally, when people think about "Wilderness Technical Rescue" many think of "highlines" which resemble a rescue zip line. While highlines have limited application in livestock technical rescues, they have been used. These techniques may fit in well with a river/stream rescue or in a ravine where access is too difficult to get the victim out.

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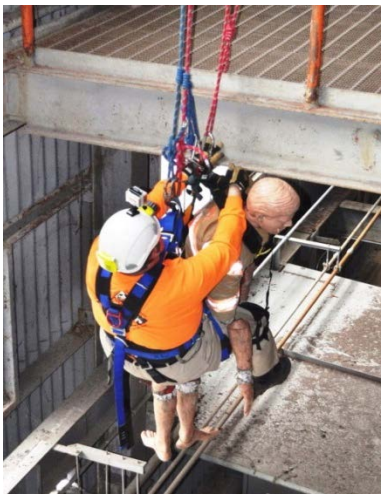


Above left: John Haven demonstrates a pick-off rescue. Above right: Gainesville Fire Rescue's Wes McQueen operates the horizontal litter tender.

Lastly, the course included basic tower and high industrial training. Goats and dogs in particular get themselves into places they just can't get out of. Being able to teach Rope Rescue Technician level skills also ensures the team members are skilled in problem resolution, system safety analysis, etc.

The UF VETS Animal Technical Rescue team continues its evolution in adding to its skills and equipment cache as a technical rescue team. Besides their recent accomplishment of human QRI II, which applies to being able to rescue responders injured on scene without delay, the team has members trained at the Confined Space Technician, Swiftwater Rescue Technician level, and Structural Collapse Operations level. The team is equipped with separate gear for animal rescue and human rescue, and has mannequins for horse, dog, and human technical rescue.

For more information on the UF VETS Team, contact John Haven havenj@ufl.edu.

Volusia County Hosts TLAER Course

The University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine VETS Team, a SART partner, is a national leader in animal technical rescue. Team members are highly trained in animal technical rescue, swift water, confined space, structural collapse and rope rescue. Core team members of the VETS technical rescue team are trained and equipped for human technical rescue, and they work to adapt those skills, techniques and their equipment to improve animal technical rescue. Few primary animal technical rescue teams in the country are trained to this level.

More than 90 people participated in a Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue class at the Volusia County Sheriff's Office Deputy Stephen Saboda Training Center January 25-26, says Richard Moore, Planner II with the Volusia County DEM [rmoore@volusia.org; (386) 254-1500 x 11031]. Horses, goats and sheep, as well as a full sized horse mannequin were used.

Trainees represented more than 50 organizations including: Sheriffs Department ranch/grove units, Orlando Police Mounted Unit, the Brevard County Emergency Management Director, Florida Highway Patrol, several fire department technical rescue units

and animal control officers from across the state.

Richard singled out for special notice:
- Animal Control Office Program, Daytona State College. Robin Davis the program coordinator handled the details, and DSC PIO handled promotion.
- Volusia County Animal Services worked tirelessly on scheduling and course details.
- Volusia County Fire Services Technical Rescue - Lt. Karl Froling is the team leader.
- Volusia County Sheriff's Office range officers.
- Volusia County DEM provided Homeland Security Grant funds. We connected the training to "Core Capabilities" as identified by DHS. They included Responder Health and Safety, Inter-agency Coordination and Coordinating with Volunteer Group.

Note 1: The class was directed by Dr. Rebecca Giminez (http://tlaer.org) who, Richard Moore says, "is amazing. I have never seen such positive student evaluations. The class thought she is terrific. I could listen to her for hours. She is outstanding!"
Note2: The Stephen Saboda Training Center is named in honor of a deputy killed in the line of duty.

Volusia County Photos by
Lance Rothwell, Daytona State College.

Dodd Plenary Short Courses

Courses are named for Glennon Dodd, long-time veteran of mosquito control in Florida.

These courses are named for Glennon Dodd a 15-year veteran of mosquito control and Assistant Director of the Indian River Mosquito Control District, in Vero Beach. The Florida Mosquito Control Association http://dodd.floridamosquito.org/Dodd/ web site recognizes Dodd as "the spiritual leader for mosquito control in the mosquito control profession [and] the first to recognize that mosquito control had to get into the employee training business." The web site also notes, "What started as a simple idea has blossomed into one of the largest and, arguably, the best sets of training courses for mosquito control in the world today." Born in 1948, Dodd himself suffered a "sudden and tragic" death in 1991.

Current Dodd Courses include: Introduction to/Advanced Mosquito Control, Identification of Adult/Larval Mosquitoes, Interpreting Pesticide Labels, New Technologies, Arborvirus Surveillance, Domestic Inspections, Advanced Medical Entomology, Field Applicator Calibrations, Chemical Spill Response Training,

Asian Tiger Mosquito: Biology and Control, Vector Control Emergency Resource, Ticks: Identification and Disease and more.

FDACS-AES Dale Dubberly has been instrumental in the development and presentation of Dodd courses. Check at http://dodd.floridamosquito.org/Dodd/index.aspx for course scheduling, CEU, cost and reservation information.

Animal Disease Traceability Program

The goal of the Animal Disease Traceability Program is to give state and federal officials the capability to identify all animals and premises within 48 hours of a disease outbreak or other major concern. The program is only for livestock moving in commerce: cattle, bison, sheep, goats, swine, captive deer, horses, poultry and fish for food or commerce. It does not include the movement by an owner of household pets or companion animals such as dogs, cats and goldfish.

Diane L. Kitchen, DVM, PhD, Veterinarian Manager, Bovine Programs – BADC, DAI, FDACS (left above) studies the operations plan with Roxanne Mullaney, DVM, AVIC-NY, USDA-APHIS-VS during "Operation Red Fly" at the State EOC in January 2012.

Diane L. Kitchen, D.V.M., Ph.D., Veterinarian Manager, Bovine Programs – BADC, DAI, FDACS, says the Final Rule for Traceability for Livestock Moving Interstate was published in the Federal Register in January 2013 and outlines the specific requirements regarding animal identification and accompanying documentation for all livestock moving interstate. Additional information about the program can be obtained at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/.

In part to help cattle producers comply with the new federal rule, Florida has recently published the Florida Cattle Identification Rule (5C-31 FAC) which requires the official identification of adult cattle moving within Florida with some specific exemptions. This rule became effective on February 19, 2014. Dr. Kitchen says the goal of this program is to get a majority of the breeding age cattle in Florida officially identified. Additional information regarding this program can be obtained at: http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Animal-Industry/Florida-Cattle-Identification.

The state and federal programs are tools to locate and contain animals that have potentially contagious diseases and to address threats from deliberate introduction of a disease.

Official Identification is defined by the federal rule and varies between species. Methods of identification can be viewed at the USDA Animal Disease Traceability website under the "Additional Information" section of the page.

Other than horses, many animals will be tagged with an official identification device that carries an Animal Identification Number (AIN) that is good for the animal for the duration of its life. Many options are available and new devices are being developed continuously.

In order to obtain an official identification device (AIN), the producer needs a Premises Identification Number (PIN). The application for a PIN can be obtained at the FDACS website above. One form of official identification for cattle is available at no charge through FDACS DAI. For producers who do not have the ability to apply an AIN, official devices can also be applied by accredited veterinarians and at approved tagging sites such as livestock markets. (A fee may be charged for the application of tags.)

Top Problem? Fresh Water

In case you missed it, in September last year Agriculture Commission Adam Putnam said a continuing supply of clean, fresh water is Florida's top problem, especially in an era of struggling economic and residential growth.

"If you think about the golden eggs that Florida depends on – tourism, agriculture and construction – they're all dependent on water," Putnam said during a Florida Leaders Summit sponsored by lawyer, lobbyist, GOP fundraiser and news aggregator Justin Sayfie. "This is a critically important issue …."

Putnam also noted that Florida has also historically made bad choices, such as trying to build a cross-state barge canal, straightening and then un-straightening the Kissimmee River and other water projects.

Florida's demand for water is expected to increase by about 1.4 billion gallons a day to 7.9 billion gallons in the year 2030.

Melissa Meeker, former head of the South Florida Water Management District, said conservation won't be enough. "The easy things have been done already." She advocated for great water reuse, increased water storage and recovery and desalinization. "It's no longer acceptable for us to use water just once and then dispose of it."

Under the Radar

SARC Small Animal Emergency Sheltering

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) will host an "Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Class" at DOH Daytona Beach, 1845 Holsonback Dr., Conference Room 516, on Saturday, March 15. The class will be taught by volunteers from the Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC, www.flsarc.org). The class is free and IAMs Pet Foods is sponsoring breakfast, lunch and snacks for participants. (Participants must be 18 years of age.)

Course topics include: Personal Preparedness, Overview of the Incident Command System, Deployment Preparedness, Assisting in Shelter Set Up, Daily Care and Feeding, Proper Cage Cleaning and Disinfection, Animal Behavior, Stress Management, Zoonotic Disease, Personal Safety and more ....

Please join the Florida State Animal Response Coalition team. "With your help," says Director of Training Consie von Gontard (352) 658-1224 training@flsarc.org, "we can be there to provide shelter and care for Florida's animals before, during and after a disaster." For more information and/or register for this course go to http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e8s5xm8g8b366d28&llr=cmn8hziab.

NOTE: Before you can deploy with SARC to an animal emergency, you must have completed three self-study FEMA courses. They are free and available online: IS-100.b - Introduction to Incident Command System; IS-200.b - ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents; and IS-700.a – NIMS, an Introduction. These courses do NOT have to be completed prior to the class, but if you do complete ICS 100, 200 and 700 before attending, bring your completion certificates to class for a FREE Florida SARC uniform T-shirt!

Rick Dantzler is New FSA Head

Attorney and former state senator Richard "Rick" Dantzler, 58, is the new state executive director for the USDA's Farm Service Agency. FSA responsibilities include administering the USDA's environmental, minority farmer outreach and agriculture emergency response programs.

A third-generation Floridian who grew up in Winter Haven, Dantzler graduated from UF with undergraduate and law degrees. He is quoted as saying the two biggest challenges facing Florida agriculture have to do with labor issues and citrus greening. His first day in his Gainesville office was Monday, January 13.

Rick Dantzler is Florida new FSA Executive Director.

Planning Ahead – 2015 SART Planning Meeting

Just a note to program into the smart phone or write on the desk-top calendar …. (Does anyone other than the editor still use a hand-written calendar?) The 2015 Florida SART Planning Meeting is scheduled for January 12-14. It will be held at the Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista South. Teams are currently working on plans for an exciting agenda as well as all of the essentials of a meeting that, historically, will accommodate 125-150 response-oriented individuals from dozens of agencies and organizations.

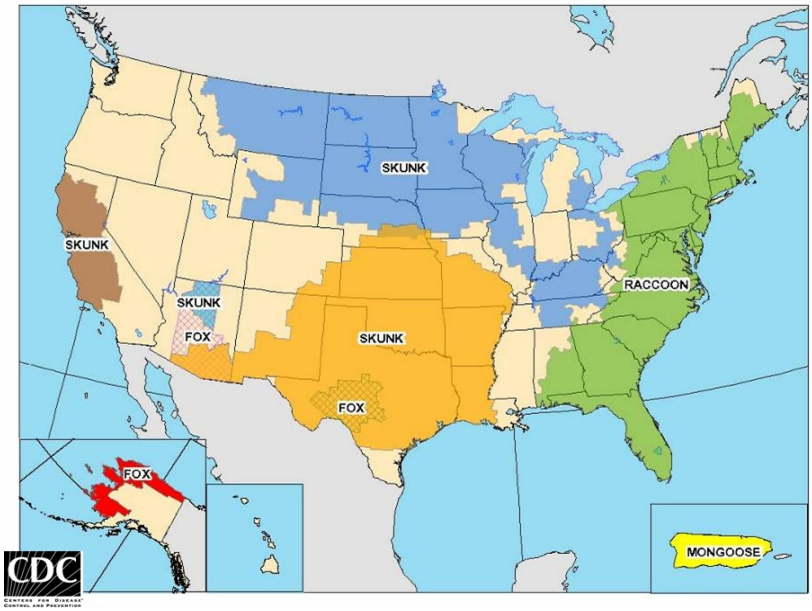
BERP – not burp …

Question: Why do local and state agencies need to understand and train in Bovine Emergency Response Plans?

Answer: John Maday, Managing Editor, Drovers Cattle Network writes (1-29-14) at BovineVetOnLine.com: More than 50 million head of domestic and imported cattle and calves are marketed and transported for breeding, feeding and slaughter in the U.S. each year. An estimated 400,000 head of livestock are on the road on any given day. As the number of livestock being transported via motor vehicle has increased, so has the number of accidents involving livestock. Currently in the U.S., standard operating procedures for addressing accidents involving the transport of livestock do not exist.

Rabies in Florida

Once known as "hydrophobia," rabies is one of the oldest known viral diseases, yet according to USDA APHIS/WS, it remains a significant wildlife-management and public-health challenge. And working in difficult conditions after an emergency, it is entirely possible that responders may come in contact with infected animals.



Rabies affects the central nervous system of unvaccinated animals that are exposed to the virus and is invariably fatal. Over the past 30 years, rabies management has grown in complexity in the U.S. as wild animals, including skunks, raccoons, foxes, coyotes and bats, have replaced the domestic dog as the primary reservoir for the disease. http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html.

Rabies Prevention

- Avoid contact with wild animals.
- Vaccinate pets and at-risk livestock.
- Do not allow pets to run free. Follow leash laws.
- Never feed wild or stray animals and feed your pets indoors.
- If your animal is attacked by a wild, stray or unvaccinated animal:
    - DO NOT examine your pet for injuries without wearing gloves.
    - DO wash your pet with soap and water to remove saliva from the attacking animal.
    - DO NOT let your animal come into contact with other animals or people until the situation can be handled by animal control or county health department staff.
- Educate the public to reduce contact with stray and feral animals.
- Support animal control by reducing feral and stray animal populations.
- Provide pre-exposure prophylaxis for people in high-risk professions, such as animal control and veterinary personnel, laboratory workers, and those working with wildlife.
- Bat-proof homes.

To avoid a bite that could carry the rabies virus, do not feed wild animals.

About the SART Sentinel

The SART Sentinel is an e-mail newsletter prepared monthly by 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.

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