THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

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UF CVM Offers "Animal CSI"

In January, authorities raided an Andalusia, Alabama, property, arrested six suspected cockfighters and seized nine birds. The raid was the result of a joint investigation among several Alabama law enforcement agencies and The Humane Society of the United States. Investigators found cockfighting paraphernalia on the property, including razor-sharp gaffs, which resemble curved ice picks, and injectable drugs.

A note from Dr. Julie Levy at the College of Veterinary Medicine, UF, has alerted us to the development of a course titled "Animal CSI: Recognizing and Responding to Non-Accidental Injury."
In the normal course of their work, Dr. Levy writes, veterinary teams will be presented with cases of non-accidental injury for treatment. Animal control and law enforcement will be called to respond if abuse is suspected.

* Can loving guardians actually harm cherished pets?
* How can you distinguish accidental from intentional injury?
* Will your team recognize these cases?
* Are you prepared to handle them?

This full-day program will focus on recognizing non-accidental injury in animal victims. The two-part conference will start with a series of case presentations and discussions that explore the role of the veterinary team in recognizing and responding to suspected non-accidental injury. It will end with an afternoon hands-on workshop in which participants must put their new knowledge to work as they

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* Where: College of Veterinary Medicine, Gainesville
* Who should attend: Veterinarians, veterinary technicians, animal control officers, CSI, law enforcement, prosecutors
* When: Saturday, April 5
* Time: Registration (7:30 – 8:30), morning session (8:30 – 12:30), lunch (12:30 – 1:30), afternoon session (1:30 - 5:30)
* CEUs: 7
* Early Registration: $100 ($25 students) until March 9

The morning session has a capacity for 140. Space in the afternoon hands-on workshop is limited to the first 72 participants who enroll. All participants will receive a complimentary Veterinary Forensics scrub top. This conference is made possible by grants from Maddie's Fund and the ASPCA. http://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/conferences/veterinary-forensics-conference/

Julie Levy, D.V.M., Ph.D., is lead researcher and director of the Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at UF.

Mosquitoes of Florida

A mosquito is a mosquito, right? Okay, there are the "daddy long legs" mosquitoes, but the rest are just biting nuisances. Not according to scientists at UF-IFAS who say there are 80 species of mosquitoes known to occur or have been identified from various collections in Florida, more than any other state. Of these:

- 33 species can cause pest problems for man and/or domestic animals in all or parts of the state.
- 13 species are capable of transmitting pathogens that cause disease in humans and animals.

A female mosquito of the Culicidae family (*Culiseta longiareolata*).

Aedes aegypti is a common vector of dengue and yellow fever.

Anopheles stephensil, a malarial vector with a range from Egypt to China.

All mosquito species vary to some extent in their individual preferences for types of blood meals, egg laying sites, time of day they prefer to fly, temperature at which they are most active, and seasonality. The UF-IFAS lab at the Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory has developed an electronic database of Florida mosquitoes and general information about their distribution, medical importance, and habitats.

For more information about individual species and to study distribution maps go to http://mosquito.ifas.ufl.edu/Mosquitoes_of_Florida.htm.

"Soring" and the Tennessee Walker – A Quick Primer

The Tennessee Walking Horse (Tennessee Walker) is a breed of gaited horse known for its unique four-beat "running walk." The breed was developed in the southeast as a show horse: a calm disposition and smooth gaits. The exaggerated gaits must, of course, be learned and the training techniques have provoked controversy.

The controversy stems from the exaggerated leg action which the horse must learn for competitions: Flat Shod (regular horseshoes) or Big Lick (wearing built-up pads or other weighting devices to cause the amplified movement). Because these movements are unnatural, trainers have used many devices and techniques to force horses to adopt the high leg lift.

A technique called "soring" involves using chemicals that burn or blister a horses' legs in order to accentuate their Big Lick gaits. Chemicals are often toxic, trainers using a brush and wearing gloves when applying them. The treated area is wrapped in plastic while the chemicals are absorbed. The chemicals cause pain and scarring. A distinctive scarring pattern is a tell-tale sign of soring.

A distinctive scarring pattern is a tell-tale signs of soring, and therefore may be covered up by a dye, or the horse's legs may be soaked in salicylic acid before the animal is stalled (as many can not stand up after the treatment) while the skin of the scars slough off.

The Horse Protection Act of 1970 prohibited soring and animals are inspected by USDA's APHIS [www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare]. Unfortunately that practice (and other training abuses) have continued and led to criminal charges against a number of individuals.

This is a news item again because an undercover video by a member of HSUS surfaced in 2013 showing a popular Walking Horse trainer using soring techniques and abusing horses despite the 1970 law. HR 1518, the Prevent all Soring Tactics (PAST) bill, was sponsored by Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-KY, on April 11, 2013 and has 216 cosponsors. A Senate version offered by Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-NH, has 26 cosponsors.

Volusia TLAER Class – The Story in Pictures

VOLUSIA COUNTY
ANIMAL SERVICES
STAFF

The story “Animal rescue course draws nearly 100 officers, emergency responders, horse owners” and a short video, are located on the Daytona State College web site at http://www.daytonastate.edu/photoessay/012714animals.html.

New First Detector Site Launched for Florida

Stephanie D. Stocks, Dept. of Entomology and Nematology, UF

Through recent Farm Bill funding, a variety of collaborators* are working together to deliver first detector workshops on invasive pests across the high impact state of Florida as well as California and New York.

The workshops target a variety of audiences including master gardeners, state parks, crop consultants and other plant industry professionals, botanical gardens and small farm producers.

Workshops focus on the roles these different agencies play in the detection, eradication, and management of invasive species as well as encouraging the utilization of the state’s NPDN diagnostic labs in the detection of new suspect invasive pests and diseases.

Topics chosen for the workshops include pests that are here, but are limited in distribution as well as pests that are not here yet, but are on the CAPS prioritized pest list.

With additional eyes in the field, in the parks and botanical gardens, participants can help state and federal agencies detect potential pests early on and with early detection, the chances of a successful eradication effort is greatly improved.

The educational material developed for the workshops held in Florida have been made available on a new website, www.flfirstdetector.org.

The material developed includes short scripted presentations (about 15 minutes) for educators to use on a variety of topics such as European pepper moth, cactus moth, brown marmorated stink bug, kudzu bug, Tuta absoluta and giant African land snail.

Also developed as part of this project, is a series of online training modules based on the scripted presentations for target groups to access. There is no charge to access any of this educational material. Please check out the new Website and keep an eye out for additional First Detector training opportunities in your state.

* Collaborators include USDA APHIS, the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program (CAPS), UF IFAS, FDACS DPI, the NPDN, Protect U.S. and the Sentinel Plant Network (SPN).
* To read the complete article and learn more about the NPDN and its First Detector program, go to http://www.sepdn.org/webfm_send/298.

Under the Radar

FAD Gray Book Is Online

Foreign Animal Diseases (Revised, 7th Edition) is online as a pdf document at USDA-APHIS www.aphis.usda.gov/emergency_response/downloads/nahems/fad.pdf. Called the "Gray Book" it is prepared and periodically updated to educate veterinary professionals by the Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases of the U.S. Animal Health Association www.usaha.org. From the Preface:

"There have been vast changes in the world since the last edition was published in 1998. At that time, the World Trade Organization was just three years old and only beginning the tremendous facilitation of international trade that we see today. The last edition was published before Nipah virus in Malaysia, before the massive foot and mouth disease outbreak in the United Kingdom, before the advent of the term "agro-terror," before SARS had infected any humans and prior to the possibility of highly pathogenic avian influenza as a human pandemic.

"Indeed, with so many new pathogens as well as old pathogens surfacing in new and unexpected places, the term "foreign animal disease" is becoming less relevant, even as the threat of foreign animal disease incursions becomes more relevant."

Our Back-Yard Exotics

These "Syrian Brown Bears" were offered for sale on February 27th through http://exoticanimalsforsale.net/bears-for-sale.asp. The seller noted, "Cubs born Jan. 13th Been on the bottle for 3 weeks doing great. Looking for trades for other exotics. Know your local and state laws."

Dr. Kendra Stauffer, DVM, District 2 Emergency Coordinator for USDA/APHIS/VS. has drawn our attention to the issue of private ownership of exotic animals and private "zoos." In Zanesville, Ohio in 2011, a private owner of 56 tigers, lions, bears, wolves and monkeys, released his animals and then took his own life.

A February story written by Marilyn Miller for McClatchy News and reprinted in *Emergency Management* http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Dangerous-Wild-Animal-Response-Team-Ohio.html highlights the current situation in Ohio and provides food for thought for all response entities. According to, "The incident triggered a debate over the state's nonexistent laws regulating the operation and ownership of what amounts to privately owned zoos. In March of last year [2013], Gov. John Kasich ordered each of Ohio's 88 counties to form wild animal response teams to avoid a similar situation. The state-mandated requirement describes how [all of its counties] will plan and provide resource support before, during and after a dangerous wild animal emergency."

Livestock Producers Affected by Severe Weather Are Urged to Keep Good Records

The USDA's Farm Service Agency has appealed to livestock producers affected by this winter's natural disasters – drought and bitter cold – to keep thorough records. This includes livestock and feed losses, and any additional expenses that are a result of losses to purchased forage or feed stuff.

In addition to drought, flooding and storms, there are a variety of other disasters that cause economic consequences for farmers and ranchers. FSA recommends that owners and producers record all pertinent information of natural disaster consequences, including:

1. The number and kind of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses;
2. Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts;
3. Costs of transporting livestock to safer grounds or to move animals to new pastures;
4. Feed purchases if supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed;
5. Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records;
6. Pictures of on-farm storage facilities that were destroyed by wind or flood waters; and
7. Evidence of damaged farm land.

Visit www.fsa.usda.gov or an FSA county office to learn more about FSA programs and loans. For information about USDA's Farm Bill implementation plan, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

FDACS Makes Arrests for Animal Cruelty

On February 28, FDACS inspectors arrested three Holmes County residents for neglecting approximately 90 dairy cattle at Wild Rose Dairy. The arrest affirms the value of routine inspections and working partnerships.

Department inspectors conducted a routine food safety inspection at Wild Rose Dairy, 1230 Underwood Road, Graceville, on February 11. They found unsanitary conditions and issued a "stop sale" order. They also observed dairy cattle in poor physical condition, likely due to neglect.

A department veterinarian confirmed that the poor condition of the cattle was due to neglect, and Agricultural Law Enforcement began an investigation. On February 17, officers transferred the remaining cattle – those that were able to travel – to another local dairy, where they would receive proper care until a court determines ownership and a long-term care solution.

On February 27, Agricultural Law Enforcement obtained arrest warrants through the State Attorney's Office for the 14th Judicial Circuit Court for three individuals responsible for managing Wild Rose. Arrested and charged with Aggravated Animal Cruelty (a third degree felony) and Unlawful Disposal of Animal Carcasses (a second degree misdemeanor) were Joseph D.H. Clark, Rickard K. Clark and Nikki Slininger. They were booked at the Holmes County Jail, and bond was set at $10,000.

Slininger was in possession of methamphetamine and also charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance (a third degree felony).

For more information about the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services visit www.FreshFromFlorida.com.

Responder Awareness - Africanized Honey Bees

One of these bees is a European honeybee, *Apis mellifera* that pollinates crops around the world. The other is the Africanized honeybee, an aggressive hybrid. Can you tell the difference? (Answer at end of story.*)*

FDACS reports that the Africanized Honey Bee is here in Florida to stay because there is – as yet – no reliable method for detecting and eradicating them. Plus, they are difficult to distinguish from "normal" honey bees used so often to pollinate crops in the Sunshine State.
The Florida Fire Chief's Association has an online presence for bee awareness at http://ffcatraining.com/ffcaresources/africanized_honey_bees.asp. It is titled "What Every First Responder Needs to Know About Africanized Honey Bees" and was developed by Dr. William Kern, PhD, University of Florida.

Photo Answer: The top photo is the European honeybee and the bottom photo is the Africanized honeybee. The bees can only be distinguished by their actions – the Africanized bees being very aggressive and responsible for numerous deaths of humans and animals – and by scientists or certified apiarists.

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.

Editor: Rick Sapp, PhD, Technical Writer, under contract with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry ***rsa5@cox.net***

Associate Editor: Joe Kight, State ESF-17 Coordinator, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry **Joe.Kight@freshfromflorida.com**