THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

Vol. 10, No. 12
December 2014

SART – Turning Visions into Action

The theme for the 4th Florida SART Planning Meeting is *SART – Turning Visions into Action*. Conference speakers, seminars and opportunities to get-to-know other responders and response agencies have been established and registration is open online at http://www.cvent.com/events/2015-sart-planning-meeting/event-summary-1526774928984f449cfffe546cc1cc77.aspx. Because as many as 150 people are expected, it is recommended that you schedule attendance and book a room as soon as possible. The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm on Monday, January 12 and will conclude by noon on Wednesday. For conference related questions, or assistance completing the registration process, contact CMC & Associates (850) 224-7775 or jchapman@cmc-associates.com.

Co-chairs for the 2015 Florida SART Planning Meeting will be FDACS' David Perry (left) and UF/IFAS Associate Dean Joan Dusky.

Monday, January 12

1:00 Call to Order – David Perry, FDACS/SART Co-chair
Welcome – Stephen Watts, Director, Osceola Co. Emergency Management
Greetings – Dr. Lisa Conti, FDOH

1:30 SERT Program – Bryan Koon, Director, FDEM

2:00 Brevard County Large Animal Plan – Lacie Davis, Coordinator, Brevard Co. Emergency Management

2:30 New Animal Courses
LECALE: Dr. Matt Hersom, Dept. of Animal Sciences, UF
Animal Emergency Sheltering – Operations Level: Consie von Gontard, SARC

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About the SART Sentinel 11

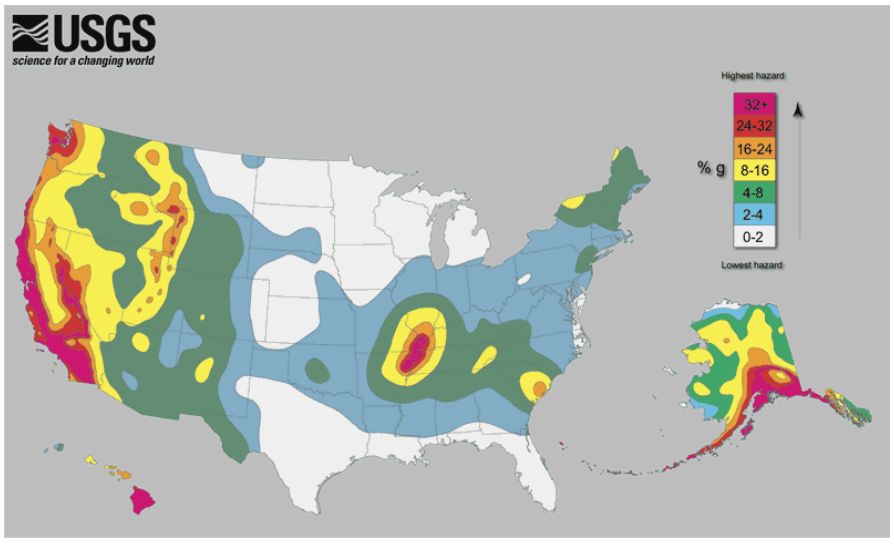
3:00 Break
3:15 Social Media in an Emergency – David Merrick, Director, Center for Disaster Risk Policy, FSU
6:00 Attendee Gathering
7:00 Adjourn

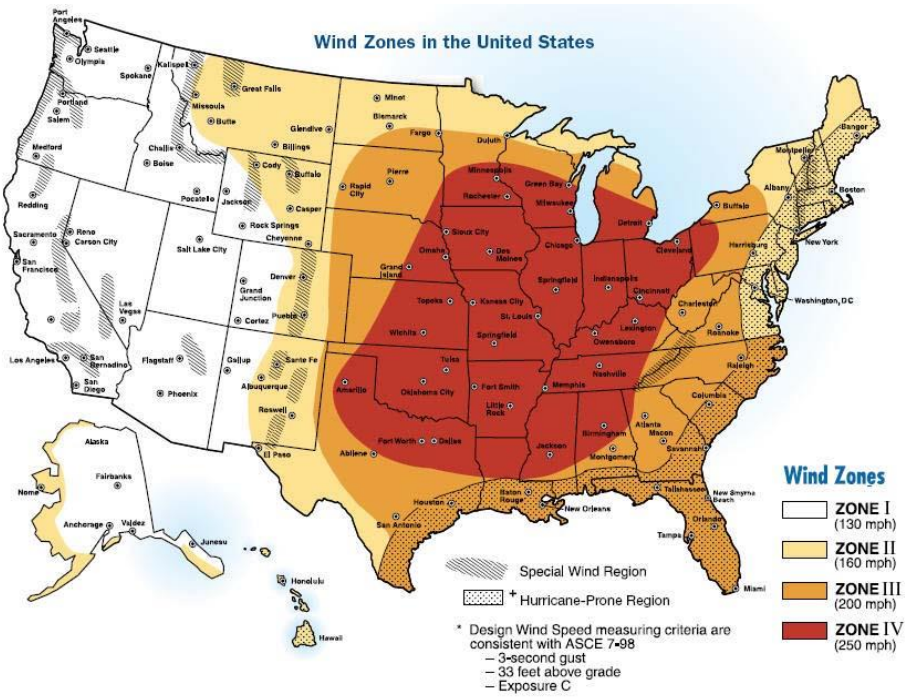
Tuesday, January 13
8:00 Announcements – David Perry, FDACS/SART Co-chair
8:15 Radiological Planning – John Williamson, Administrator, Bureau of Radiation Control, FDOH
11:30 SART Awards Luncheon
1:30 Radiological Planning – with John Williamson, continued
5:00 Adjourn

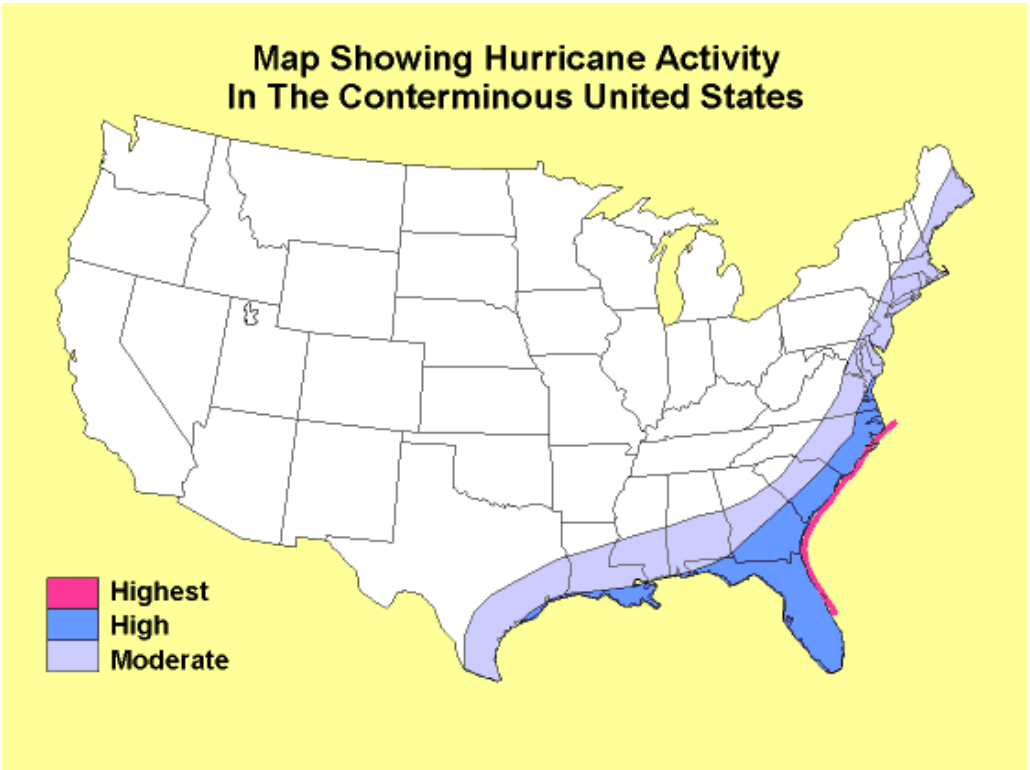
Wednesday, January 14
8:00 Breakout Session: Invited IFAS and FDACS staff personnel – Dr. Mike Short
8:15 "Don't Pack a Pest" – Denise Feiber, FDACS/DPI
9:30 Lee County Animal Decontamination Workshop – John Haven, Director, College of Veterinary Medicine, UF
10:30 Break
10:45 Federal Partner Reports – USDA
Dr. George Chambliss, Moderator
Dr. Cris Young, Veterinary Services
Dr. Allan Hogue, Animal Care
Rick Dantzler, Farm Service Agency
Dr. Ty Vannieuwenhoven, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
12:00 Adjourn

Threat Mapping – Threat Awareness

What does Florida – otherwise a *Sentinel State* for every imaginable walking, crawling, swimming and floating pest – look like for threats from hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes? If you guessed extremely high for hurricanes, moderately high for tornadoes and low for earthquakes … you would be right. Check out our maps.




Wind Zones in the United States
Wind Zones
ZONE I (130 mph)
ZONE II (160 mph)
ZONE III (200 mph)
ZONE IV (250 mph)
Special Wind Region
+ Hurricane-Prone Region
* Design Wind Speed measuring criteria are consistent with ASCE 7-98
– 3-second gust
– 33 feet above grade
– Exposure C


Map Showing Hurricane Activity
In The Conterminous United States
Highest
High
Moderate

LECALE Training is Scheduled

LECALE stands for Livestock Education and Certification for Agriculture Law Enforcement. This program was developed by the University of Florida through IFAS' Department of Animal Sciences in cooperation with FDACS. The first training event is scheduled for March 3-6, 2015 at the Straughn IFAS Extension Professional Development Center, 2142 Shealy Drive, Gainesville. The registration fee is $349.99 for all participants regardless of affiliation. The fee includes refreshment breaks, lunches, course material and certification fee. The class is limited to the first 25 registrants. For information go to https://www.eventbrite.com/e/livestock-education-and-certification-for-agriculture-law-enforcement-tickets-14263240737 or contact Dr. Matt Hersom hersom@ufl.edu or Rebecca Matta matta@ufl.edu

The LECALE objective is to provide law enforcement and state attorney personnel rigorous and relevant training curriculum regarding generally accepted livestock production practices, skills to discern acceptable animal well-being, and ability to apply acquired knowledge and skills in the field and during litigation proceedings. Specific learning objectives include: Basic Animal Husbandry, Identification, Behavior and Handling, Nutrition, Pastures, Disease and Biosecurity, Euthanasia, Body Condition Scoring, and Live Animal Evaluations.

Attendees will receive both classroom and hands-on education opportunities. The LECALE program offers law enforcement educational opportunities with an emphasis on animal production practices specific to the Gulf Coast region. The program offers multi-species, agriculture related education. Subject matter experts; University of Florida professors, IFAS County Extension agents, and Law Enforcement officers will deliver the LECALE program. At the conclusion of the program attendees will undergo examination for certification through the Florida Farm Bureau Agriculture Certification Program. The program delivers the learning objectives over three days with a final day for assessment and certification. The LECALE program will offer law enforcement personnel a great opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills regarding livestock animal production. The associated certification demonstrates an attainment of knowledge and subject matter credibility for the LECALE attendee.

Water Management District Invests In Mini-Farms

Mini-FARMS is a spinoff of the Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/agriculture/farms/, a cost-share reimbursement program for agricultural projects that conserve water and protect water quality within the boundaries of the SWFWMD. While the FARMS Program funds larger projects, the Mini-FARMS Program reimburses growers for 75 percent of their costs, up to a maximum of $5,000 per approved water resources project.

The Mini-FARMS Program is managed by FDACS through local soil and water conservation districts and UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). The SWFWMD provides funding and technical support. Program cornerstones are reimbursement for pump shutoff switches, soil moisture measuring devices, surfice water table monitoring wells and weather stations.

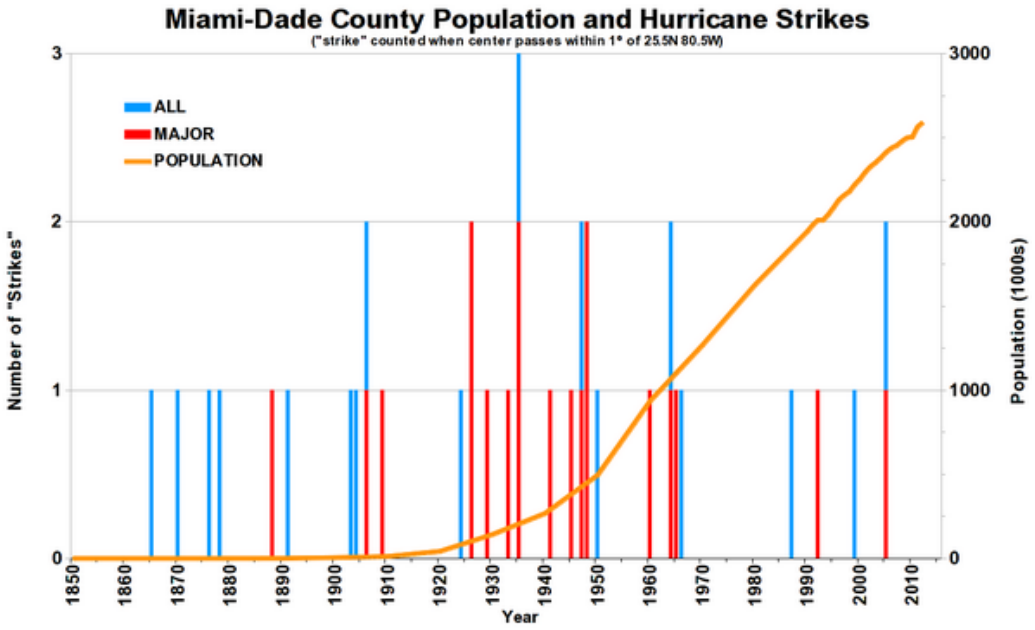
Key Mini-FARMS Guidelines

1. Projects are located within the boundaries of the Southwest Florida Water Management District.
2. Recipients will be required to fund the project then request reimbursement for approved expenditures.
3. Reimbursement rates are generally 75 percent for water quantity reduction and/or water quality improvement best management practices. There is a cap of $5,000 of cost-share reimbursement per project. If cost-share exceeds this amount, the project would be considered for a FARMS project.
4. Projects must provide one or more resource benefits that include: water quality improvement; reduction of Floridan aquifer system withdrawals; conservation, restoration or augmentation of the area's water resources and ecology.
5. All proposals will include a site visit consisting of SWFWMD or FDACS or IFAS representatives.
6. Funding is limited and subject to available fiscal year funding.
7. A three-year contract will be required for approved projects, dependent upon the type of project, the service life of the project components and cost-benefit ratio.
8. Applications are accepted through selected local soil and water conservation districts.

For additional information contact FDACS (800) 320-3504: Noel Marton noel.marton@watermatters.org or at ext. 6516 (Polk, Manatee, Hardee and southern counties) and Jessica Stempien Jessica.stempien@watermatters.org or at ext. 2125 (Hillsborough, Pinellas and northern counties.

No Hurricanes for 8+ Years - What does it mean?

Nearly 9 years. It's the longest stretch on records that date back to 1851. Meanwhile, population and development have continued a thunderous growth. More than a million people have moved into Florida since its last hurricane, Wilma in 2005. And Miami now has the "largest exposed coastal assets of any city in the world," notes the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development http://www.oecd.org/env/cc/39721444.pdf.



Are we "overdue" for a smashing hurricane? Statistically, yes. What makes matters worse is the danger of complacency, the lack of the population's recollection of misery – the loss of life and livelihood, the unfathomable piles of rubble, the desperation of thousands of people searching for a place to live following Hurricane Andrew in August 1992.

Aaron Gallaher, communications director for the Florida Division of Emergency Management says, "We're currently in a outreach and preparedness effort to remind people that it just takes one hurricane to change the landscape of the entire community." [see www.flgetaplan.com for family and business planning]

Under the Radar

Pet Sheltering Videos

Two "how-to" Pet Sheltering videos are available from Disaster Resistant Communities at http://www.drc-group.com/project/jitt-pfso.html. They are labeled as Just In Time Disaster Training - Shelter Operations - Pet Friendly: #1 (17 ½ minutes) is "Temporary Sheltering – Companion Animals" and #2 (18 ½ minutes) is "Animal Behavior – Companion Animals."

The NAHERC Training Site

Anyone from the President of the U.S. to the newest intern can go to the NAHERC web site – http://naherc.cfsph.iastate.edu/ for the National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps – and can, just by logging in (creating "an account"), registering with a user name and password, access an enormous variety of learn-by-doing materials. And it is all free.

NAHERC is also looking for volunteers. "Want to find out more about how you can help in an animal health emergency?" the site asks. "Consider joining [because] NAHERC is open to Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians, and students." NAHERC is managed by the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

APHIS and ESF #11-Agriculture and Natural Resources

At the federal level, USDA APHIS' experience in responding to plant and animal health emergencies made the agency a natural choice to assist FEMA as it responds to a wide variety of emergency incidents. The US Government's National Response Framework guides how government agencies work together and provide a unified national response to emergencies and disasters. Under this guide, different functions are defined and roles are assigned. APHIS provides support under Emergency Support Function #11.

Under ESF #11, USDA and the U.S. Department of the Interior address the protection of agricultural and natural resources in a national emergency. Specifically, ESF #11 responsibilities include:

- Providing nutrition assistance;
- Responding to animal and agricultural health issues;
- Providing technical expertise in support of animal and agricultural emergency management;
- Ensuring the safety and defense of the Nation's supply of meat, poultry, and processed egg products; and,
- Protecting Natural, Cultural, and Historical (NCH) resources.

Tallahassee Plans Pandemic Disaster Drill

On Saturday, January 25, Tallahassee residents and public safety agencies will stage a pandemic response tabletop exercise for neighborhoods. It will take place from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Tallahassee Fire Department Training Center, 2964 Municipal Way.

"Preparing for flu season should be part of our routine preparations for autumn along with raking leaves, breaking out coats and gloves, stocking chicken soup, cough drops and tissues," says Holly Kirsch, LD, RD, acting administrator for FDOH in Leon County. "Preparing for a pandemic takes even more preparation and gives us the ability to respond to a disaster more efficiently. This exercise will help residents consider other steps they need to take."

Illness from the 1918 flu pandemic, also known as Spanish flu, came on quickly. Some people felt fine in the morning but died by nightfall. People who caught the Spanish Flu but did not die from it often died from complications caused by bacteria, such as pneumonia. During the 1918 pandemic:

- Approximately 20 to 40 percent of the worldwide population became ill
- An estimated 50 million people died
- Nearly 675,000 people died in the United States

Unlike earlier pandemics and seasonal flu outbreaks, the 1918 pandemic flu saw high mortality rates among healthy adults. In fact, the illness and mortality rates were highest among adults 20 to 50 years old. To this day, the reasons for this remain unknown.

At the training event, participants will work with facilitators to gain an understanding of how prepared their neighborhoods are for an influenza pandemic. Facilitators will also establish a *concept of operations* to guide residents through the response process. By working together as a team, participants will be able to strengthen their disaster readiness and enhance the disaster response knowledge of their neighborhood's residents.

To participate in the exercise, register at www.formidablefootprint.org. There is no charge. For more information on preparedness, go to www.floridadisaster.org, www.flu.gov, www.LeonCountyFL.gov/ei, www.leoncountyfl.gov/lchd or www.Talgov.com/emergency. Tallahassee contact information: Robby Powers, Tallahassee Emergency Management Coordinator, 891-6201; Kevin Peters, Leon County Division of Emergency Management, 606-3700; Jon Brown, Leon County Community and Media Relations, 606-5300; or Lizzy Kelley, Tallahassee Department of Communications, 891-8533

Spotlight: Chasing Elusive Cures

Emerging Pathogens Institute
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

"Understanding why and how new pathogens emerge requires a multidisciplinary approach, with the ability to move from basic genetics to global public health," writes Dr. J. Glenn Morris, Jr. "My goal as Director of the Emerging Pathogen Institute and Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases) since 2007 in UF's College: Medicine has been to bring faculty together to build a strong interdisciplinary spirit and to play on each other's strengths. If you put them all together in one room and close the door, it is amazing what can happen."

Dr. Morris is an Associate Editor of the CDC's latest issue of Emerging Infectious Diseases (December 2014; http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/pdfs/vol20no12_pdf-version.pdf) a peer-reviewed journal tracking and analyzing disease trends. Current research initiatives at EPI include work with vector-borne diseases (malaria, West Nile, equine encephalitis, blue-tongue, citrus greening, tuberculosis, multi-antibiotic resistant bacteria (such as methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus or MRSA), and food safety and diarrheal infections (including cholera and E. coli O157:H7).

"New diseases do not respect borders," says Dr. J. Glenn Morris, Jr. UF's Director of the Emerging Pathogen Institute and Professor of Medicine "To be able to predict when a disease will threaten Florida, one has to have a national and global perspective." Under his leadership, and with funding from the World Health Organization, the Gates Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and USDA, EPI has developed collaborations with investigators in Africa, Asia, Europe (including portions of the former Soviet Union) and South and Central America.

Morris started his public health career at the Centers for Disease Control where he was an epidemic intelligence service officer and focused his attention upon cholera and other water- and food-borne illnesses. He has served on four National Academy of Sciences expert committees dealing with food safety, and in the mid-1990s he worked with USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service on the first major revision of food safety regulations since 1906. He currently is a member of the Food and Nutrition Board of the Institute of Medicine. Email jgmorris@epi.ufl.edu.

Blast from the Past

With SART's 2015 Planning Meeting barely a month ahead, it is a good (and fun) time to reflect on the past meetings and conferences. Responders, scientists, managers and administrators are promoted or hired elsewhere and sometimes retire. Can you identify the year, location and individuals involved in the following photos from past meetings?

Florida Wildlife 2060 – coexisting with 36,000,000 People

Where will you be in the year 2060? Don't want to talk about it? Well your children and grandchildren will benefit from a forward-thinking effort of the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and its partners (http://myfwc.com/conservation/special-initiatives/wildlife-2060/).

"Florida's natural lands and waters are at the core of our state's prosperity, bringing billions of dollars in economic benefits to our state every year. Our forests, rivers and creeks, and coastal waters are invaluable to fish and wildlife, and to our own quality of life.

"But recent predictions indicate that our state's human population may double to 36 million in the next 50 years. If that happens, as a study published by 1000 Friends of Florida (www.1000friendsofflorida.org) suggests, about 7

million acres of land could be converted from rural and natural to urban uses. If we develop as we have in the past, roads, shopping malls and subdivisions will replace the rich diversity our landscape currently offers. Development also will impact our coastal waters and coral reefs.

“We have prepared [a] report to help you understand the changes that may occur in Florida's fish and wildlife and in our own lifestyles if the state’s population doubles.
In the years to come, leaving the work of conservation and management to just a few won’t be enough. We will need fresh, effective strategies, including smart growth initiatives and green infrastructure planning, to direct and shape the growth that is coming our way. By encouraging development that is economically sound, environmentally sensitive and community-friendly, instead of allowing haphazard sprawl, we can keep the Florida we love.”

[At http://myfwc.com/media/129053/FWC2060.pdf, you can read] “predictions of what might come to pass and read stories about just a few of the many Floridians, both in the private sector and working for government, who have dedicated themselves to conserving our fish and wildlife resources. What does the future hold for Florida’s fish and wildlife? That’s up to all of us.”

The True Cost

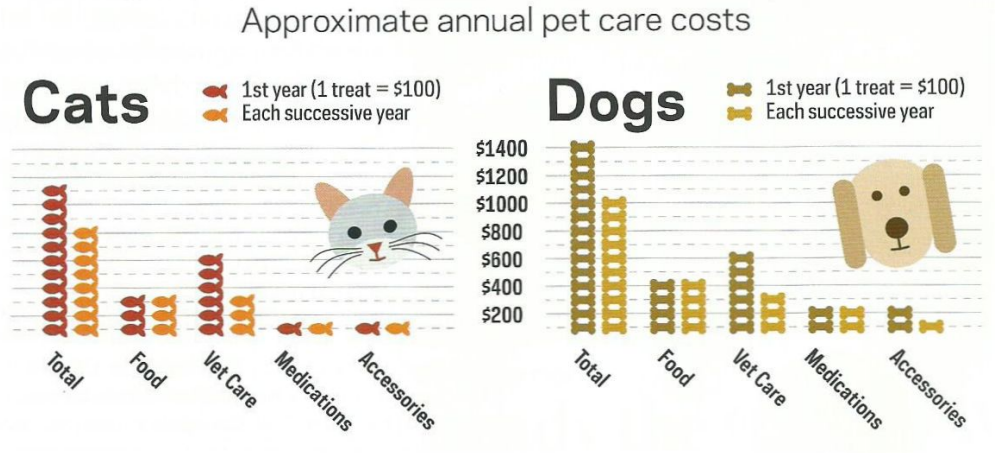
According to the Humane Society of the US. the number of dogs and cats euthanized each year in shelters has decreased, from 12–20 million just a few years ago to an estimated 3–4 million.

In 1988, little more than half of U.S. households owned a pet. By 2014 that number climbed to nearly 70 percent. The cost of owning a pet dog or cat may seem insignificant at first, but a recent article in USAA Magazine titled “The True Cost of Whiskers and Spot” suggests otherwise. If prospective owners understood the actual expense involved in owning and caring for an animal, they might take a realistic look at their budget before taking an animal home – and only later realizing the cost was too high and dropping the animal off at a shelter … or on the street at night.

In total, the U.S. spends:

Category	$ (in billions)
Pet food	$21.57
Veterinary care	$14.37
Supplies and medications	$13.14
Pet services and grooming	$ 4.41
Live animal purchases	$ 2.23
Total	$55.72

The approximate annual pet care costs of an individual animal are:



Source: USAA Magazine, Winter 2014

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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