The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

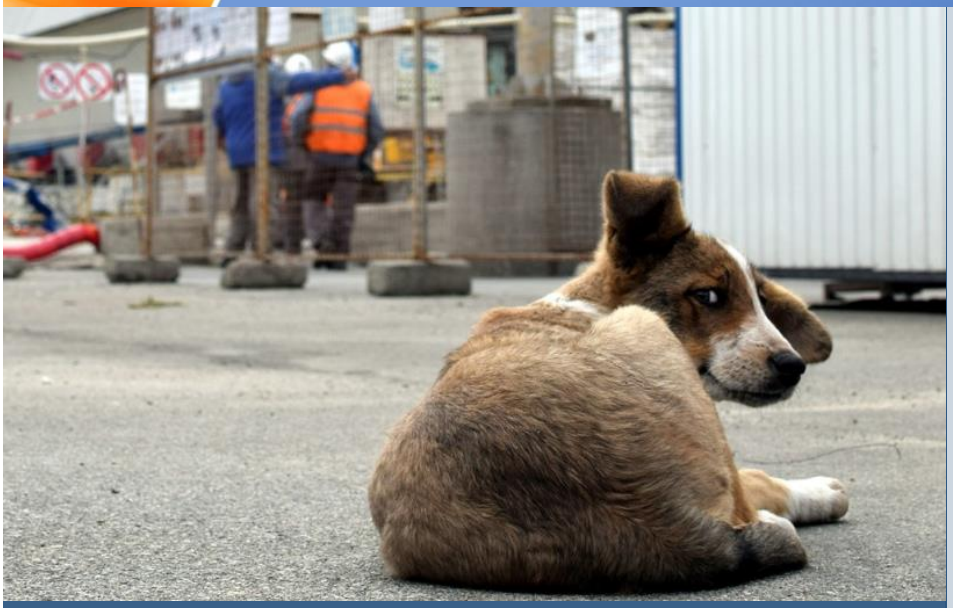


Photo courtesy of the Clean Futures Fund.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *SART Holds its Practical Vision Workshop*
- *Counties, Is Your Contact Information Up-to-Date on the SART Website?*
- *Enrollment Open: Animal Emergency Sheltering*
- *Florida SART Readies for Hurricane Dorian*

SARC's Consie von Gontard Helps the Dogs of Chernobyl

The Chernobyl disaster of 1986 left many abandoned and distressed animals in its wake, including pet dogs and cats, as families evacuated with nothing but what they could carry in their hands. The *Dogs of Chernobyl* program has recently stepped in to spay, neuter, and vaccinate stray dogs that now call the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone home.

Stray dogs are found in virtually every area of the Chernobyl site, with workers saving scraps of food for the animals when they can. As part of the *Clean Futures Fund*, the group provides veterinary services for dogs who otherwise have to fend for themselves, both from wolves that drive them out of the surrounding woods as well as from the harsh winter climate.

Consie von Gontard recently had the opportunity to travel for three weeks with Clean Future Fund, working with a team of radiation specialists and scientists to collect bloodwork, parasites, tissue, and a plethora of other samples in an effort to link scientific research alongside humane care for the animals.

By providing routine veterinary care, Clean Futures Fund hopes to humanely reduce the population of stray dogs in the area through spaying and neutering them. The project also provides vaccination against diseases, including rabies, which continues to be a large problem in the area.

See *Dogs of Chernobyl*, page 9.

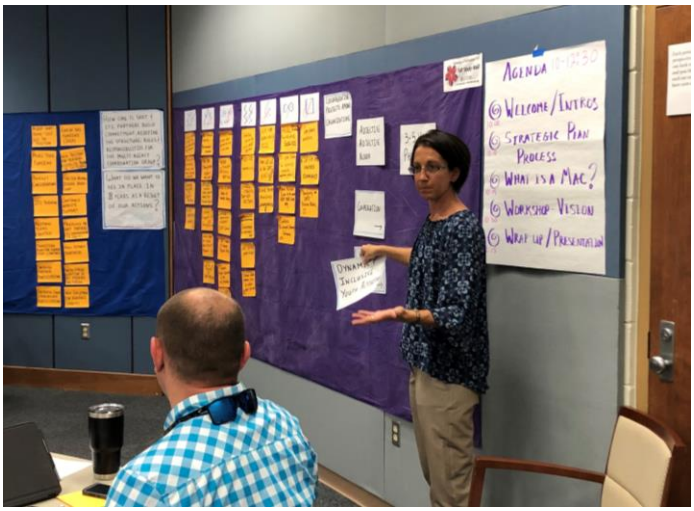
"After (the dogs) spend a day in the clinic with our amazing staff of volunteers... they just want to stay with us for a few extra pets and snuggles."

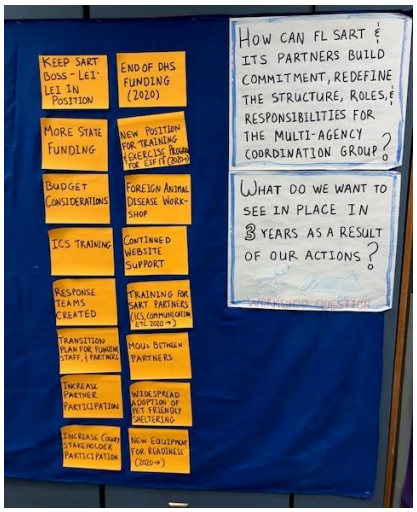
— Consie von Gontard
Director of Training
FL State Animal Response Team

SART Holds its Practical Vision Workshop

On August 15th, SART held a "Practical Vision Workshop." This workshop was the second installment in series of strategic planning workshops designed to help update the SART Organizational Declaration, Steering Committee, and Advisory Board. The Practical Vision Workshop used everyone's insights for the future to create a shared vision of the group. This vision was created by writing down what members would like to see in place in SART in three years. Those statements, written on sticky notes, were then placed on a vision board. The goal of the workshop was to produce a practical vision that is attainable to the group, intentional, clear, and inspiring.

The attendees were successful in their efforts and the workshop did an excellent job to paint of picture of how members would like to see the SART organization three years from now. The University of Florida (UF) Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) also provided a presentation on the new public messaging campaign on mosquito control and prevention efforts for the state.





The next workshop in the strategic planning workshop series is the "Underlying Contradictions Workshop." This workshop helps the group to identify negative patterns and issues preventing successful strategic initiatives from being implemented and determine what is getting in the way of realizing SART's practical vision.

The "Underlying Contradictions Workshop" will take place on September 12, 2019.

For more information, see page 10.

UF VETS Hosted Animal Technical Rescue Awareness Training

In August, the UF College of Veterinary Medicine hosted an Animal Technical Rescue Awareness Training for participants that came from as far away as Washington County in the Panhandle and Indian River County to the south. This training provided an overview of animal technical rescue emergencies, identifying equipment, techniques, and training valuable for maintaining safety of human responders and good welfare for the involved animals.

Tabletop scenarios gave participants the opportunity to work through some of the safety concerns with other key players likely to be present on scene. The college hosted representatives from the fire service, law enforcement, animal control, fish and wildlife, veterinary clinics, and ranches and rescues present to contribute their knowledge and build valuable community connections.

In other news, UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) will also be hosting an open enrollment Operations Training January 31st-February 2nd at the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion in Ocala. This hands-on training will give participants the opportunity to develop skills through scenario-based training using our life-sized equine mannequin. For more information, please contact Brandi Phillips at brandikphillips@ufl.edu.

Counties, Is Your Contact Information Up-to-Date on the SART Website?

Please review your county emergency contact information at https://flsart.org/resource/countyinformation.jsp. If you need to make changes to your county contact information, please send a request to LeiAnna Tucker at LeiAnna.Tucker@FreshFromFlorida.com. During an emergency, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides necessary food and water to affected areas and helps protect animals and pets.

The Department's Florida Forest Service is responsible for incident management and assists emergency responders in clearing debris and distributing supplies. Additionally, the Department's Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement provides law enforcement services to police departments and county sheriff's offices as necessary.

For more information and tips on hurricane preparedness, visit www.floridadisaster.org.

Enrollment Open: Animal Emergency Sheltering

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition (SARC) has upcoming opportunities for their Awareness Level 1 and Operations Level 2 Small Animal Emergency Sheltering courses.

When disaster strikes, the team of trained volunteer responders will be there to shelter and protect Florida's companion animals.

The Awareness Level 1 course (FL-003-RESP) gives students the knowledge necessary to work in a small animal emergency shelter. This class provides expertise and practical experience required to become a disaster animal responder. The Operations Level 2 (FL-607) course gives many new job options, in addition to leadership skills and team-led opportunities. This course expands upon information covered in Awareness Level 1 and ICS-100 courses. Both courses are certified by the Florida Division of Emergency Management and are geared for Florida responders who want to help companion animals and their owners during a disaster.

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

For more information about the courses, and to register, please visit: http://flsarc.org/Training.html

Awareness Level 1 Courses

When: Saturday, September 7, 2019
Where: Pensacola, FL - Sat. September 7, 2019 - Hosted by Escambia County Animal Services
Registration: http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=cmn8hziab&oeidk=a07eggw7rlsf1d1793f

When: Saturday, October 5, 2019
Where: Lakeland, FL - Hosted by Florida SPCA
Registration: http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=cmn8hziab&oeidk=a07egfqgzns64eb9a96

When: Saturday, November 16, 2019
Where: Marietta, GA - Hosted by Good Mews Animal Foundation
Registration: http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=cmn8hziab&oeidk=a07egekoh9j82260716

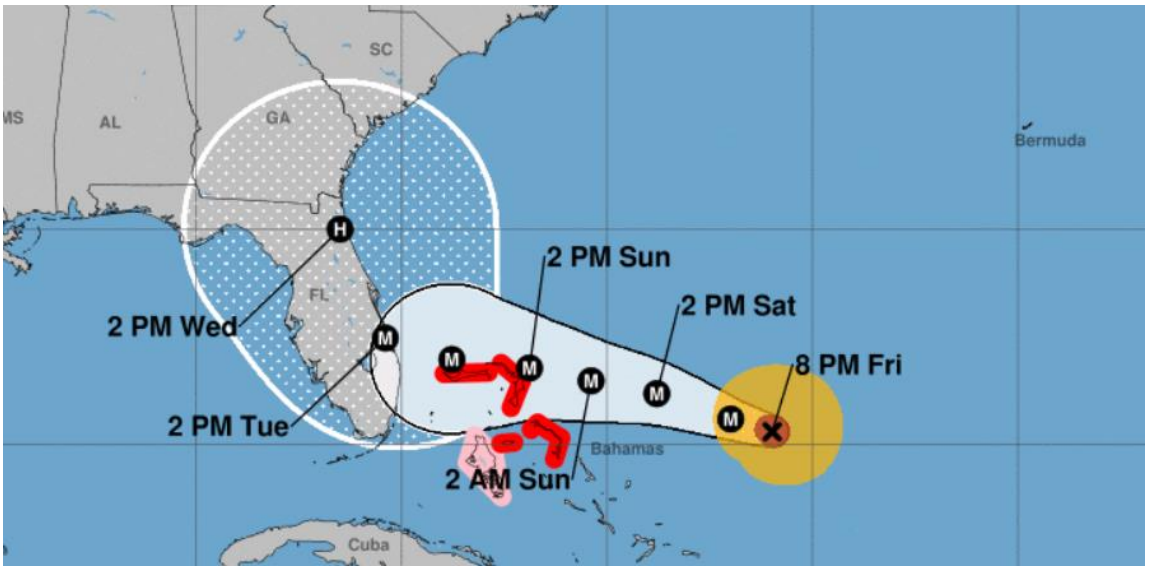
Operations Level 2 Courses

When: Saturday and Sunday, September 14 and 15, 2019
Where: Pensacola, FL - Hosted by Escambia County Animal Shelter
Registration: http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=cmn8hziab&oeidk=a07egfqgzin93ef2c7d

When: Saturday and Sunday, November 23 and 24, 2019
Where: Lakeland, FL - Hosted by Florida SPCA
Registration: http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=cmn8hziab&oeidk=a07egfrtum29713135a

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the state and nation…



Florida SART Readies for Hurricane Dorian
As of September 1st, Hurricane Dorian was set to make landfall on the east coast of Florida. Emergency Support Function (ESF) 17 has been activated at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Tallahassee, and preparations are being made for deployment of personnel and equipment. Please visit www.flsart.org for additional animal and agricultural resources. A special edition of *The Sentinel* will be published in October highlighting the response and recovery efforts.

Are you interested in becoming a trainer with Florida SARC?
Join us for the Train-the-Trainer Workshop tentatively scheduled for October 26 & 27, 2019. The course will be hosted by Florida SPCA. Interested individuals must have all prerequisites completed before they can register. Visit www.flsarc.org for more information.

USDA Confirms 43 New Premises for Vesicular Stomatitis
On August 23rd, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued a situation report for vesicular stomatitis that confirmed 43 new vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) affected premises (14 confirmed positive and 29 suspect). VSV can cause blisters and sores in the mouth and on the tongue, muzzle, teats, or hooves of horses, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, llamas, and a number of other animals. (The Horse) Read More

North America Prepares for African Swine Fever After Outbreak Decimates Pigs in China
North America will soon test its defenses against an outbreak of African swine fever as the disease decimates the pig supply in China. An outbreak could skyrocket pork prices and have serious economic consequences, experts say. (Miami Herald) Read More

Disaster Preparedness for Animals Information Available

FDACS is proud to announce "Disaster Preparedness for Animals" for horses, livestock and pets. Information is now available on their website. Please visit: https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Consumer-Resources/Animals/Animal-Related-Emergency-Response

FDACS Commissioner Fried Visits SEOC

As preparations began in response to Hurricane Dorian, Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Nicole "Nikki" Fried visited the State Emergency Operations Center on August 30th. During her time with ESF-17 emergency planners and responders, she thanked our SART partner agencies for remaining vigilant in their effort to assist the Department and protect Florida's animals and agriculture.

Pet-Friendly Sheltering
Online Training Course Information

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) will soon offer an online, state-certified training on pet-friendly sheltering. The online training will provide participants with guidance on how to plan for and operate a pet-friendly shelter to ensure that individuals evacuating from a disaster with household pets are accommodated.

Lesson 1: Course Structure

Lesson 2: Opening the Doors to Pet-Friendly Sheltering
Lesson 2 is a course background lesson. The question of "Why Pet-Friendly Sheltering?" is introduced and participants will receive numbers and statistics on pet-friendly sheltering from previous disasters.

Lesson 3: Who is in Charge? Using ICS.
Lesson 3 provides a brief overview of using ICS in pet-friendly shelters. An important aspect of this lesson is how to properly use ESFs during all phases of pet-friendly sheltering. Participants will learn about the coordination between ESF 6 and ESF 17 and the importance of that relationship's successful operations.

Lesson 4: Planning for a Pet-Friendly Shelter
Lesson 4 will focus on planning a pet-friendly shelter. It will make recommendations for staff training, suggestions for where to set up pet-friendly shelters, and will go through the important elements of a pet-friendly shelter plan.

Lesson 5: Preparedness is a Partnership
Lesson 5 is about establishing partnerships. It will cover MOUs and MAAs, recommended trainings for pet-friendly shelter staff, and will help participants to identify agencies in their communities for partnership.

Lesson 6: Social Media and Beyond
Lesson 6 will focus on using social media for disseminating a unified message and providing the public with pet-friendly sheltering information. Accurate information is crucial for evacuations and this lesson will share some best practices.

Lesson 7: How to Set-up and Take Down a Pet-Friendly Shelter
Lesson 7 will focus on best practices for setting-up and taking down pet-friendly shelters. Participants will be introduced to potential issues and will be provided several different checklists so they can be best prepared. This lesson will cover supplies, choices for enclosures/caging, setup and design, design considerations, species separation, indoor "pet walk," quarantine, storing cages and kennels, sanitizing animal items, and more.

RELEASE DATE
Summer 2019

COURSE DURATION
4 hours

COURSE FEE
Free

COURSE MODE
100% online

TARGET AUDIENCE
Emergency Managers
County Employees
Shelter Volunteers

PROVIDED BY
Florida State Agricultural Response Team, in partnership with the Florida State Animal Response Coalition

POINT OF CONTACT
LeiAnna Tucker
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
(850) 410-0920
LeiAnna.Tucker@freshfromflorida.com

Banana Industry on Alert After Disease Arrives in Colombia

LA GUAJIRA, Colombia (AP) — It might not be obvious at the supermarket, but the banana industry is fighting to protect the most popular variety of the fruit from a destructive fungus.

A disease that ravages banana crops has made its long-dreaded arrival in Latin America, the biggest exporter of the crop. That's reigniting worries about the global market's dependence on a single type of banana, the Cavendish, which is known for its durability in shipping. (WTOP/Associated Press) Read More

Hurricane Dorian: FDACS Issues Animal Movement Waiver

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Animal Industry, has temporarily suspended the intrastate movement requirements for the transportation of animals from the areas expected to be impacted by Hurricane Dorian. In addition, the states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi have waived their interstate import requirements for Florida pets and livestock leaving the expected impact areas of the hurricane.

Any person transporting pets or livestock must stop at the Department's agricultural interdiction stations and present any required movement documentation. A transporter who fails to provide the required documentation will be issued an Advisory Notice, which must remain with the livestock during transport to Alabama, Georgia, or Mississippi and the return trip to the original Florida destination.

Please visit http://www.FreshFromFlorida.com/AnimalEmergency, or call 1-850-410-0900 for more information. This temporary suspension shall expire on September 30, 2019 unless extended or rescinded.

FDA to Hold Public Meeting on the New Era of Smarter Food Safety

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) will be holding a public meeting entitled "FDA's New Era of Smarter Food Safety." Additional information is below:

Monday, October 21, 2019 (8:30am – 5:00pm)
Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Hotel & Executive Meeting Center
1750 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20872

Additional meeting specifics, including information on how to register for the meetings, will be made available in September, 2019 through a Federal Register Notice, and on the FDA public meetings website.

Dogs of Chernobyl (continued)

The process involves attaching an ear tag to each dog taken in, with some dogs receiving dosimeters monitoring radiation exposure. If the group takes in a previously treated dog, a newly replaced color-coded ear tag helps workers recognize the dog's most updated vaccination date. Workers of various backgrounds treat any wounds or extraneous issues, and an ophthalmologist even examines the dogs' eyes for signs of direct radiation exposure.

Each dog that enters the program's doors is scanned for radiation before it can move into examination or surgery spaces. Very few of these dogs still test within a radiation range that requires treatment, but if so, workers remove the impacted areas by various means, from bathing them to clipping the fur. Likewise, Clean Future Fund workers receive safety training before entering The Exclusion Zone, wear dosimeters and protective clothing, and receive daily radiation scans. Gontard describes the most important "human precaution" as ensuring one does not ingest any radioactive material: eating and drinking only occurs inside with frequent hand-washing, with protocols similar to dealing with any zoonotic disease.

Gontard depicts her time spent at the site as gratifying work, surrounded by many experienced radioactive specialists and experiencing the ways in which the stray dogs do live healthy lives with the help of caring humans. It is estimated that 250 dogs continue to live in the area, although the population has already started to decline with the Dogs of Chernobyl program now in its third year – very few puppies observed this year indicates that the spay/neuter project is already succeeding.

Because the dogs live in close proximity to Chernobyl site workers, it is critical that these dogs are protected from rabies, thereby protecting the human population as well. As dogs and people continue to share this unique space,the program hopes to return again soon and provide continued clinical services in an area that is anything but devoid of life.

Join a SART Workshop and Help Chart our Future

SART partners are invited to come and collaborate in our future workshops for updating the Organizational Declaration and building the priorities of SART. The process for updating SART priorities going forward includes a series of workshops to build commitment, roles and responsibilities, and clear objectives. Each workshop will build on the next. It is ideal that you attend each workshop, but we understand if you can't and will provide a way to hear your ideas. Mark your calendar!

September 12, 2019 - Underlying Contradictions Workshop – USDA APHIS (Veterinary Services and PPQ Area Office), 8100 NW 15 Place, Gainesville, FL 32606
What is blocking us from moving toward our vision?

October 10, 2019 - Strategic Directions Workshop – Location TBD
What Innovative, substantial actions will deal with the underlying contradictions and move us toward our vision?

November 14, 2019 – Focused Implementation Workshop 1 – TBD
What will our specific, measurable accomplishments be for the first year?

December 12, 2019 – Focused Implementation Workshop 2 – TBD
What will our specific, measurable accomplishments be for the first year?

Please log in and update your membership information online at:

www.FLSART.org

About the *SART Sentinel*

The *SART Sentinel* is an email newsletter prepared monthly by the members of the **Florida State Agricultural Response Team**. Past issues of the *Sentinel* are archived on the Florida SART website at 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: Michael T. Turner, The Turner Network, LLC (www.TurnerNetwork.com) under contract with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry.
E-mail: flsart@turnernetwork.com

Associate Editor: LeiAnna Tucker, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry.
E-mail: LeiAnna.Tucker@FreshFromFlorida.com