The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

The Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee, Florida

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Livestock Lunch and Learn Summer Webinar Series by Florida Farm Bureau*
- *FDACS Issues Final Order Closing Adolphe Take Out Market for Endangering Public Health*
- *UF VETS Update*

Governor Signs CS/HB 705: Emergency Sheltering of Persons with Pets

Beginning on July 1, 2020, counties within the State of Florida will need to have designated emergency shelters for persons with pets.

Signed by Governor Ron DeSantis on June 29th, the law now requires the Florida Department of Education to assist the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) in the new requirements.

These requirements include determining strategies regarding the evacuation of persons with pets, and requiring counties that maintain designated shelters to select a shelter that can accommodate persons with pets, and specifying requirements for such shelters.

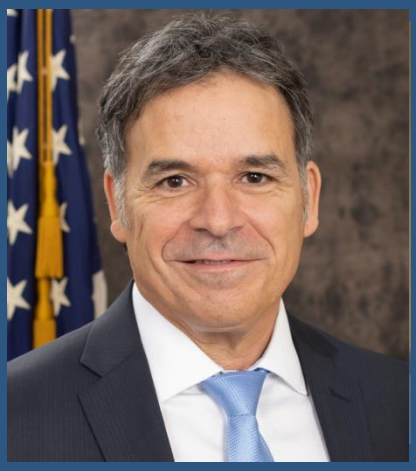
If a county maintains designated shelters it must also designate a shelter that can accommodate persons with pets.

This new legislation also requires the shelter be in compliance with applicable Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Assistance Policies and Procedures, and with safety procedures regarding the sheltering of pets established in both local and State comprehensive emergency management plans.

For more information, please visit: https://floridapolitics.com/archives/345003-gov-desantis-signs-bill-accommodating-persons-with-pets-in-emergency-shelters

"The challenges we've faced during the pandemic have made it clear that the goals we set forth in the New Era blueprint are more important now than ever."

— Frank Yiannas
Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response, FDA



SPECIAL SECTION: COVID-19 Resources

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services General Information

- ESF17 and SART partners have provided animal and pet resources on FDACS' dedicated COVID-19 page: http://www.fdacs.gov/coronavirus

CDC Releases Interim Guidance for Disaster Sheltering/Pet-Friendly Sheltering During COVID-19

- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak overlapping with the 2020 hurricane season, plans to prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus in disaster shelters are being created. Guidance released by the CDC recommends "collocated" sheltering for pets in (animal areas) separate from the human sheltering area, and to separate animals 6 feet, if possible. Click here to read the interim guidance document.

Animals, Pets, and COVID-19

- ESF 17 Information packet Regarding Animal Shelters, Mosquitoes, and Food Safety
- Frequently Asked Questions for Veterinarians and Pet Owners (American Veterinary Medical Association)
- Important COVID-19 Information for Animal Shelters (University of Florida Maddie's Shelter Program)
- Protecting Yourself, Your Pets, and the Community from COVID-19 (Florida Veterinary Medical Association)
- HSUS COVID-19 Information Webpage provides information for Pet Owners:
- ESF 17 Posts Information about Caring For Your Horses During COVID-19
- New CDC FAQs now available for "How can I safely run my equestrian facility?"
- Caring for pets from COVID-19 Exposed Homes: https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/2020/05/21/watch-caring-for-covid-19-exposed-pets-in-shelters/
- Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Veterinary Clinics Treating Companion Animals during COVID-19 Response: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/veterinarians.html

Food Safety and COVID-19

- FDA reassures public that the supply chain is in-tact and that COVID-19 is not transmitted by food: https://www.fda.gov/fda-offers-assurance-about-food-safety-and-supply
- FDA COVID-19 Food Safety Webpage: https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/food-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19
- The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) has released COVID-19 resources for Florida's shellfish growers: http://shellfish.ifas.ufl.edu/news/covid-19-resources-for-shellfish-growers/
- FDA COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions: https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions
- Association of Food and Drug Officials Coronavirus Resources: http://www.afdo.org/coronavirus-resources

SART Partner COVID-19 Webpages

- The UF/IFAS COVID-19 Webpage provides information resources for agricultural producers and consumers: https://ifas.ufl.edu/covid19-information-updates/
- Florida Department of Health Coronavirus Webpage: https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ANIMAL SHELTERS AND CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

FDACS.gov/COVID19

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN WITH SOAP AND WATER FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS.

Protect Employees and Volunteers

There is no evidence that companion animals can spread COVID-19 or that infection would be serious for them. The virus spreads primarily from person to person. The health and safety of employees/volunteers should be the focus of every animal shelter.

- Employees and volunteers who are sick or show signs of respiratory illness should not work until they are symptom free.
- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water before eating, after using the bathroom, coughing or sneezing, and touching surfaces. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available and there is no visible dirt on your hands.
- Frequently sanitize common areas with EPA registered antimicrobial products for use against COVID-19 that are safe to use in and around the animals and shelter.
- Click here for the CDC's interim guidance for businesses and employers.

Support and Inform Your Community

Remind community members to have a plan in place for pets.

- Identify a family member/friend who can care for pets if needed.
- Have crates, food, and extra supplies on hand for quick movement of pets.
- Keep all animal vaccines up to date and document all medications and dosing.
- Pets should have ID: collar with ID tag and microchip (best practice is microchipping).

Prepare Shelter for Increased Intake

While mass intake is not likely, people who contract the virus and are hospitalized may not have someone to care for their pets. Steps to prepare include:

- Free up shelter capacity with increased adoption efforts, rescue partners, and foster homes for animals already at the shelter.
- Prepare a facility plan with your shelter veterinarian on intake and isolation protocols.
- Be prepared to identify, isolate, or divert animals that may have been exposed to COVID-19. This includes securing disinfectants and personal protective equipment that may be used safely around animals. Identify locations available for fostering, identify capacity needs, and maintain updated list.
- Have a written protocol in place to follow and provide regular staff updates to staff.
- Secure additional food/supplies for increased intake, including foster network needs.

Prepare for Staff Illness:

- Strongly encourage your employees and volunteers to stay home when sick.
- Check availability of volunteers who can assist in a staff shortage.
- Connect with local boarding facilities, surrounding shelters and rescues and communicate plans.
- Click here for the CDC's interim guidance for businesses and employers.

For more information, visit
FDACS.gov/COVID19 or CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

FDACS-P-01922

Animal Technical Rescue
South Florida Awareness Training

Learn principles of scene safety; common tools, techniques, and resources used in animal technical rescue; and how to prepare your community for animal emergencies.

Compliant with NFPA 1006 and NFPA 1670 Standards
Eligible for 8 hours of CEUs from the Florida State Fire College

Sponsored by Florida SART

Date: Monday, July 27th, 2020

Location:
Morgan Family Community Center
6207 W Price Blvd
North Port, FL 34291

Time: 8 AM – 5 PM

To Register: Contact Brandi Phillips at brandikphillips@ufl.edu

Deadline to register is July 10, 2020

Registration is limited to Fire/Rescue, Law Enforcement, Animal Control, Veterinary Professionals, and Extension Agents

Learn more at:
www.ufvets.com

UF Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service
College of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Follow us on Facebook
@UFVETSTeam

Florida Department of Health: What You Need to Know Now About COVID-19 in Florida

Visit https://floridahealthcovid19.gov for the latest updates from the Florida Department of Health.

The COVID-19 Call Center is available 24/7 | 1 (866) 779-6121 | COVID-19@flhealth.gov

Florida HEALTH

FDACS Issues Final Order Closing Adolphe Take Out Market for Endangering Public Health

Last month, FDACS issued an Immediate Final Order to Adolphe Take Out Restaurant & Supermarket, Inc., ordering an immediate cease of operations and closure of their Miami store. The order was issued after Adolphe violated multiple stop use and stop sale orders and endangered public health by using equipment and selling products that had violated sanitization requirements.

"It's our Department's responsibility to protect Florida's consumers and a major part of that is ensuring our food supply is safe — it's unfortunate that Adolphe Take Out Restaurant and Supermarket chose to ignore our directives and compromise public safety," stated Commissioner Nikki Fried. "Adolphe employees repeatedly disregarded directives, broke stop use and stop sale orders multiple times, failed to remedy numerous violations found upon inspection, and continued operation in a manner which could create a serious health risk. As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, it's crucial that businesses practice proper sanitization procedures and take precautions to minimize the risk of illness."

"Insects and animals like roaches, rodents, and cats, can contribute to the distribution of toxins and microorganisms that can cause severe illness and even death in some cases," stated Dr. Matthew Curran, Director of the FDACS Division of Food Safety. "The FDACS Division of Food Safety works every day to protect consumers, and ensure they are not exposed to harmful pathogens or chemicals."

Read more at: https://www.fdacs.gov/News-Events/Press-Releases/2020-Press-Releases/FDACS-Issues-Final-Order-Closing-Adolphe-Take-Out-Market-for-Endangering-Public-Health

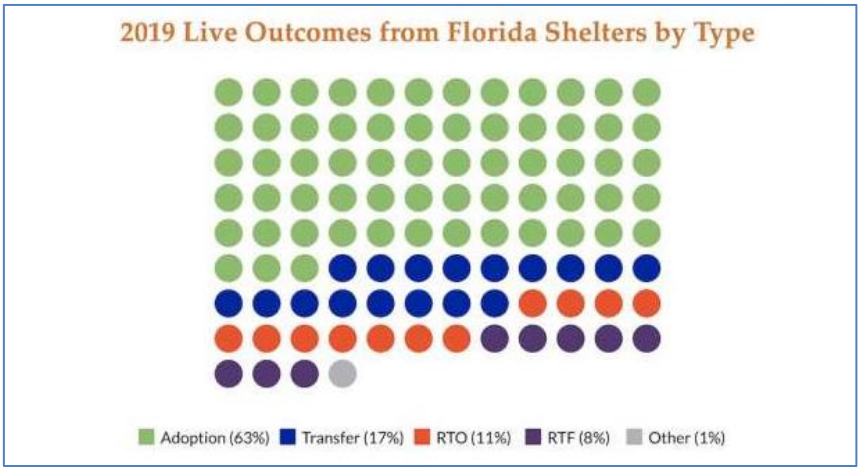
Counties, Is Your Contact Information Up-to-Date on the SART Website?

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@FDACS.gov. During an emergency, ESF 17 and SART provides necessary food and water to affected areas to help protect animals, agriculture and pets.

In the News

Short stories and updates from around the State, nation, and globe…



Florida Animal Shelters Set Lifesaving Record in 2019
On June 22nd, the University of Florida Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program announced that Florida animal shelters set a lifesaving record in 2019. In 2019, 81% of animals who came into the care of a Florida animal shelter were saved. This is a jump of 27% since 2013 according to the article. To read more about this amazing feat and to view more extension supporting data, click here.

One Human Death and Hundreds Ill as a Result of Interactions with Pet Poultry
One person has died, and 465 people have been infected with outbreak strains of Salmonella after contact with backyard poultry, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported last month. The infections cross 42 states, resulting in at least 86 hospitalizations. Transmission can occur from touching poultry or their environment. Backyard poultry can carry Salmonella bacteria even if they look healthy and clean and show no signs of illness. Read More

Livestock Lunch and Learn Summer Webinar Series by Florida Farm Bureau
Florida Farm Bureau (FFB) is continuing its summer webinar series in July. In June, the FFB webinar series, focused on exploring the beef cattle industry, covered topics such as the effects of COVID-19 on the food animal industry and animal disease traceability. This month, there are three webinars planned. The webinars in July are titled "Business on the Move: Livestock and Meat Logistics", "The Art of Feeding Cattle", and "Inside Look at Animal Protein Companies." See page 10 for more details, or register here.

UF expert answers questions about COVID-19, food safety and summertime grilling
If you grill out this summer, you might wonder how to factor COVID-19 precautions into your outdoor cooking. While COVID-19 is not a foodborne illness — meaning, there's no evidence at this time that you can get it from consuming improperly cooked food — good hand hygiene and other practices can help prevent the spread of coronavirus and other pathogens that are foodborne, says a University of Florida food safety expert.
Read More

Save the Date: SART July Webinar

SART will hold their monthly webinar on Wednesday, July 8th at 2:00 PM EST. This meeting is for official SART Partners and ESF17 personnel only.

For more information, contact Nick Morrow:
Nicholas.Morrow@fdacs.gov

Pet-Friendly Sheltering
Online Training Announcement

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.

This training will include useful information on how to:

- Use the Incident Command System in pet-friendly shelter planning and operations;
- Plan for a pet-friendly shelter;
- Understand the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act);
- Establish partnerships for resource coordination;
- Deliver a unified message to the public before, during and after an emergency, and;
- Set up, operate and demobilize a pet-friendly shelter.

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive a downloadable **Tool Kit** that offers functional guidance and plan templates. Students will also receive a **certificate** of completion approved by the Florida Division of Emergency Management and Florida SART.

RELEASE DATE
Summer 2020

COURSE DURATION
4 hours

COURSE FEE
Free

COURSE MODE
100% online at
www.FLSART.org

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@FDACS.gov

RHDV Confirmed in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) is an extremely contagious and often fatal viral disease of domesticated and wild rabbits. There are three forms of the RHDV virus. RHDV2 is believed to infect all ages of domestic rabbits but less deadly than types RHDV and RHDVa. As of today, RHDV2 has been confirmed in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Texas in 2020. RHDV2 was identified in Washington in 2019. RHDV2 is both stable and infectious in the environment for long periods of time, potentially surviving more than 3 months without a host.

The first sign of infection with RHDV is often sudden and unexpected death in previously healthy rabbits. Those that do not die immediately may demonstrate poor appetite, depression, inactivity, and listlessness; they will have a fever and bloody nasal discharge may be noted. Later signs relate to organ failure and include jaundice, respiratory distress, diarrhea, weight loss, bloating, and death. Rabbits surviving infection are believed to shed the virus for at least 30 days, but in experimental cases, they shed the virus as many as 105 days. Long term/permanent shedding is unlikely. Exposed and surviving rabbits have immunity to that viral strain for an unknown amount of time.

Biosecurity is the key to prevention of acquiring RHDV:

- Keep a closed rabbitry.
- Exclude wild and feral rabbits from the rabbitry.
- Wash your hands between handling rabbits in different pens.
- Control flies and biting insects.
- Clean and disinfect equipment, tools, footwear, feed and water containers, cages.
- Recommended disinfectants include those in the phenol class or 10 percent bleach. Clean thoroughly with soap and water first and apply disinfectant for recommended contact time. Rinse well and allow to dry before allowing animal contact.
- House rabbits indoors if possible.
- Do not share equipment with others who raise rabbits.
- Contact your veterinarian if sick or dead rabbits are observed and submit carcasses for examination and prompt sampling.
- Do not transport rabbits into or out of RHDV quarantine areas.
- Separate new rabbits or those returning from shows for one month

Read more at:
https://www.fdacs.gov/content/download/91807/file/RHD2Website200519_FWCFix.pdf

Food Safety and Food Defense Report

A special section dedicated to feed and food emergency planning and response.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (FDACS) Division of Food Safety is responsible for assuring the public of a safe, wholesome, and properly represented food supply through permitting and inspection of food establishments, inspection of food products, and performance of specialized laboratory analysis on a variety of food products sold or produced in the state. The Division of Food Safety monitors food from the farm gate, through processing and distribution, to the retail point of purchase.

The Division of Food Safety monitored Tropical Storm Cristobal in conjunction with Emergency Support Function 17 partners (Division of Animal Industry and Division of Agricultural Environmental Services) remotely with the State Emergency Operations Center. The storm brought several inches of rain (with some localized flooding) throughout the state. In Central Florida, reported tornado damage occurred in Orange County and in Daytona near the Flea Market. The Division of Food Safety conducted phone assessments to regulated food facilities in the immediate areas. No major damages were reported from business owners.

Civil protests statewide caused reported damages to several businesses in Central and South Florida. The Division conducted phone assessments to business owners with reported damages. Two food safety establishments in Tampa were completed destroyed due to fires intentionally set to the businesses.

SAVE THE DATE

Livestock Lunch and Learn Summer Webinar Series

Exploring the Beef Cattle Industry: From Pasture to Plate

Join us for a New Educational Webinar Series

When:
June 18, June 25, July 9, July 16, July 30 & August 6
(no webinar held July 2 or July 23)

Time:
Noon – 1:00 P.M.

June 18
Effects of COVID-19 on the Food Animal Industry

June 25
Animal Traceability: Minimizing a Disease Outbreak

July 9
Business on the Move: Livestock and Meat Logistics

July 16
The Art of Feeding Cattle

July 30
Inside Look at Animal Protein Companies

August 6
Beef Marketing: It's What's For Dinner

Florida Farm Bureau Federation would like to give special recognition to UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences for their support in putting this webinar series together.

Watch our Facebook Page for more information!

REGISTER NOW

FloridaFarmBureau.org

UF VETS Update

The State of Florida leads our nation in the adoption of training and preparedness for animal technical rescue. Over the past decade, Florida SART has supported funding for regular training and equipment throughout the state. As part of that effort, SART has recently purchased updated life safety rope and webbing to replace the older equipment.

The University of Florida (UF) Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Animal Technical Rescue team has begun delivery of this equipment, recently traveling to Lee County Sheriff's Office to update their caches with new rope. Regular updates of equipment and training are critical to the success of these emergency missions. UF VETS Animal Technical Rescue team would like to thank all our partners for working to maintain these resources for communities throughout Florida.

Seats are still available for the upcoming Animal Technical Rescue Awareness Training in North Port, Florida on July 27th. Contact Brandi Phillips at brandikphillips@ufl.edu by July 10th to register.

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.

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