



The Sentinel

Newsletter of
the Florida State
Agricultural
Response Team



Keep your pets safe with these tips from Florida SART.

How You Can Keep Pets Safe in the Summer Heat Wave

It is summer in Florida, and this year is giving us record temperatures, not just here but across the United States! According to the Associated Press (AP), “[Since the beginning of July] heat advisories and warnings are still in place from Florida to Arizona, impacting more than 111 million people.”

This continuing heat wave poses a threat not only to humans but pets as well. Michael San Filippo, a spokesperson for the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) states, “If it’s hot outside for you, it’s most likely even hotter for your pet.”

Unfortunately, Florida is still in the midst of this heat wave, so what are some safety measures that you can take?

- Keep your pets indoors, and if you cannot, make sure they have access to shade and cold water.
- Limit their outdoor activities, try to only have them out in the early morning or evening periods.
- Avoid dark-colored pavement and provide open air shade enclosures (e.g., tarps or trees).
- **Never** leave your pet in a shut-off, unattended, and/or parked car. An 85-degree day, even with the windows cracked can reach 102-degrees in 10 minutes or less.

The story continues on page 2.

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Hurricane Season is Here! Are You and Your Pets Prepared?*
- *Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Florida*
- *WANTED: Giant African Snail*

“If it’s hot outside for you, it’s most likely even hotter for your pet.”

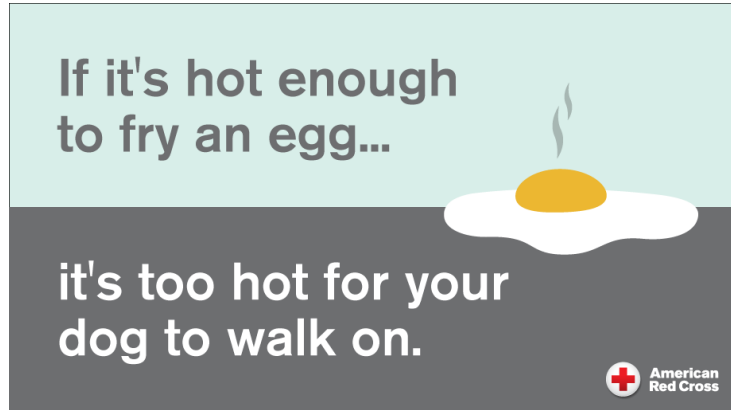
— Michael San Filippo
Media Relations Manager
American Veterinary Medical Association



How You Can Keep Pets Safe in the Summer Heat Wave (continued)

How can you keep your pets safe and cool this summer? By [practicing basic summer safety](#) as offered by The Humane Society of the United States:

- **Never** leave your pets in a parked car.
- Watch the humidity.
- Limit exercise on hot days.
- Do not solely rely on a fan.
- Provide ample shade and water.
- Cool your pet inside and outside.
- Watch for signs of heatstroke.
- Be prepared for power outages.

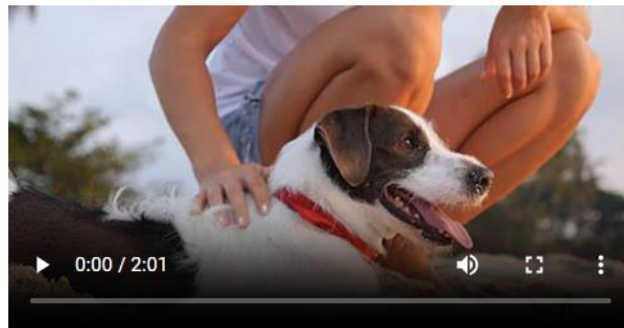


The American Red Cross offers the [Red Cross Pet First Aid app](#) that features step-by-step instructions for first aid emergencies, toxic substances, a pet profile for storing tag ID, photo and medical information, early warning signs for when to contact a veterinarian and an animal hospital locator. Users can find it in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross, texting GETPET to 90999 for a link to download the app, or going to [redcross.org/apps](https://www.redcross.org/apps).

REMEMBER: WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE EXTREME, KEEP YOUR PETS INDOORS OR IN THE SHADE WHEN THEY ARE OUTDOORS!

Did You Know? SART Offers Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team has published an online, state-certified training on pet-friendly sheltering—the first of its kind to be offered in Florida. The online training provides 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 includes 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 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.

The four-hour course is designed for emergency managers, county employees, veterinary and animal services, and shelter volunteers. There is no charge for this 100% online course. For more information, please visit www.FLSART.org.

Hurricane Season is Here! Are You and Your Pets Prepared?

During the months of June through November, Florida residents are keeping their eyes on the tropics looking for when the next hurricane might strike. Many of these Floridians have pets beside them, as they prepare for a possible hurricane to make landfall. Are they prepared to face the storm with their pets? While each pet is different and might have different needs it is important to have some of the basics ready in case an emergency arises.



What are some things pet owners should do to be better prepared for hurricane season?

- Be prepared to evacuate with your pet.
- Update ID for both you and your pet.
- Have your pets up to date on all vaccinations and medical health checks.
- Keep all updated pet medical records in a safe and dry place. *Contact Florida SARC to receive a waterproof pet medical record bag for easy [storage of important pet documents](#).*
- If your pet has a chronic illness, be sure to refill any necessary medications with your veterinarian.
- Know where your local pet-friendly evacuation shelter is.
- Keep all dogs on leashes and cats in carriers while riding out the storm.
- Make a plan for your animals if a storm hits while you are not home. Maybe a neighbor or family member is the main point of contact for your animals.

For more information about how to prepare your animals for hurricane season be sure to take a look at the [Florida SART Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture](#). You can find checklists for almost all types of pets and livestock. This guide can only be accessed by Florida SART members.

Now is a good time to sign up for FREE on the SART website at www.FLSART.org. Being a Florida SART member will give you more access to resources that can help you become prepared for all hazards relating to animals and agriculture.

Get started today on your pet's hurricane preparedness plan and be ready for when the next storm strikes!

Florida State Animal Response Coalition

www.fl sarc.org

352-658-1224

Pet Evacuation Documents Bag

Pet's Name:

Bring these items when you evacuate. Prepare one bag per pet.

- Medication (make sure it's current)
- Medical Records
- Vaccination Records
- Special Medical/Behavioral Instructions
- Picture of your Pet and Picture of You With Your Pet
- All Identification Numbers (Microchip, Tattoo, Rabies Tag)
- List of Distinguishing Features/Marks
- Emergency Contact Information for You
- Emergency Contact Information for Your Pet (Vet, babysitter, caregiver, etc.)

In addition to these items, you should also bring the following:

Food/Water for 7 days
Food and water bowls
Poop bags
Toys and treats

2 extra collars and leashes
Bedding
Trash bag

Pet first aid kit
Pet carrier
Litter box/litter

Become a Volunteer of the Florida Veterinary Corps Today!



Florida veterinarians and animal health technicians have volunteered to assist animal owners and local officials in responding to animal emergencies. The Florida Veterinary Corps is recruiting more volunteers to help protect our state.

The Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) is assisting the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in maintaining the roster of volunteers and serves as the point of contact for calling volunteers after a disaster. You can agree to be listed as a Florida Veterinary Corps volunteer, a helper in times of need for your fellow veterinary professionals. Read the following information to submit your application for the Florida Veterinary Corps.



Why a Florida Veterinary Corps?

- *The Florida Veterinary Corps (The Corps) has been established to enlist veterinarians and veterinary technicians who are willing to volunteer their services in responding to animal emergencies in the state of Florida.*
- *During activation, Corps volunteers will work within an incident command structure under state Emergency Support Function 17 as part of the State Emergency Response Team.*
- *The Corps will be a component of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, under its Florida State Agricultural Response Team, in cooperation with the Florida Veterinary Medical Association and the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.*
- *Corps volunteers will be kept informed as to the status of emergencies and the need for volunteers depending upon the specific emergency.*
- *Volunteers may serve in veterinary infrastructure assessment teams, triage or emergency animal treatment teams, and animal disease surveillance or control teams under an incident command system.*

Rationale

- *Protecting agriculture in Florida begins locally and requires cooperation, participation, and partnership.*
- *Federal or other outside assistance to deal with an animal disease emergency may not be available for hours or days.*
- *Animal agriculture in Florida is highly vulnerable to severe disruption and financial loss through natural disasters and exotic or zoonotic diseases.*
- *Counties and state agencies must be prepared to respond to animal disasters through planning and identification of human and material resources.*
- *Natural disasters are unpredictable and cannot be prevented.*
- *Florida has a high risk for introduction of a foreign animal disease.*

For more information and to join, visit: <https://fvma.org/tools-resources/disaster-relief>

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

WANTED

GIANT AFRICAN SNAIL



LOOK FOR THEM! REPORT THEM!
888-397-1517

A major landscape and agricultural pest, even eats stucco on homes

**Public health threat - known to carry rat lungworm
that may cause meningitis in humans**

**Able to reproduce rapidly - one snail can lay 1,200 eggs in a year
Can grow to up to 8 inches in length - no natural enemies**

We need your help to stop this pest!

www.freshfromflorida.com/pi





WE NEED TO TALK!

It's time to prepare for hurricane season.

Did you know that every year the University of Florida's Shelter Medicine Program Disaster Assessment Team is one of the primary information hubs for Florida animal shelters needing help with disaster planning, resources, and training? UF coordinates with local, state, and national organizations to assess needs to ensure assistance is provided to shelters both pre- and post-storm.

How We Help

- Provide information to, and connect shelters with, training or Standard Operating Procedural planning they might need in case of a disaster.
- Handle initial shelter assessments post-landfall via phone, email, networking, and social media to get Florida animal shelters the help they need until the Incident Command Post is set up and functioning.
- Work in collaboration with many amazing agencies to make sure all shelters in the impacted areas are contacted and assisted.

So we can be as efficient and expedient as possible in our efforts to alert and assist your shelters in emergencies

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACTS HERE

And then visit our website for more information



UF Shelter Medicine Program
College of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Have You Seen the FDACS and UF IFAS Partnership Video?

The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) teamed up to create a new video on their disaster response partnership.

Published in December 2022 on [YouTube](#), the video features interviews with LeiAnna Tucker (FDACS Emergency Programs Manager), Dr. Saqib Mukhtar (UF/IFAS Associate Dean for Extension, Agriculture, and Natural Resources), and Dr. Angie Lindsey [Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)].

EDEN is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is a collaborative multi-state effort by cooperative extension services across the country to improve the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters.



Dr. Lindsey highlighted the important connection that agricultural extension agents have throughout the State of Florida. “We learn so much from our Extension agents and the work that they’re already doing throughout the state and the work that they do within their own communities for disaster preparedness, recovery, and response,” said Dr. Lindsey.

To view the video for yourself, and to like or comment, please visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S11Xsjd-FCw>

African Swine Fever Update

In 2021, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the detection of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the Dominican Republic (Announcement below). ASF is a foreign animal disease. Increased biosecurity and vigilance is warranted. Please report any sick swine with clinical signs consistent with ASF to the State Veterinarian's Office through the e-mail address RAD@FDACS.gov, or by calling (850) 410-0900 (during office hours) or 1-800-342-5869 (after hours). You can also [file a report online](#).

Clinical signs of ASF in swine can include reddening of the skin, listlessness, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, conjunctivitis, lack of an escape response, trembling, complete loss of hind leg functioning, and high death loss.

Clinical Warning Signs of an ASF Infection

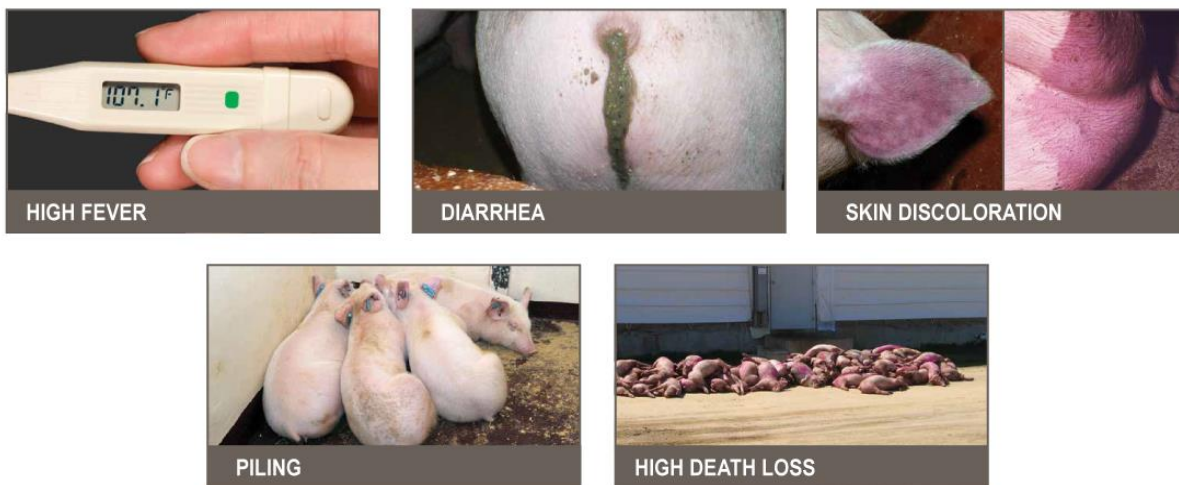


Photo Credit: USDA APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center

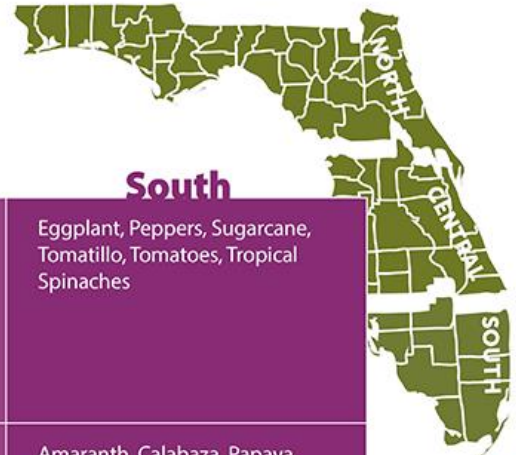
It is important to note that Classical Swine Fever has been present in Haiti and the Dominican Republic for many years and, therefore, the U.S. does not receive pork products or live swine imports from either country. The highest risk of ASF introduction into the U.S. is from pork products brought in by international travelers via sea or air. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection has increased inspections of products and personal items brought into the U.S from affected countries.

More information regarding ASF can be found on the USDA [website](#).
[Click here for the FDACS Announcement on ASF.](#)

In the News...

- [New chair: Mathews Paret to lead UF plant pathology \(UF/IFAS\)](#)
- [California and Nevada Affected by Vesicular Stomatitis \(FDACS\)](#)

EDIBLES TO PLANT IN August



	North	Central	South
 EASY TO TRANSPLANT	Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Eggplant, Kale, Peppers, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches	Eggplant, Endive, Peppers, Sugarcane, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches	Eggplant, Peppers, Sugarcane, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
 TRANSPLANT CAREFULLY	Celery, Mustard	Pineapple	Amaranth, Calabaza, Papaya, Pineapple, Seminole Pumpkin, Sweet Potatoes
 USE SEEDS	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Cucumbers, Onions (bunching), Squashes, Turnips	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Okra, Onions (bunching), Peas (southern), Squashes	Okra, Pumpkin



For more information, please visit GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Florida Gardening Calendars

The [Gardening Calendar publications](#) on the UF/IFAS Solutions for Your Life website gives Florida gardeners a monthly guide for what to plant and do in their gardens and includes links to useful gardening websites, all based on University of Florida research and expertise. Three different editions of the calendar provide specific tips for each of Florida's climate zones—North, Central, and South.

[What to Plant in August - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences \(ufl.edu\)](http://What to Plant in August - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (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@FDACS.gov. During an emergency, ESF 17 and SART provides necessary food and water to affected areas to help protect animals, agriculture, and pets.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SART Partners Monthly Meeting

The next SART Partners Monthly Meeting will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams on August 23, 2023. This meeting is by invite only for the primary representative designated on each SART partner agency. Please contact Emily Nolen or Kris Abel with any questions.

SCCAHS Reginal Advisory Summit on Mental Health

The Southeastern Coastal Center for Ag Health & Safety (SCCAHS) will host a **2023 Regional Advisory Summit** focused on mental health. This regional summit will bring together our community stakeholder advisory board (CSAB) members and regional experts in agricultural mental health to discuss challenges and solutions related to agricultural mental health in the southeastern region. The summit will take place on August 8 in Kissimmee, Florida. We will also host a farm tour and welcome reception the afternoon of August 7.

Additional information and registration link is available at:

<https://www.sccaahs.org/index.php/regional-advisory-summit-on-mental-health/>

Please note that registration is required, and hotel rooms will be covered by SCCAHS. For additional information, or to register, please contact Ashley at ashleynmcleod@ufl.edu

SAVE THE DATE

**REGIONAL ADVISORY SUMMIT
ON MENTAL HEALTH**

AUGUST 7-8 | KISSIMMEE, FL

A local farm tour and welcome reception will be hosted the afternoon of Aug. 7 and the summit will take place on Aug. 8 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Zoom will be available on Aug. 8 but in-person attendance is encouraged.

For additional information, please contact
Ashley McLeod-Morin at ashleynmcleod@ufl.edu.
Formal invitation to follow with more details.

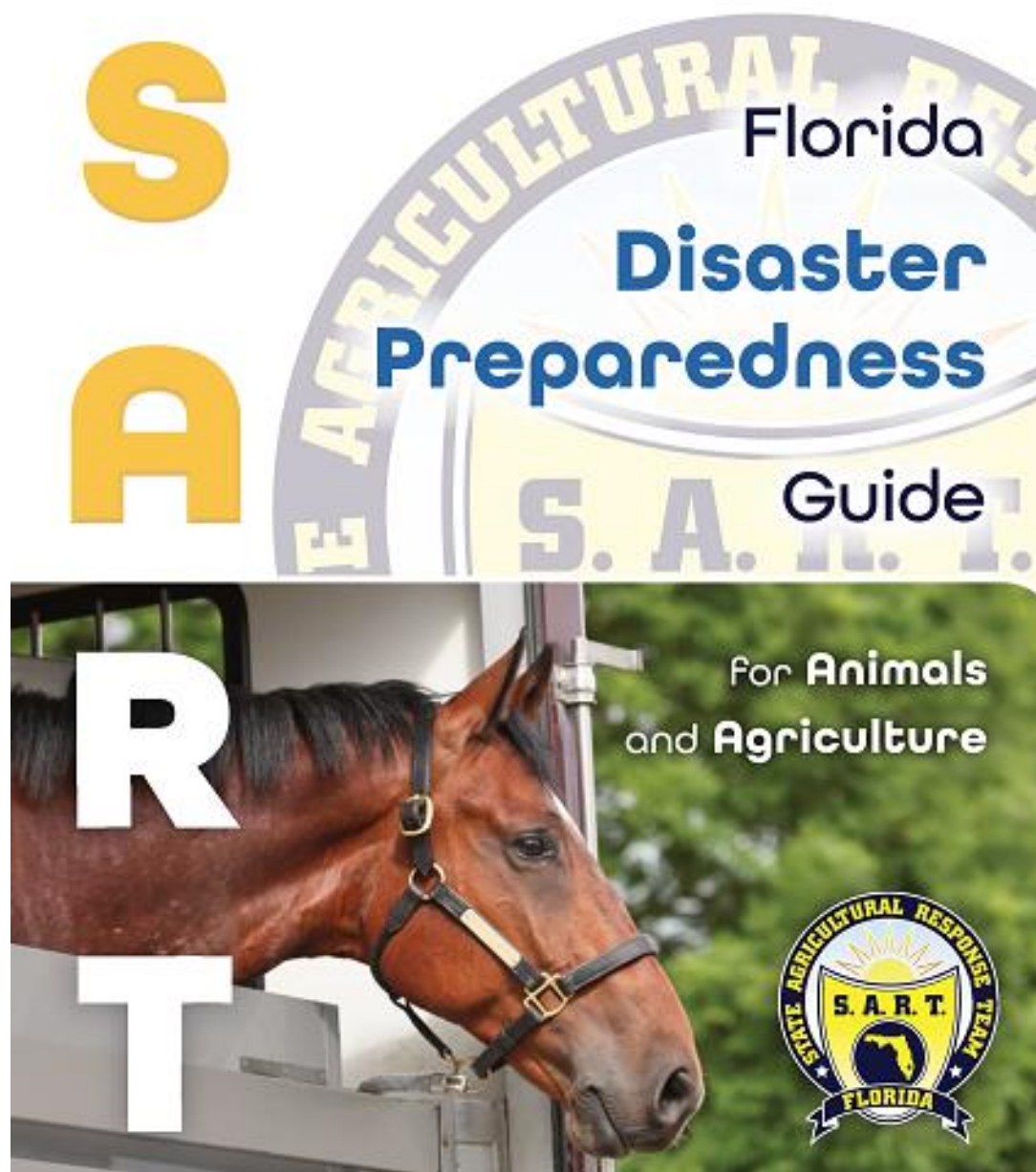
Southeastern Coastal Center
for Agricultural Health and Safety

SART Publishes Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture

The SART Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture developed by the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) is published on the SART website at flsart.org under the "Resources" tab.

This Guide has been developed to help County Emergency Managers respond to disasters that impact animals and agriculture within the state of Florida. Please use the link provided to take you directly to the new [Florida SART Disaster Preparedness Guide](#).

This Guide was developed with the collaboration of the Florida SART partners from across Florida. Many Florida SART partner agencies and FDACS staff contributed to this Guide through their expertise, editing and review. These Florida SART partners are recognized throughout the Guide by their logos.



SART Resources and Links



Large Animal Incident Response Plan Template

<https://flsart.org/resource/TLAER>

Pet Sheltering Resources

<https://flsart.org/resource/petshelter>

Ask IFAS: Disaster Preparedness and Recovery

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/disaster_preparedness_and_recovery

Get Involved! Florida Veterinary Corps

<https://flsart.org/getInvolved/vetcorps.jsp>

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** 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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