The Sentinel

Newsletter of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team

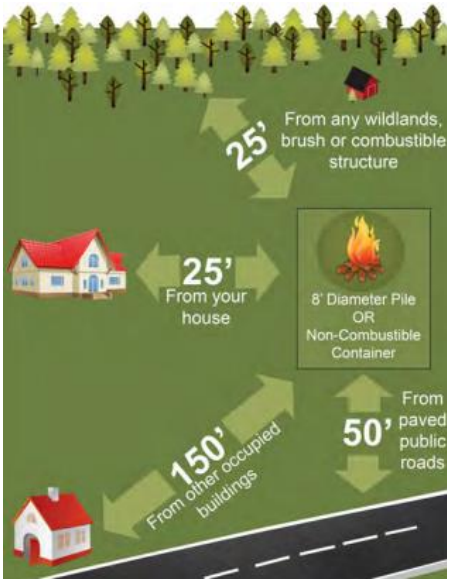
Be Wildfire Ready, Florida!

Special Features of this Issue:

- *Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Florida*
- *Horse Rescue in Pasco County*
- *K9 Handler First Responder & K9 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care Training — Sponsored by Florida SART*

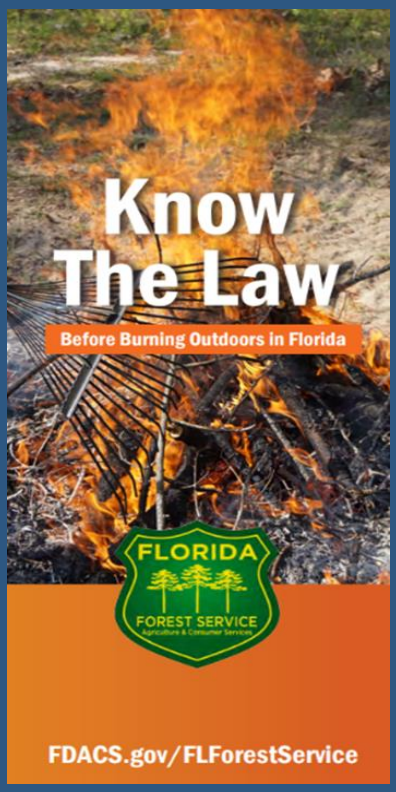
Be Wildfire Ready, Florida! Know the Law Before Burning Outdoors in Florida

Typically, Florida goes through a dry season during the months of November through April. During this time, we start to see an increase in wildfires across the state. The cold winter months seem like the perfect time to burn outdoor brush or have bonfires with friends, but an uncontrolled fire can turn into a wildfire quickly.



If proper fire management precautions are not taken, a small fire can easily get out of control and cause threats to life, property, and animals. Escaped debris from uncontrolled fires are the leading cause of wildfires in Florida. It is important before burning to know the local laws and ordinances.

The story continues on page 2.



Be Wildfire Ready, Florida! Know the Law Before Burning Outdoors in Florida (continued)

As we move through the next few months doing our best to prevent wildfires in Florida, keep in mind some additional resources to learn more about the risk of wildfires or active wildfires in your area.

Florida Forest Service provides an informational dashboard on the current wildfire conditions that can be found by clicking here. This webpage also has information about Active Wildfire Points, County Burn Bans, Smoke/Air Quality, Travel/Roads, National Fire Maps, and Fire Safety. Remember, if your fire escapes, you may be liable for cost of suppression and damage to the property of others, so burn safely!

For more information, visit: https://www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Wildland-Fire

Did You Know?

- Escaped debris burning is one of the leading causes of wildfires in Florida.
- The Florida Forest Service administers Florida's outdoor burning and forest fire laws.
- Some types of burning require an authorization from the Florida Forest Service while others do not.
- Burning yard waste does not require an authorization but you must follow the rules for your area.

Burning Authorization Required

Agricultural, silvicultural, land clearing, pile and acreage burning all require a burning authorization from the Florida Forest Service.

Burning Authorization Not Required

Authorization is not required to burn yard waste as long as you meet the required setbacks and there are no local, city or county ordinances in place that prohibit burning.

Check with your local, city and county officials to find out if there are any restrictions in your area.

What is Yard Waste?

Yard waste is any vegetative debris such as grass clippings, brush, leaves, tree limbs, palm fronds, etc., that are a result of yard maintenance.

You may burn yard waste without authorization as long as:

- You meet the required setbacks and no local, city or county ordinances prohibit burning;
- The yard waste was generated on your property and it will fit in an 8-foot diameter pile or non-combustible container; and
- The fire is ignited after 8:00 a.m. central time or 9:00 a.m. eastern time and is extinguished one hour before sunset.

Large Pile Burns

NOTE, Piles greater than 8 feet in diameter will require:

- **An authorization from the Florida Forest Service;**
- **Suppression equipment on hand; and**
- **Additional setback requirements.**

It is illegal to burn household garbage (including paper products), treated lumber, plastics, rubber materials, tires, pesticides, paint, and aerosol containers.

Outdoor Burning Tips

- Clear an area down to bare soil around your pile to prevent the fire from spreading.
- Cover a non-combustible container with wire mesh to keep sparks from flying out and starting new fires.
- If you have questions on outdoor burning, please contact your local Florida Forest Service office or visit:

Outdoor Burning Tips (Cont.)

- Check with your local Florida Forest Service office to make sure it is legal to burn in your area.
- Make sure you meet the required setbacks.
- Burn only yard waste, no household garbage (includes paper products and newspapers).
- Don't burn on windy days.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Keep a water hose or shovel handy in case your fire escapes.
- Make sure smoke does not obstruct visibility on nearby roads.
- Be sure fire is completely out before you leave.

REMEMBER!

If your fire escapes, you may be liable for costs of suppression and damage to the property of others.

Florida Forest Service Field Headquarters

Blackwater Forestry Center Escambia • Okaloosa • Santa Rosa	**(850) 957-5701**
Chipola Forestry Center Bay • Calhoun • Gulf • Holmes Jackson • Walton • Washington	**(850) 373-1801**
Tallahassee Forestry Center Franklin • Gadsden • Jefferson Liberty • Leon • Wakulla	**(850) 681-5951**
Perry Forestry District Dixie • Lafayette • Madison • Taylor	**(850) 223-0751**
Suwannee Forestry Center Baker • Bradford • Columbia Hamilton • Suwannee • Union	**(386) 243-6243**
Jacksonville Forestry District Clay • Duval • Nassau	**(904) 266-8351**
Waccasassa Forestry Center Alachua • Gilchrist • Levy • Marion • Putnam	**(352) 395-4951**
Bunnell Forestry District Flagler • St. Johns • Volusia	**(386) 585-6151**
Withlacoochee Forestry Center Citrus • Hernando • Lake • Pasco • Sumter	**(352) 797-4100**
Orlando Forestry District Brevard • Orange • Osceola • Seminole	**(407) 888-8760**
Lakeland Forestry District Hillsborough • Pinellas • Polk	**(863) 940-6701**
Myakka River Forestry District Charlotte • DeSoto • Hardee • Manatee • Sarasota	**(941) 213-6970**
Okeechobee Forestry District Glades • Highlands • Indian River Martin • Okeechobee • St. Lucie	**(863) 467-3221**
Caloosahatchee Forestry Center Collier • Hendry • Lee	**(239) 690-8001**
Everglades Forestry District Broward • Miami-Dade • Monroe • Palm Beach	**(954) 453-2800**

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Chronic Wasting Disease Detected in Florida

CWD DETECTED IN FLORIDA

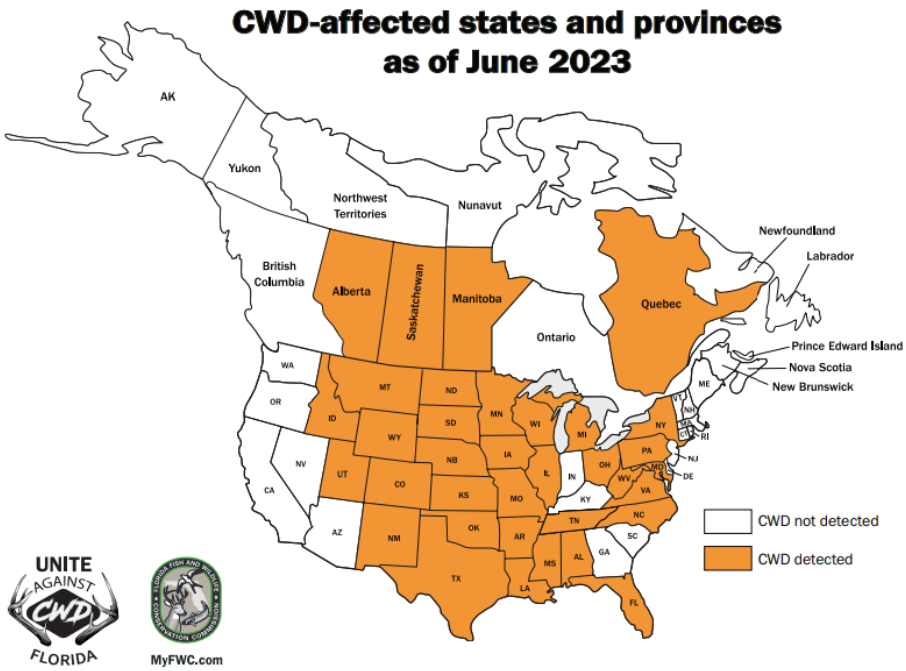
The FWC has confirmed that a road-killed 4.5-year-old female white-tailed deer in Holmes County sampled during routine surveillance activities has tested positive for CWD.

EVENT RESPONSE INFORMATION

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has confirmed that a road-killed 4.5 year-old female white-tailed deer in Holmes County sampled during routine surveillance activities has tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). It is the first known case of CWD in Florida. CWD is a contagious disease of the brain and central nervous system that is always fatal to deer. FWC and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) have implemented response and management actions to protect against the possible spread of CWD.

On Sept. 8, the FWC issued a new executive order outlining regulations designed to increase sampling and slow the spread of CWD in Florida deer. Existing regulations pertaining to the establishment of the zone, baiting and feeding restrictions, prohibition of rehabilitating or releasing injured or orphaned deer and export of high-risk parts remain in effect.
If you are a permitted captive Cervidae premises and have any questions regarding CWD, please reach out to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry, at (850) 410-0900.

Visit the FWC CWD website for more information, updates, and resources.



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

Horse Rescue in Pasco County

After a recent Animal Technical Rescue (ATR) training, Pasco County first responders received a call that a local horse had become stuck in a mud put and was unable to get himself out.

Finding the horse down in the mud, the team was able to move the horse to a more stable location via the recue glide, then used the a-frame to encourage the horse to stand. Once the horse was warmed and rested, he was able to stand on his own. Pasco County first responders did a great job working together to rescue this horse from the dangerous situation he was in!

Be Sure to Check Out 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=SI1Xsjd-FCw

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER AND YOU?

You are invited to participate in an African Swine Fever (ASF) virtual education and outreach program.

What is ASF and why are Florida hogs particularly at risk?

ASF is highly contagious and deadly. This viral disease that affects domestic and feral (wild) pigs reached the Caribbean in 2021.

Are you prepared to work with State and Federal Animal Regulatory Agencies and industry stakeholders during a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak that threatens US livestock production?

What is being done to prevent ASF entry into the US?

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has partnered with the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine to host a USDA sponsored online educational program to bring a broad spectrum of livestock industry stakeholders together to work in collaboration to improve our capability to respond to the threat posed by African Swine Fever.

WHAT: Each week for five weeks a new educational module will be posted. Review the material at your convenience. This program is interactive. You will have opportunities to pose questions to your state regulatory officials and subject matter experts from across the country. Share your perspectives and experiences with other stakeholders. Retain access to the material for use in the future.

WHEN: September 5 – October 6, 2023.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE: Register using the URL or QR code, below. Feel free to share this invitation with others who may be interested.

HOW MUCH: Through the generous support of USDA, we are offering this opportunity to you FREE of charge.

Register at vetmed.illinois.edu/asf-ed/

What will you gain from your participation?

Learn:

- The clinical signs of ASF.
- How to prevent ASF.
- How to keep ASF out of your herd.
- How to strengthen your disease prevention and biosecurity plans.
- Your role in the disease response.

Target Audience:

- Anyone who owns, works with, shows, or hunts pigs for work or as a hobby.

This course will assist you in understanding your role in a disease response.

Sponsored by:

ILLINOIS VET MED

USDA

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:
Yvette Johnson-Walker DVM, MS, PhD
University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine
Center for One Health Illinois
Yjjohn38@illinois.edu

This work is funded through the 2018 Farm Bill and administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response program.

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 deadly pig disease that spreads rapidly and affects domestic and wild swine. While not a threat to human health, the virus could devastate America's swine, pork industry, and food supply. Whatever pigs mean to you—your livelihood or a pet—we're all in it together. Protect our swine and keep the disease out of the United States. 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.

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…

- Commissioner Wilton Simpson Announces Farmers Can Apply for Florida Farm TEAM Card Beginning January 1 (FDACS)
- Can I Bring It? - Don't Pack a Pest! Travelers Campaign (FDACS/DPI)
- Mysterious Respiratory Disease Reportedly Spreading Among Dogs Across the Country (UF/College of Veterinary Medicine)

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 January - 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

Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Training

Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FLSARC) provides Small Animal Emergency Sheltering training for Florida communities. These courses teach the unique procedures, skills, and knowledge necessary to build and operate a temporary emergency animal shelter in response to natural disasters and animal cruelty cases. These courses were created and designed by experts from many organizations including Florida SART, University of Florida Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service (VETS) Team, and leadership of FLSARC. This training is state-certified by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Awareness Level 1	Operations Level 2
• February 3, 2024	• February 17-18, 2024 • March 2-3, 2024

To register, visit: https://flsarc.org/training

K9 Handler First Responder & K9 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care Training — Sponsored by Florida SART

Registration is open for the next Florida SART-sponsored **K9 Handler First Responder & K9 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care** training, scheduled Feb 9-11, 2024, at Camp Blanding in Starke, FL. Students receive Continuing Education Credit for law enforcement and EMS. Full student tuition is paid for by Florida SART for approved applicants. Students are responsible for their own travel, lodging, and meal expenses. Application deadline is Jan 15, 2024.

This training is sponsored by Florida SART, and in partnership with the Florida National Guard, Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force, and K9 MEDIC. Please see the flyer on the following page.

SART Partners Meeting

The following meeting is by invitation only to primary representatives of SART partner agencies:

- Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting – January 17, 2024

FRI-SUN FEB 9-11, 2024

K-9 FIRST RESPONDER & K-9 TACTICAL EMERGENCY CASUALTY CARE

3-DAY TRAINING

Are you a K-9 Handler looking to provide the best emergency field care for your four-legged partner?

Learn K-9 Tactical Emergency Casualty Care skills in a hands-on, scenario-based training environment with an expert instructor cadre, on advanced veterinary manikins, and in a state-of-the-art training

BECOME FIELD-READY

RECEIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

20 STUDENTS PAID BY FLORIDA SART

FACILITIES PROVIDED BY COUNTERDRUG

APPLICATION DEADLINE JAN 15, 2024

APPLY AT WWW.K9MEDIC.COM/FL

LOCATION | TIME

Camp Blanding
Counterdrug – MCTFT
5629 SR16 West
Starke, FL 32091
Enter via main gate, left on Ave. B, after about 3 miles, follow signs to classroom.
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., daily

K-9 FIRST RESPONDER& K-9 TACTICAL EMERGENCY CASUALTY CARE 3-Day Training, Feb 9-11, 2024

Expert instructors from K9 MEDIC® deliver an intense, hands-on training format.

K9 Handler / First Responder Advanced Scope
This program includes handling K-9 emergencies in both conventional and tactical environments, so you'll be prepared to respond wherever and whenever you need. Topics range from safe K-9 handling and comprehensive assessments to treating the most common emergencies such as heat stroke and bloat/GDV, and tactical injuries such as gunshot wounds. Advanced Scope includes fluid administration and handler assist skills.

iNTENSIVE/High-Def Format
This format delivers a hands-on and scenario-based experience, along with benefits of a diversified instructor cadre. In addition to the all-class practice exercises, this format delivers an additional four rotations of hands-on skills stations and solo/team scenarios using advanced veterinary mannikins. Each student receives significant instructor feedback and attention customized to their specific needs. Multi-disciplinary instructors often include a lead expert veterinarian, experienced tactical paramedic, and field-savvy K-9 Handler.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: January 15, 2024

APPLICANT SELECTION: 20 students will be selected. Preference given to early applicants. Selections made as applications are received. **Apply at www.K9MEDIC.com/FL**

WHO CAN APPLY? Only active canine handlers currently employed with a military, federal, state, or local (city/county) agency are eligible to apply. Preference given to canine handlers working in Florida.

COST: Full tuition paid for by SART! Students are responsible for travel, lodging and meal expenses.

CERTIFICATION: Upon completion, students receive a K9 MEDIC® Certificate of Completion and Continuing Education Credit for law enforcement and EMS. This course meets the course prerequisites for admission to the K9 MEDIC® Trainer Academy.

QUESTIONS? Contact Ms. LeiAnna Tucker, (850) 410-0920. LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov.

Sponsored by the Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART), and in partnership with K9 MEDIC® and the Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force Training.

Small Animal Emergency and Disaster Sheltering Course - Awareness Level

Santa Rosa County Emergency Management and the Florida State Animal Response Coalition are partnering to provide training on how to respond to local, state and national disasters, save animals, and operate temporary emergency shelters.

FLORIDA State Animal Response Coalition Animal Rescue

SANTA ROSA COUNTY FLORIDA

TRAINING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!

Saturday, February 3, 2024

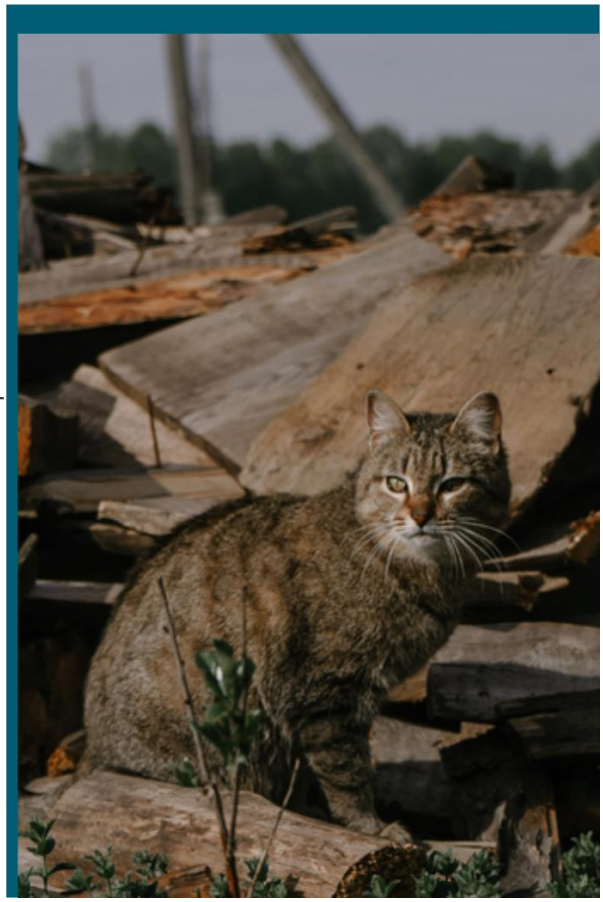
9 AM - 5 PM CENTRAL

4499 Pine Forest Rd
Milton, FL 32583

REGISTRATION IS FREE!!

To register with your mobile device, scan the code to the left, or go to

https://bit.ly/3NQMFsl



FLSARC.ORG

Small Animal Emergency and Disaster Sheltering Course - Operations Level

Santa Rosa County Emergency Management and the Florida State Animal Response Coalition are partnering to provide training on how to respond to local, state and national disasters, save animals, and operate temporary emergency shelters.

FLORIDA
State Animal Response Coalition
Animal Rescue

SANTA ROSA COUNTY FLORIDA

TRAINING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!

SAT/SUN, February 17-18, 2024

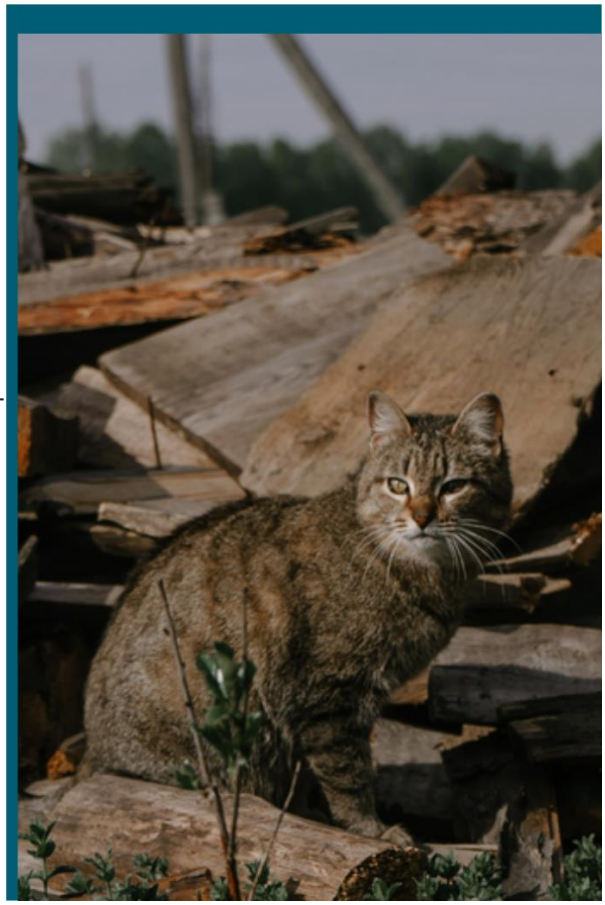
9 AM - 5 PM CENTRAL

4499 Pine Forest Rd
Milton, FL 32583

REGISTRATION IS FREE!!

To register with your mobile device, scan the code to the left, or go to

https://bit.ly/47p3DVK



FLSARC.ORG

Small Animal Emergency and Disaster Sheltering Course - OPERATIONS Level

Thanks to a grant from the Florida State Agricultural Response Team, we are partnering with The University of Florida's IFAS Extension Center and Pasco County to provide training on how to respond to local, state and national disasters, save animals, and operate temporary emergency shelters.

FLORIDA State Animal Response Coalition — Animal Rescue

PASCO COUNTY FLORIDA — Open Spaces. Vibrant Places.

UF | IFAS Extension — UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

TRAINING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!

SAT & SUN
MAR 2 & 3, 2024

8:30 AM - 5 PM

OSS STALLINGS BUILDING COOP EXT.
15029 14 ST. DADE CITY, FL 33525

STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM — S. A. R. T. — FLORIDA

Use code **SART** at check out to receive a full registration fee discount!

To register with your mobile device, scan the code below, or go to https://bit.ly/2024PASCOLVL2

FLSARC.ORG

Sponsored by Florida SART

ANIMAL TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAINING

Target Audience:

Fire/Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Animal Control, Veterinary Professionals, Extension Agents, Livestock Industry Stakeholders

Location:

Florida State Fire College
11655 NW Gainesville Rd
Ocala, FL 34482

Course Fee:

Free, sponsored by Florida SART

Training Date

AWR-8 hours
Feb. 13, 2024
OPS-24 hours
Apr. 1-3, 2024
All trainings 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM
CEs provided by
Florida State Fire College

Point of Contact:

Brandi Phillips
brandikphillips@ufl.edu

Register for free at bit.ly/SART2024ATR

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

STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM S.A.R.T. FLORIDA

ASPCA: Tips to Keep Pets Safe During the Winter Months

Florida winter might look different than the more northern states, but we still get our fair share of cold weather, and it is important to be mindful of how the cold effects not only us but our pets. The ASPCA has published helpful tips to keep our furry friends safe and prevent winter-related illness or injury:

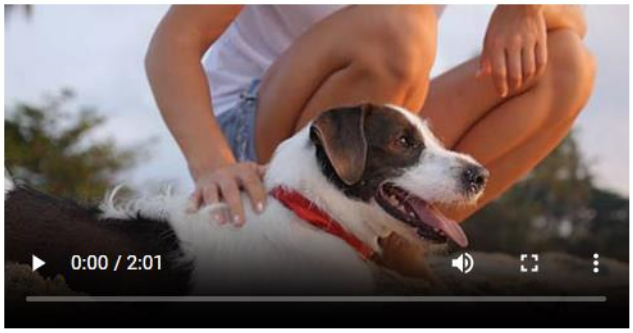
- Bring your pets indoors when freezing conditions occur. Freezing conditions can cause illness or even be deadly to a pet.
- Wash and dry pets' paws and stomach after outside time or walk. This practice will avoid possible chemicals that could cause skin irritation.
- Use vet-approved paw creams or balms on your pet's nose and paw pads to protect those areas from the elements.
- Use a humidifier to keep the air moist and avoid dry air-related illness such as dry and flaking skin.
- Avoid shaving your pet down during these cold months to keep them warm.
- Reduce the number of baths, if possible, to avoid skin irritation. Natural oils produced by the animal will keep their skin moist and healthy.
- Keep a close eye on any antifreeze spills, clean thoroughly any spill, as antifreeze is toxic to pets.
- Prepare to have extra pet food during the winter to maintain good nutrition while your pet burns extra energy staying warm.
- Keep your pet on a leash while outside to avoid the risk of your pet getting lost in the harsh winter conditions.

Staying indoors bundled up with our pets can bring such joy during these cold months. As you follow these helpful tips always consult with your veterinarian on routine care to make the right choices for your pets. If traveling to any northern states, keep in mind these tips as they apply to possible snow conditions as well.

For more information, visit: https://www.aspca.org/news/10-expert-tips-keep-your-pet-safe-winter

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.



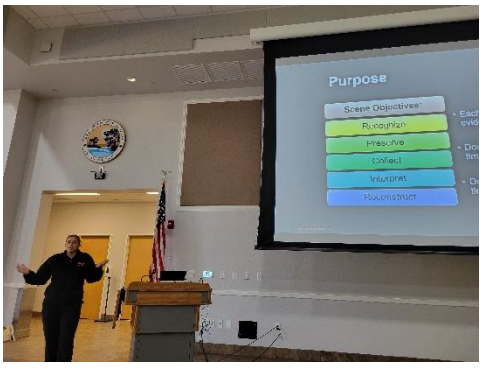
This training includes useful information on how to:

- 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.

December Florida SART Partners Quarterly Meeting

On December 19th, 2023, the SART Partner representatives met at the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion in Ocala for its quarterly in-person meeting. During this meeting, representatives learned about the hurricane sheltering practices and procedures for large animals of the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion. Taking a tour of the facility that provides over 200 stalls for large animals to shelter at during evacuations.



Allison Kennedy- Benson, representing the Florida Veterinary Technician Association (FVTA), presented on Forensic Veterinary Technology practices during response to incidents of animal endangerment and neglect. To collect evidence for these cases, veterinary professionals working with local law enforcement must be careful to document evidence before it is lost.

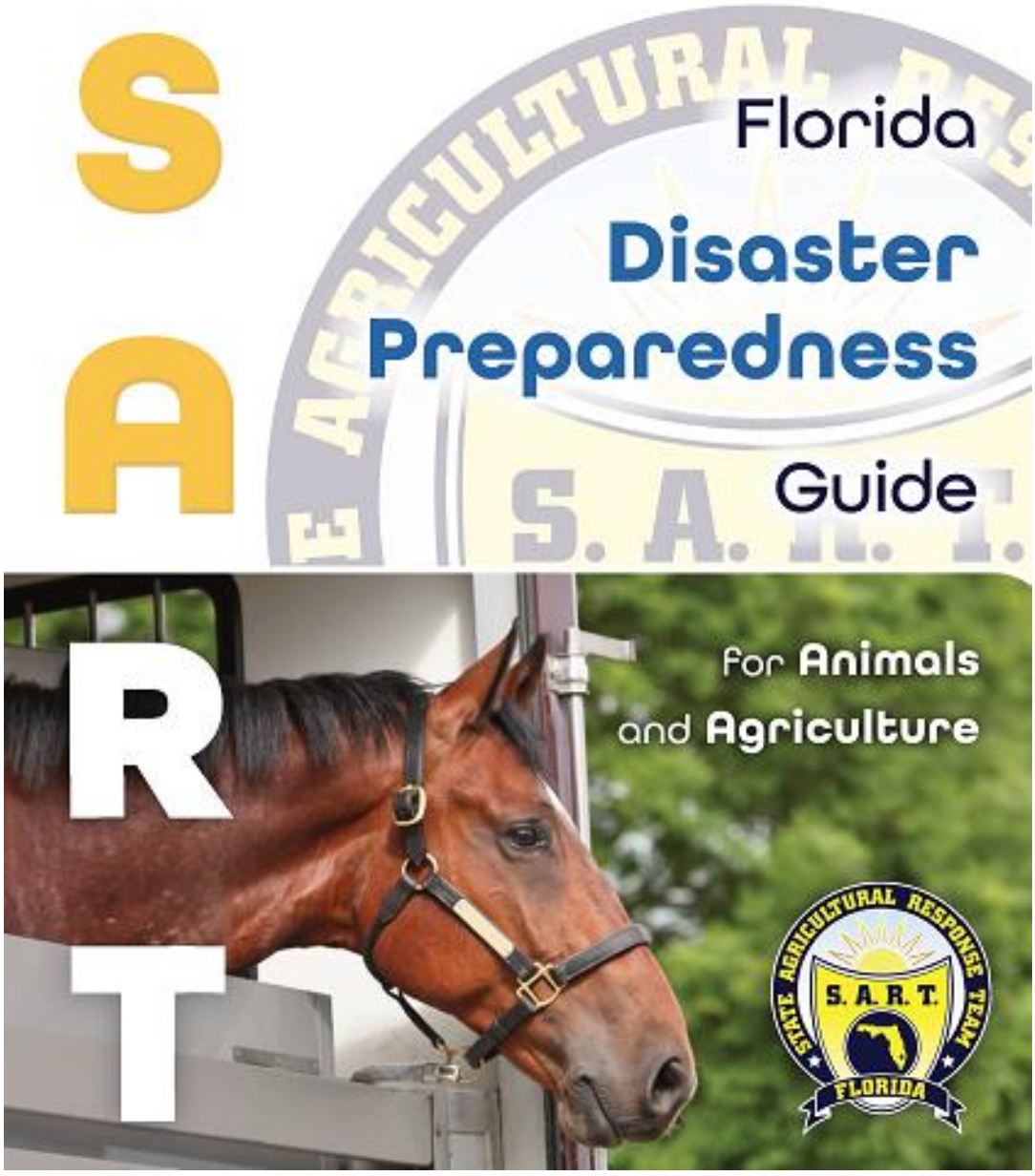
The SART Partner representatives were also able to have a very delicious holiday potluck lunch!

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

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza – USDA APHIS Flock Defender
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/defend-the-flock-program/outbreak-illness/outbreak-illness

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.

Editing Services: The Turner Network, LLC 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@FDACS.gov