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Crowd Management and Designer Breeds

Bill Armstrong and staff at the Hillsborough County Animal Shelter were faced with several challenges last month when 23 Yorkshire terriers, rescued from alleged “puppy mills” in nearby Seffner, were placed for adoption at the shelter. The story of the adoption of these so-called designer breed puppies, originally reported by Kim Wilmath of the *St. Petersburg Times* newspaper, was picked up by the Associated Press and given national exposure.

The Yorkie is the perfect example of the Disney “Bambi Syndrome:” big eyes and an “obvious need to be held and loved and protected.” The breed was “developed” in England in the 1800s and is highly desirable and quite expensive today (www.akc.org/breeds/yorkshire_terrier/index.cfm). It is, of course, very small, with a long coat of silky hair and a perky personality. The fact that some people waited in an unsupervised line outside the Animal Shelter for more than 24 hours for a chance to adopt one of the seized dogs – while dozens of other breeds and types of animals languished in kennels to be reunited with their owners or to find a new “human companion” to take them home – is evidence that the Syndrome is alive and well.

“Well, publicity is always good,” says Armstrong, “and the fact that 30-40 people waited outside, overnight, demonstrates a high level of commitment to animal issues. Still, we had no idea we would have so many people clamoring for these little dogs. While we had no major incidents with this well-publicized special Yorkie adoption event, we will probably go to a lottery system rather than having a first-come, first-served process the next time we have one of these types of event. We want to make it as fair as possible for people who are interested and minimize the risk of any incidents.”



www.dogsindepth.com

Hillsborough County’s animal shelter has space for about 300 cats and 300 dogs. Greg Berhow, who works at the shelter, says that each day about 79 animals are impounded or dropped off and only 20 are adopted. In 2008, the shelter euthanized 22,321 animals, about 6,000 dogs and 15,500 cats, while another 6,000 animals were taken by rescue groups or adopted into homes. The challenge, says Berhow, is that there are too many dogs and cats in need of new homes and too few people wanting to take them home.

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/animalservices/



Only a Few Agroterrorism Preparedness Courses Remain



University of Pennsylvania hosts an FBI agro-terrorism exercise at the New Bolton Center, the school's large animal hospital.

AWR-152 Preparedness: Principles of Preparedness for Agroterrorism and Food Systems' Disasters

- **Tuesday, September 15 in Orlando, FL, AWR 152 Principles of Preparedness for Agroterrorism and Food Systems' Disasters, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the Orange County Sheriff's Office Central Operations Center, Mel Martinez Auditorium, 2500 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32804**
- **Wednesday, September 16 in Miami, FL, 152 Principles of Preparedness for Agroterrorism and Food Systems' Disasters, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the FDLE Miami (MROC), in the FDLE Building, Emergency Operations Center, 1030 NW 111th Ave, Miami, FL 33172**

For information, check with the office of Art Johnstone at the Office of Agricultural Emergency Preparedness (850) 410-6758 johnsta@doacs.state.fl.us. Art says that six additional courses are on the drawing board for the October-December quarter; details will be announced shortly.

SART Advisory Board to Meet

The next meeting of the **Florida SART Advisory Board** is tentatively scheduled for September 2nd at 9:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Florida Farm Bureau, 5700 SW 34th St., Gainesville, FL 32608 (352) 378-1321. No reservations are required. Please mark your calendars and for questions please contact State ESF-17 Coordinator Joe Kight (kightj@doacs.state.fl.us) or SART's Michael Turner (turnerm@doacs.state.fl.us) at the Office of Agricultural Emergency Preparedness.

ESF-17 Helps Counties Prep for Emergencies

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, as lead agency for ESF-17 is on a mission to spread the word about emergency preparation for agricultural and animal disasters. It has visited 17 of Florida's 67 counties, meeting with the emergency manager, ESF-17 coordinator, extension agent, FSA director, mosquito control, Department of Health officials and others that the county wants to invite. If the department has not yet visited your county, rest assured that an FDACS representative is on the way!

"What we're really trying to do," Joe Kight, ESF-17 ECO says, "is to get emergency management offices to understand the needs of the population in the rural area. For effective, comprehensive planning counties must coordinate with on-the-ground representatives of that population such as their extension agent, the FSA Director, the local Cattleman's Association, Farm Bureau office and other agriculture groups. We really encourage them to bring their local agricultural leaders in at least once a year to discuss ag issues. ESF-17 planning is not just about the urban area."



Joe Kight, ESF-17
Coordinator, FDACS

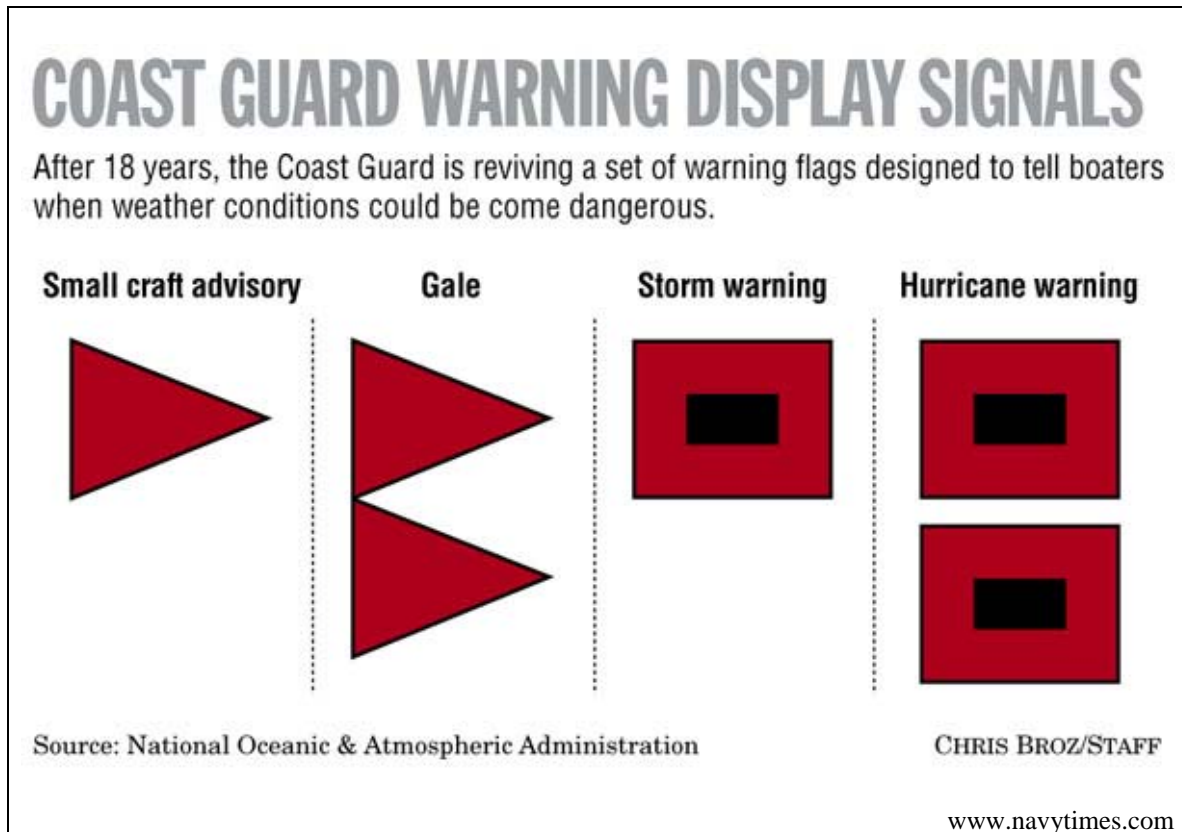
In a typical county visit, ESF-17 leaders review the SART mission and web site, including their county information section – a resource that is often underutilized – and tries to find out "... how we at the state level and as a network of responders can be of assistance. We also talk about the other farm groups at the county level such as USDA's Farm Service Administration. It's important that county emergency directors be aware of the FSA role." The department also discusses mosquito abatement planning and response after an emergency.

Many Florida counties are stretched for funds in the current economy and thus training and preparation programs are restricted; hence the need for increased coordinating efforts. Nevertheless, Kight says, "Counties are doing the best they can. Counties are continuing to improve in emergency preparedness ... but remember, it all begins at the individual and family level."

Florida ESF-17 Coordinator Joe Kight can be reached at (850) 410-0920 or kightj@doacs.state.fl.us.

WATCH vs. WARNING – Know the Difference

Do you know the difference between a “watch” and a “warning?” According to NOAA-



Issued for a particular sector of the coastline a Hurricane Watch indicates the strong possibility of hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger family disaster plans, and protective measures should be initiated, especially actions that require extra time such as securing a boat, leaving a barrier island, and bringing loose objects inside a building.

A Hurricane Warning is issued when sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours. Once a warning is issued, families should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm. Families which have not already evacuated – if evacuation is called for – should now consider sheltering in place as roads may be jammed with traffic.

This and other useful – perhaps critical – information about storms in the Atlantic and the Caribbean is available at www.nhc.noaa.gov/.

VETS Trains with ASPCA

The VETS Team (Veterinary Emergency Treatment Service) from UF's Veterinary Medical College trained with members of the ASPCA's National Rescue Team last month. Exercises consisted of intensive training in specific rescue and recovery techniques:

- How to rig knots and then raise and lower animals in slings suspended by A-frames (at the UF horse teaching facility).



- Rappelling and rope climbing (in the UF football stadium and later in a sinkhole in High Springs).



- Water rescue of large animals (at Lake Wauburg).



Training Pays Dividends: In cooperation with Marion County Firefighters UF's VETS team used their extensive training in large animal rescue to save a calf from an abandoned well last month. UF's Dr. Roger Clemmons led the rescue effort after first sedating the calf. A link to the story as reported in the Gainesville Sun is below:

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090616/ARTICLES/906161004/1002?Title=All-s-well-that-ends-well-as-UF-vet-rescues-calf>

- Rescue of large animals from mud pits (at the Bronson Motor Speedway).



VETS Team members place highly visible plywood boards around the stranded "animal." These boards displace their weight over the mud and give them secure footings for the rescue.

"These were operations level exercises," said veterinary medical school director John Haven, "hands-on all-day courses. They are a giant step above basic awareness level courses, because people handle the equipment, get wet and dirty and, in the

case of rappelling in the football stadium, get a little frightened as well.” The classes are also much smaller than awareness level classes, allowing each student to become very involved in each rescue evolution, and in some cases the evolution was run several times to reinforce the learning opportunities.



The VETS Team from UF's School of Veterinary Medicine relies on grants and donations to provide both training and real-world assistance to animals during declared emergencies or to individual animals in trouble. For additional information contact John Haven at havenj@vetmed.ufl.edu. Donations are tax deductible.

In addition to the teams from UF's Veterinary Medical College and the ASPCA, exercises included a representative of American Humane and a member of the Gainesville Police Department's Mounted (Horse) Patrol. (All photos courtesy John Haven.)

Hot New CSB Video Highlights the Need for Preparedness, Training, and Communication

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) recently released a very dramatic video titled *Emergency*

Preparedness: Findings from CSB Accident Investigations. Watching this 20-minute video is better than watching an episode of your favorite CSI crime show.

Although they may be filled with excellent information, government videos are usually dry (one might be tempted to say “boring”), but after a few minutes of this CSB video, you will discover that it is actually quite compelling. What makes it so interesting? The CSB uses real-life chemical-based accidents to make its points – an incident from Jacksonville which raised a mushroom cloud (handled by Duval responders in an efficient and effective manner) is particularly striking – and it illustrates the urgent need for emergency responder awareness, preparedness, training and communication with effective CGI graphics.



The CSB's *Emergency Preparedness* particularly stresses two needs to prevent tragedy from chemical accidents:

- community involvement in the response process and
- that effective response is a process, an on-going necessity to protect life and property not an end-point.

The video is available online at www.csb.gov/videoroom/detail.aspx?vid=29 and on [YouTube](#). Dr. Carol Lehtola of UF's Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, who brought this excellent video to the attention of the *SART Sentinel's* editors, notes that it was released only last month and that you can request a free DVD from the CSB.

Livestock Indemnity Program Now Available to Eligible Florida Ranchers/Livestock Producers

Livestock Indemnity Program: On July 13th, eligible livestock producers can begin applying for benefits through the USDA/FSA Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) for 2008 livestock losses.

Debby Folsom, Florida Acting State Executive Director for USDA/FSA, says LIP provides a safety net to help “overcome the damaging financial impact of natural disasters” by compensating livestock producers for losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather (hurricanes, floods, disease, wildfires, etc.).

- For 2008 losses, you must file a *notice of loss* and submit an *application for payment* by September 13th.
- For losses between January 1 and July 12, 2009, the final date to file the *notice of loss* is also September 13th while the final date to submit an *application for payment* is January 30, 2010.
- For losses between July 13 and December 31, 2009, the final date to file the *notice of loss* is 30 days following the loss while the final date to submit an *application for payment* is January 30, 2010.



Separate rulemakings for other agricultural disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2008 Act will be announced later.

For more information on available supplemental disaster assistance programs, please visit your FSA county office or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. The local contact is Mark Cotrell at mark.cotrell@fl.usda.gov.

Is Continuing Education One of Your Team's Priorities?

SART is a multi-agency coordination group consisting of governmental and private entities dedicated to all-hazard disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery for the animal and agriculture sectors in Florida.

1. (True or False) Florida is considered an agricultural and public health "sentinel state" because of its coast-watcher program.
2. Identify the agency/group that is Not currently involved in or supporting SART.
 - a. FL Veterinary Medical Association
 - b. FL Cattlemen's Association
 - c. USDA Farm Service Agency
 - d. UF Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences
 - e. Greater Orlando Area Mickey Mouse Club
 - f. FDACS Division of Animal Industry
3. (True or False) Because SART came into being as a result of Hurricane Katrina, the organization is and must be independent of earlier organizations and ineffective local protocols.
4. Agriculture in Florida has an economic impact of approximately (\$450 million, \$2.8 billion, \$62 billion, nearly \$1 trillion)?
5. Which of the following is Not a SART Goal?
 - a. Promote the establishment of an ESF-17 coordinator in each county.
 - b. Provide assistance with county ESF-17 plans.
 - c. Provide a leader from the state to direct county operations.
 - d. Promote establishment of SART group in each county and cooperation among counties and groups.
 - e. Provide annual training for all SART animal and agriculturally related personnel.
6. Please rewrite the following statement which contains multiple errors: "The State Division of Emergency Management in Tallahassee opens 48-hours before a disaster threatens. Its manager then calls the county sheriffs for immediate support organizing community preparedness and response."
7. The volume of tourists that visit Florida each year have a significant impact on jobs and the economy, but are also a potential source of country-hopping diseases such as "swine flu." About how many tourists enter each year?
8. Which of the following is Not a disaster for which SART needs to prepare?
 - a. Hurricane
 - b. Pandemic influenza
 - c. Meteor strike
 - d. Tsunami

- e. Human terrorism
9. Name two disease agents that can be introduced, transmitted and/or created by people and which pose a potentially significant risk to the people and agriculture of Florida: _____ and _____.
 10. (True or False) SART membership is restricted to government agency employees and first responders.

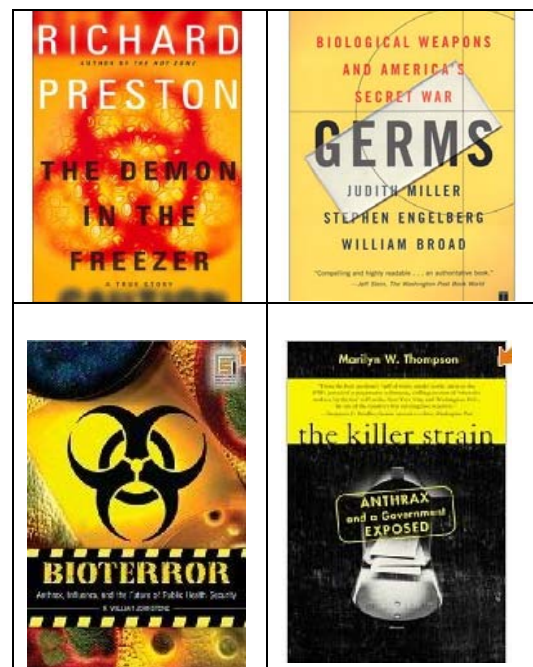
Answers to all of the above questions are contained in a SART Training Module that was developed by Greg Christy, Elizabeth Wang, Carol Lehtola and Charles Brown and can be reviewed by clicking the "Start this presentation" arrow at <http://www.flsart.org/SART/tm?pageID=2>. Many other training materials developed by and for SART – including NIMS and FEMA links – are available through the Training Materials link on the SART web site.

Summer Reading: The Office of Agricultural Emergency Preparedness Suggests Agroterrorism Reading

For "expertise and leadership in homeland security issues" involving food and agricultural systems (plants and animals), including liaison and communication with other offices, agencies and laboratories DOACS turns to the Office of Agricultural Emergency Preparedness.

On its web site at www.doacs.state.fl.us/aep/resource.html the Office lists the following informative materials – sort of a recommended reading list – that help put agroterrorism in a broad and historical perspective. Check with your local library or an on line source such as Amazon.com or Alibris.com.

- "The Demon In The Freezer"
Richard Preston – 2003
How smallpox, a disease officially eradicated twenty years ago, became the biggest bioterrorist threat we now face.
- "GERMS - Biological Weapons and America's Secret War"
Judith Miller, Stephen Engelberg and William Broad – 2002
Incidences of anthrax terrorism in the U.S. leave some people with the impression that biological agents are new weapons. Not so. A history of work on biological weapons during the past 50 years in the U.S. and abroad.
- "The Killer Strain - Anthrax and a Government Exposed"
Marilyn Thompson – 2004



An examination of the federal government's inability to protect citizens from the acts of a determined madman. How billions of dollars and a decade of elaborate bio-terror dress rehearsals meant nothing in the face of a real Anthrax attack.

- “Biohazard”
Ken Alibek with Stephen Handelman – 2000
True story of the largest covert biological weapons program in the world, told from inside by the man who ran it.
- “Countering Agricultural Bioterrorism”
National Research Council of the National Academies Press – 2003
www.national-academies.org
Assesses the vulnerability of U.S. agriculture and provides recommendations for defense against biological threats to agriculture.
- “Food and Agricultural Security: Guarding against Natural Threats and Terrorist Attacks” Thomas W. Frazier and Drew C. Richardson – 2000
Addresses issues concerning the possibility of bioterrorism against crops and animals.

Editorial: Cow burping and cheesy nachos

Yes. Adults talk about this with a straight face.

Cows burp and so do pigs. The scientific data about chickens and goldfish is apparently poorly researched, though cow burping stories have recently been in the news. Without dropping into some community of crude, given a six-pack, a bag of nachos and some hot salsa, I’m out there with the pigs and cows.



[“It wasn’t me. The cow did it.”](#)

What are the facts? How does this relate to the SART mission? And if faced with a question in a public forum, how would you respond? With no credentials as a scientist, I can only juggle a few statistics from the USDA and elsewhere ... and they leave me with more questions than answers:

1. Florida has 1.75 million cattle.
2. The US has about 105 million cattle (and Canada, another 15 million).
3. Annually, in the US, large animal belching produces 25 percent of all methane released (but only 2 percent of all climate-altering pollution).
4. Since first measured in the year 1750, methane has increased in the atmosphere 2 ½ times, from 700 to 1,745 ppb.
5. Because it traps 20-times the heat of carbon dioxide, methane has a high GWP (global warming potential).

SART, of course, is “dedicated to all-hazard disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery for the animal and agriculture sectors in Florida.” The

overwhelming consensus of environmental scientists is that the earth is warming, the ice caps are melting and sea levels are rising. While most students of this phenomena suggest that rising sea levels – leading perhaps to population displacement from our barrier islands and South Florida, to salt water intrusion into that marvelous fruit and vegetable-production basket in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, and other effects – will be slow, some suggest that once set in motion, it could happen very rapidly and, within our lifetimes would be irreversible.

Nevertheless a tax (a fee, surcharge, permit, license ... call it what you will) on farm animals (which has actually been suggested) to inhibit their production and to – in effect – force a change in our diet surely needs a whopper of a debate. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson has called this a “ridiculous notion,” but sometimes these things, once set in political motion take on a life of their own. I personally don't want to have to buy a license to indulge occasionally on beer and nachos, though.

For a more thorough discussion of livestock methane emissions, a press release by Andrew Walmsley of the Florida Farm Bureau, a SART partner, can be read at www.floridafarmbureau.org/press_releases/11172008.

Thoughtfully,
Rick Sapp, Editor



I'm pretty sure the overall effect of a giant platter of cheesy nachos is unhealthy and has heart and artery consequences for years, but just every now and then ...?

About the SART Sentinel

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The SART SENTINEL is an E-mail newsletter prepared monthly by Rick Sapp and the members of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team. Past issues of the *Sentinel* are archived on the Florida SART Web Site, www.flsart.org.

If you have a story or photo that you would like to have considered for publication in *The SART SENTINEL*, please contact the Editors.