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Breaking Bulletin: *Outbreak Anarchy!*

This just in from Chris Floyd, COO of the Capital Area Chapter, American Red Cross! A four-hour tabletop exercise titled “Outbreak Anarchy” is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7 from 9:00-1:00 at the Capital Regional Medical Center, 2626 Care Drive # 109, Tallahassee (see <http://redcross.tallytown.com/panflu/outbreak/>).

This exercise will provide participants an opportunity to learn the importance of working together when an influenza pandemic or other disaster strikes. Participants will work within assigned groups to undertake coordination of activities such as health care planning and preparedness, influenza pandemic response and recovery. Business owners and community leaders from throughout North Florida are invited to participate and to recruit a minimum of three individuals to represent their organization.



American Humane Sponsors Course

The American Humane (AH) is sponsoring a course on disaster relief and animal welfare November 14-15 (Wednesday-Thursday). According to Diane Kriz of AH, anyone interested in the welfare of animals following a disaster should attend. The training is scheduled to cover:

Day 1

- * Intro to American Humane Society
- * Perspective on national disaster response and relief
- * NIMS or incident command briefing
- * Structure of response team
- * Reporting roles
- * Incident specific response and interagency cooperation
- * Disaster Public Relations 101
- * Animal First Aid



American Humane says that its Red Star Animal Emergency Services "Rescue Rig" is on the road to help animal welfare organizations across the country. Newly outfitted and refurbished, this 82-foot-long disaster-response vehicle is available for display and public tours at a selected number of events during the coming year -- at no cost to a participating agency. The Rescue Rig can help your organization, adoption event or fundraiser gain media exposure while educating your community about animal rescue and care during disasters. Contact American Humane at (303) 792-9900.

Day 2

- * Personal Preparedness
- * Human/Animal Shelter co-location
- * Local response coordinated with national team
- * Small animal handling
- * Large animal handling
- * Mock shelter set up and response
- * Debrief and certificate presentation

The Humane Society of Greater Miami will provide food for both days. Tuition is \$85 for American Humane Society members and \$100 for all others. For additional information or for assistance registering, contact:

Dara Solomon, Intern [dara@humanesocietymiami.org]
Humane Society of Greater Miami/Adopt-A-Pet
16101 W. Dixie Highway
North Miami Beach, Florida 33160
(305) 749-1834



A veterinarian performs eye surgery in the American Humane Rescue Rig's surgical unit.

West Nile Virus Fatality in Florida

A Bay County man died after becoming infected with West Nile virus disease in July 2007. Shortly afterward, a second Bay County resident became ill with West Nile, but recovered. The local mosquito control district, along with the Florida A&M University, John A. Mulrennan Sr., Public Health Entomology Research & Education Center (PHEREC) collected mosquito samples from the area where the infected individuals lived and submitted them to the FL Department of Health Bureau of Laboratories – Tampa Branch for testing. None of the mosquito pools were found to be positive for West Nile virus.

Bay County has had four sentinel chickens seroconvert* to West Nile virus, however, during August and September. No equine cases of West Nile have been reported in Florida this year.

Overall, arbovirus activity levels have remained low in 2007. This can be explained in part by the drought-like conditions experienced throughout much of the state. For more information on arbovirus surveillance, please visit <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/community/arboviral/index.html>.



The mosquito is a vector for West Nile virus and equine encephalitis virus.

For information, contact Danielle Stanek, DVM, Medical Epidemiologist-Bureau of Community Environmental Health [Danielle_Stanek@doh.state.fl.us, office 850-245-4117 and cell 850-294-1087].

* Seroconversion: The development of detectable antibodies in the blood directed against an infectious agent. It normally takes some time for antibodies to develop after the initial exposure to the agent. Following seroconversion, a person (or a chicken) tests positive in tests based on the presence of antibodies.

Pandemic Planning for Personnel Shortages

After participating in three health department pandemic tabletop exercises, Volusia County's Division of Emergency Management has established a plan for operating the county with 40 percent of its workforce either sick, taking care of sick loved ones, or afraid to report to work.



Called the “Pandemic Staffing Plan,” it is modeled after the Continuity of Operation Plan (COOP) developed several years ago. Anne-Carol Burke, Community Preparedness Coordinator for the Florida Hospital Association, who has experience working for the Florida Department of Health, wrote Volusia’s plan.

Meeting with each department and their divisions, “mission essential functions” were identified. Then, using a 40 percent absenteeism rate, a staffing plan was established to assure continuity of these functions. The resulting plan identifies personnel qualified to replace managers and supervisors. Gaps in cross training and unique positions, such as those with few back-ups, were identified.

Each department and division forecast activities that could be cut back or temporarily eliminated during a pandemic. For example:

- The Volusia Library system cut its hours and closed some smaller libraries, collapsing their service into larger regional libraries.
- The Volusia County Fire Department identified stations that could go from three to two firefighters per truck, and scheduled administrative staff for shift work.



Providing essential services required by your county residents will be a challenge with half your work force.

Built into the plan were such elements as:

- modifying work schedules to separate employees, thus cutting exposure,
- providing sanitary wipes and gel to workstations (This is now common practice for prevention.)
- discouraging employees from using each other’s telephone and computers as these may spread of disease.

During the plan’s development the importance of information technology became apparent.

According to Richard Moore, the Emergency Management Planner coordinating the project, without the ability to staff the IT department, many county functions simply come to a halt.

Volusia County Emergency Management Director Jim Ryan says that like so many plans, he hopes the county will never have to implement it. “If we have to use it, however,” Ryan says, “the county is better prepared to continue services than we were before.”

For additional information contact Richard Moore at rmoore@co.volusia.fl.us.

FSA Notes October 15th Sign-Up

Farmers who suffered actual crop losses or who were prevented from planting because of natural disasters from 2005-07 may be eligible to receive benefits through the Crop Disaster Program. Sign-up for **quantity** losses begins October 15 while sign-up for **quality** losses will begin shortly. For information, contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office or via the Internet at www.fsa.usda.gov.

SART Members Complete Advanced Training

Florida SART members John Haven, Director of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, and David Perry, DOACS ACP Administrator, have participated in instructor training courses at the Center for Disaster Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama (www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/docs/fs-cdp.htm).



John Haven directs visitors to the Florida VETMED exhibit at the 2007 SART Conference.

Completion of the weeklong E-449 training course allows Haven (who has completed the course) and Perry (who will complete it soon) to teach modules in the Incident Command System. “E-449 is a train-the-trainer program,” Haven says. While IS 100, IS 200 and IS 700 are web based and are required before volunteers can work within governmental systems in emergency situations, E-499 is required to teach IS 300 and IS 400. “We will be able to train SART members without their organization incurring extra charges,” says Haven. “We will also be able to bring the web based classes into the

field and provide SART like context for those who will find this more valuable, and improve their understanding.”

An overview of independent study courses from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is available at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>.

NOTE: The U.F. College of Veterinary Medicine will continue to expand its course offerings in the Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) fields, Equine Technical Rescue and Infectious Disease Training. Details will follow as course dates and locations are announced.



David Perry (right) discusses emergency preparedness issues with Dr. Tom Holt.

Through The Grapevine: Name That Organization!

“The mission of _____ as a network of individuals and organizations, is to prevent cruelty, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children and animals and to assure that their interests and well-being are fully, effectively, and humanely guaranteed by an aware and caring society.

“ _____ envisions a nation where no child or animal will ever be a victim of willful abuse or neglect. As a recognized leader in professional education, training and advocacy, research and evaluation, _____ joins with other similarly missioned individuals and organizations to make this vision a reality.”

**Can you name this organization? See end of newsletter for answer!*

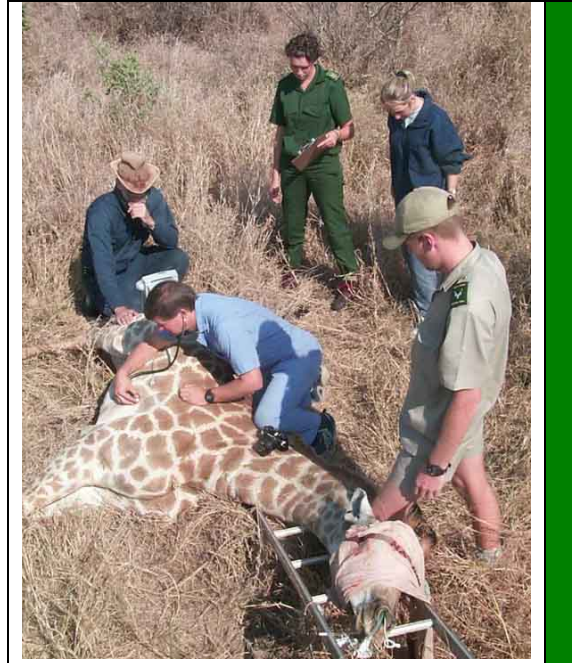
Update – Florida Veterinary Reserve Corps

According to John Haven, Director of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine in Gainesville, the Florida Veterinary Reserve Corps has received more than 50 applications. In early November, Haven says, they will contact vets and vet techs who have expressed interest and roll out the training program. “We are very excited about the opportunity the Vet Corps gives the state of Florida,” Haven says, “to be prepared before an emergency or disaster strikes.”

Florida’s Vet Corps enlists vets and vet techs to volunteer their services responding to animal emergencies in Florida. During activation, volunteers will work within the ESF-17 incident command structure as part of the State Emergency Response Team.

The Corps will be a component of Florida SART under the U.F. College of Veterinary Medicine and FDACS-DAI. Volunteers may serve in infrastructure assessment teams, in triage or emergency animal treatment teams, or in animal disease surveillance or control teams.

Corps volunteers will be asked to serve only when activated but must adhere to state regulations and rules. Minimal training on line and during activation is required. Volunteers will be informed about emergency situations and volunteer needs, but will only be activated in response to specific emergency situations. Volunteers called upon may decline service at any time depending upon their personal needs and circumstances.



Interested individuals are requested to contact John Haven at the College of Veterinary Medicine: (352) 392-2213 x 1-3154 or havenj@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu. (A pdf copy of the application is attached for downloading. It is not an interactive form, however, and it will need to be printed, completed and mailed to Joe Kight, Division of Animal Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 407 S. Calhoun Street, Mayo Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0800.)

FYI: Inter-Agency Avian Influenza Response Training

Four regional avian influenza strike team training events involving Florida Department of Health (FDOH), Epidemiology and Environmental Health strike teams as well as responders from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), United States Department of Agriculture Veterinary Services (USDA VS), USDA Wildlife Services and Florida Fish, and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are ongoing. The sessions are for two days each and provide training for approximately 60 people at each program. Facilitators include Dr. Carina Blackmore and Dr. Richard Hopkins of FDOH, Dr. Tom Holt from FDACS Animal Industries, Dr. Suzan Loerzel of USDA VS and Dr. Dan Wolf of FWC.

Training addresses both the detection of and response to an avian influenza epizootic with possible human infections, and the rapid response to human cases. Topics include the ICS structure in an Avian Influenza response, background on the Florida and US poultry industry, personal protective equipment and biosecurity, human and animal surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, case management, and an overview of strike team challenges and conditions.

The format is introductory presentations with interdisciplinary group exercises and is modeled after a national CDC led interagency exercise. The first training program was recently held at Alachua County Health Department in Gainesville and course evaluations were very positive. Participants felt multi-agency participation was particularly beneficial. Training sessions in Okaloosa, Polk, and Broward County are planned during the next two months.

For information, contact Danielle Stanek, DVM, Medical Epidemiologist-Bureau of Community Environmental Health [Danielle.Stanek@doh.state.fl.us, office 850-245-4117 and cell 850-294-1087].

Homeland Security Conference

"Bringing it Home"



The Peabody Hotel, Orlando.

The Southeast Homeland Security Conference is set for the Peabody Hotel in Orlando December 10-14. Richard Moore, Conference Educational Chair, has passed along the tentative agenda and notes that most speakers are now confirmed. Please check www.sehomelandsecurityconference.com for registration information, the conference brochure and additional details.

This conference is sponsored by the Florida Division of Emergency Management in cooperation with the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT - www.mipt.org), which was begun after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City April 19, 1995. A non-profit "think tank," the MIPT mission is to inform the public about terrorism prevention and responder preparedness.

Additional sponsors include Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Center for Disaster Risk Policy at FSU and the International Emergency Management Society.

Too Late...This Time

In a recent email, SART member Vicki Lawry (vicshady1@aol.com), who is president of AHOOF and affiliated with the Sunshine State Horse Council noted, "We have had a high number of abused and neglected horses found dead this past year and mainly the past two months. I think education is part of it, with feed prices going up and the slaughter issue. Horses in this state cannot survive on grass alone. I'm passing along

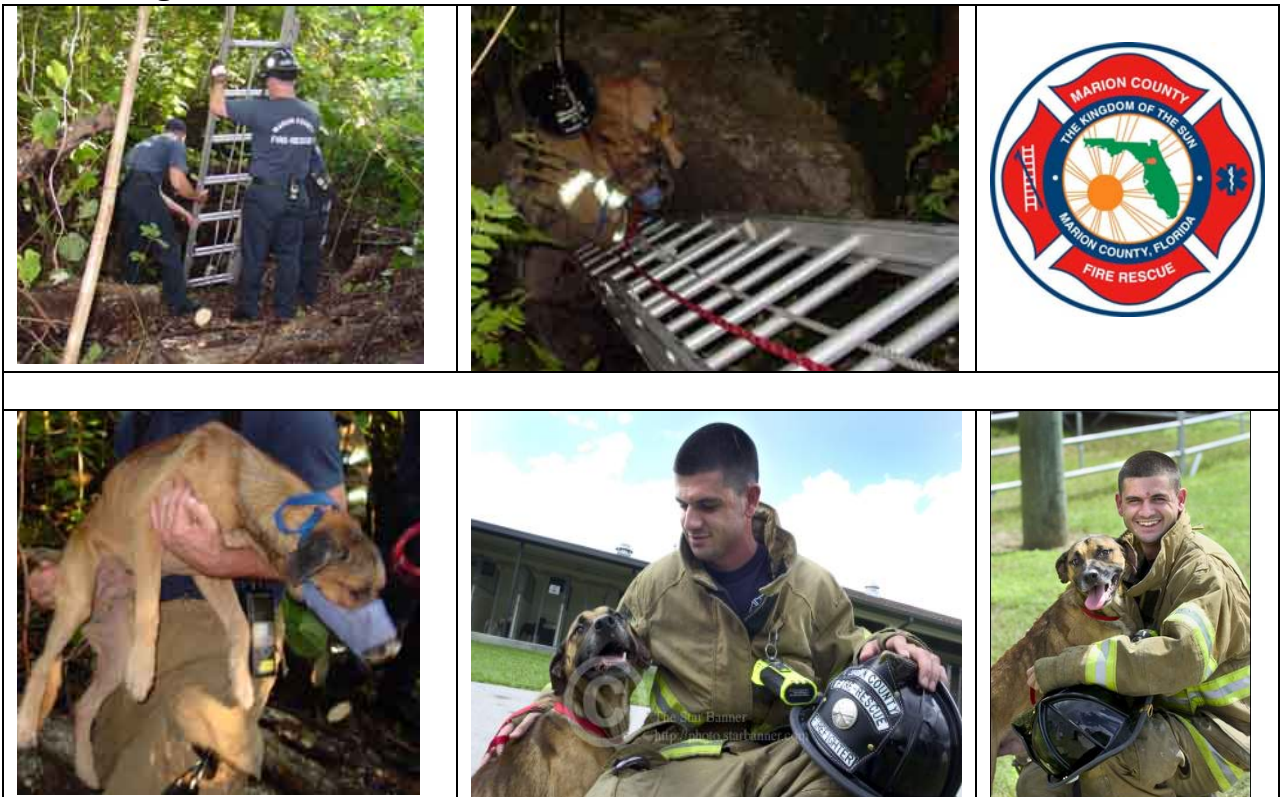


this announcement even though it is late because I believe it is important for our SART members to be aware of training opportunities and sources.”

Bay Area Disaster Animal Response Team (DART) and St. Petersburg College of Veterinary Technology partner to offer 10-week training to the professional veterinary community to become DART Certified. Training is normally restricted to college students and involves understanding disaster situations and equipment used in disaster response. Classes are normally in the evening, one day per week. The SPC Veterinary Technology Parking lot located at 7200 66th St. Pinellas Park, Florida 33781. This training has been approved by the Humane Society of United States (HSUS). If you would like to find out more about this or future events, please email tommy225@tampabay.rr.com.

“Lucky” Receives New Lease On Life

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (October 3, 2007) – “Lucky,” a German Shepherd/Chow mix, has a new lease on life thanks to Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) firefighters and Marion County Code Enforcement Officers. The 20-pound stray wandered into a heavily wooded area located at 17950 NE 21 Court in Citra and became trapped in an abandoned well. Delma Pons, a local resident who lives near the wooded area, called Marion County Code Enforcement and reported hearing a dog barking in the area during the week.



MCFR firefighters received a call to help at 5:05 p.m. and arrived just four minutes later. They used chain saws to cut a 25-foot path through the wooded area and discovered a six-foot wide, 20-foot deep well...and the dog.

Lucky's charm was MCFR firefighter/paramedic Daniel Jodoin who used a 24-foot extension ladder and safety-line to access the canine. This is Jodoin's second animal rescue. He used a pet rescue kit in April to revive five-year-old "Patches," a black and white Shih Tzu that was overcome by smoke in a house fire in Silver Springs Shores.

Code Enforcement Field Supervisor Dennis Underwood said the dog – he named it "Lucky" – was taken to an emergency veterinarian clinic where it was treated for dehydration and hunger. Placed on a special diet, Lucky was also treated for heartworms. Once Lucky is healthy – *and neutered* – Underwood said, the dog is available for adoption from the Marion County Animal Center (352) 671-8700.

***Through The Grapevine Answer**

It is "American Humane" and you can learn all about this 150-year-old organization at its web site www.americanhumane.org.

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.