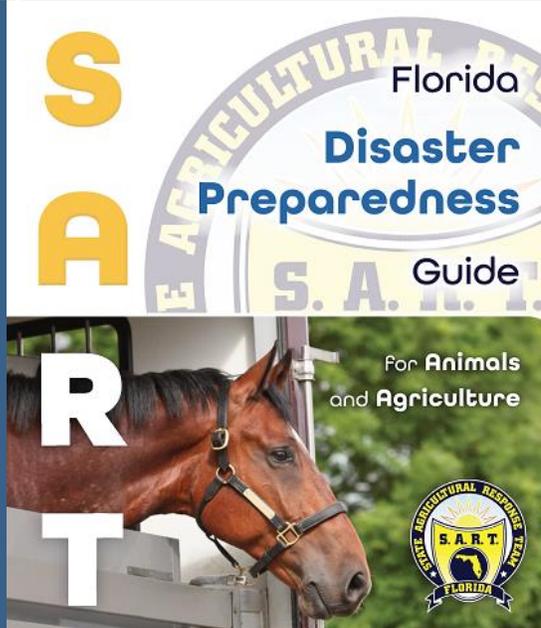




# The Sentinel

Newsletter of  
the Florida State  
Agricultural  
Response Team



Introducing the new Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide!

## SART Publishes Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture

FDACS The Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture developed by the State Agricultural Response Team (SART) and Emergency Support Function 17 (ESF 17) has been complete and posted to the SART website, [flsart.org](http://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, [Florida SART - State Agricultural Response Team \(flsart.org\)](http://Florida SART - State Agricultural Response Team (flsart.org)).

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.

Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide for Animals and Agriculture was a collaborative effort and would not have been possible if it were not for their contribution.

*A sample of the Captive Wildlife section follows on pages 2-3. Acknowledgements for the guide are found on page 14.*

### Special Features of this Issue:

- Hurricane Season Prep
- Train with Florida SARC
- Enjoy Food Safe Treats This Halloween

***"The more you know and are thinking about this kind of stuff, the more prepared we will be."***

— Dr. Terry Clekis  
Veterinarian, Braden River Animal Hospital  
Chair, FVMA's Disaster Response Committee  
*Story on page 17.*





# Captive Wildlife

**The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Captive Wildlife Office** is primarily responsible for regulating the possession of wildlife in captivity in Florida. The Captive Wildlife Office issues licenses and permits for the possession, sale and exhibition of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. A permit or license is required to possess, sell or exhibit wildlife in most cases.

## **Why Captive Wildlife Owners Need to Be Prepared**

Disasters can strike at any time – sometimes without warning. Going through disasters cannot only be stressful on you and your family, but it can also be stressful on your wildlife. The best defense against disasters is to be properly prepared. Having a plan of action before, during and after a disaster can ease the stress on both you and your wildlife.

## *Here are a few things captive wildlife owners and facilities can do right now to prepare:*

- 1 Review and update your Captive Wildlife Critical Incident Disaster Plan (CIDP), Part B.** FWC requires a CIDP of all new and renewal applicants wishing to possess captive wildlife (For personal use, exhibition, or public sale), venomous reptiles and/or reptiles of concern. The CIDP ensures that you are proactive in preparing for any emergency event

that could potentially disrupt the orderly operation of your facility or impact public safety. Your CIDP needs to be realistic and easily carried out. Have several copies of your CIDP available so that everyone at the facility will have a clear understanding of the plan. The CIDP template can be found on the FWC website at [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com).

- 2 Have an up-to-date evacuation plan in place.** Your plan should include somewhere safe for your wildlife to go if evacuation is necessary. Have a minimum of two evacuation routes prepared, if possible, in case one route is blocked or impossible. Additionally, have multiple locations planned and available where wildlife can be temporarily housed.

- 3 Make sure your transportation equipment is adequate and functional.**

Transportation equipment can include, but is not limited to, travel trailers, travel enclosures and chemical immobilization equipment. Some questions to ask yourself now are: Do I have equipment capable of transporting my wildlife? Is the equipment I have operable at this time? If not, what do I need to do to ensure the transportation equipment is functional when needed? Do I have enough darts and chemicals for my wildlife that requires immobilization?

- 4 Inventory your supplies.** Prior to a natural disaster occurring, ensure that you have enough supplies to cover the needs of your wildlife. Some supplies to consider are food, water, medication(s), and supplemental vitamins. Suggested practice is to have enough provisions/supplies to last at least 3 days.



- 5 Conduct routine maintenance.**

Routinely inspect the wildlife enclosures, as well as their surroundings, for required maintenance. Repairing loose or rusty fencing, adding additional connecting material, fixing any drainage issues or erosion around the bottom of enclosures, and trimming or cutting any limbs or trees near enclosures can help prevent serious damage.

- 6 Have copies of the veterinary records for your wildlife.** These records should be stored in a safe location and may be helpful and necessary for reentering the state should you be forced to evacuate to another state with your wildlife.

- 7 It is encouraged to communicate with your local Captive Wildlife Investigator at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, if you have any questions or concerns.**



## Continuing Biosecurity Measures for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza



The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a non-commercial poultry in Florida. With the potential for HPAI infections on the rise, it is important to take steps to ensure your poultry flock, whether it is commercial or non-commercial, is protected. One way to ensure you are protected is by joining the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). NPIP helps protect Florida's poultry industry from serious disease outbreaks by conducting disease surveillance. This surveillance looks for diseases such as Pullorum-Typhoid, Avian Influenza and Exotic Newcastle Disease. This is not a guarantee that joining the NPIP program will prevent you from a possible HPAI infection. Poultry owners still need to follow strict biosecurity to ensure their flocks are as protected as possible from diseases. Previous HPAI infections have been noted on farms that allow free-range poultry.

### Biosecurity

Protecting your birds from disease has always been important. Maintain strict biosecurity measures by taking the following precautions to help minimize the risk of introduction of HPAI to your birds and protect Florida's poultry industry.

- 1. Eliminate opportunities for your birds to interact with wild birds.** We know that wild waterfowl are carriers of disease, including HPAI. The best way to avoid diseases that wildlife carry is to keep domestic animals separated from the wild.
- 2. If you have birds at home, do not visit another farm, home or facility that also has birds.** If you must visit another premises, be sure to shower and put on clean clothes and shoes beforehand.
- 3. Remember that vehicles can be vehicles for disease transmission.** Before you drive down the road, consider where you are going. Will you be heading to the fair, another farm, or a live bird market? If the answer is yes, be sure your vehicle is clean and free of dirt, manure and other organic material.
- 4. Early detection can help prevent the spread of disease.** Knowing the signs to look for and monitoring the health of your birds on a regular basis is very important. Some signs to look for include nasal discharge, unusually quiet birds, decreased food and water consumption, drop in egg production, and increased/unusual death loss in your flock.
- 5. Report sick and dead birds to state health officials immediately.** If your birds appear sick or you have experienced increased mortality, report it immediately to the appropriate phone number located at the top of this webpage.

*Continued, next page.*

## Is Your Poultry Flock Part of the NPIP? (continued)

### For Bird Handlers

- When working indoors, work in well-ventilated areas.
- When working outdoors, work upwind of birds to decrease risk of inhaling aerosols such as dust, feathers or dander.
- When possible, wear rubber or latex gloves that are disposable or can be disinfected.
- When possible, wear protective eye wear or a face shield while handling birds.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Disinfect work surfaces and equipment.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling birds.

### For Hunters and Others Handling Birds

- Precautions should include hand washing, proper food preparation, and thorough cooking.
- Do not handle or eat sick game.
- Wear rubber or disposable latex gloves while handling and cleaning game, and thoroughly wash hands and all knives, equipment and surfaces that come in contact with game.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while handling animals.
- Avian influenza viruses are destroyed by heat and not transmitted through cooked food.
- All fowl should be cooked thoroughly (well done or 160 degrees F).

### Resources

- [www.FDACS.gov/AI](http://www.FDACS.gov/AI)
- [USDA APHIS | 2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#)
- [USDA APHIS | Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(HPAI\)](#)
- [Influenza | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](#)
- [www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/)
- [How Infected Backyard Poultry Could Spread Bird Flu to People \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Avian Influenza | Avian Influenza \(Flu\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)

**Biosecurity Guidelines for the Farmer or Producer**

Biosecurity is what a producer or farmer can do to reduce the chances of infectious diseases from being carried onto the farm or facility by people, animals, equipment, or vehicles. The threats of foreign animal disease or emerging diseases from other areas of the world have increased awareness of the need for enhanced biosecurity on the farm.

**Prevention is the Key!**  
Create and Implement a Visitor Policy

Visitors, salespeople, tourists, staff, service personnel, and veterinarians can all serve as carriers and spread disease.

- Require all visitors to the farm to check in with a designated farm representative.
- Monitor all visitors while on the farm.
- Post signs to inform visitors of rules to be followed while on the farm.
- Do not allow visitors into the livestock area or barns unless absolutely necessary.
- Visitors should put on disposable booties or disinfect footwear before entering the livestock area.
- Provide hand-washing stations or disposable gloves to visitors.
- Do not allow anyone onto the farm who has visited a farm in a foreign country until 7 days have passed after returning to the United States.

**Protect Animals from Disease: Introduction**

- Never purchase ill animals.
- Isolate any newly purchased animals to look for signs of developing illness or disease. A good rule is to isolate newly purchased animals for 30 days. Feed and handle these animals last.
- Animals returning from a show, auction, or event should be treated as newly purchased animals and isolated for 30 days.
- Isolate any ill animals.
- The farm perimeter fencing should be secure to prevent contact with animals from neighboring farms.
- Limit animal contact with pets and wildlife, which can spread disease.
- Do not feed table scraps, human food products, or garbage to animals.
- Do not lend or borrow equipment unless it is cleaned and disinfected before it is used.
- Clean and disinfect all vehicles or trailers carrying livestock between shipments.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment used on ill animals before use on healthy animals.
- Clean and disinfect dehomers, hoof knives, and clippers between animals.
- Clean and disinfect nursing bottles and buckets after each feeding.
- Vaccinate against diseases regularly.

**Personnel Training and Sanitation**

- Train all farmworkers to recognize signs of animal illness and disease.
- Farmworkers must ensure disease is not spread between animals at work and animals at home.
- Farmworkers should arrive to work in clean clothes and boots or use clothing and boots left on the farm.
- Wash hands thoroughly with disinfectant soap before and after accessing livestock areas or barns.
- Feed and handle healthy animals first, and ill animals last.
- Have employees use disposable gloves, coveralls and booties, or disinfectant footbaths to prevent the spread of disease between healthy livestock and ill animals.

# Pet-Friendly Sheltering Online Training (FL-017)



The Florida State Agricultural Response Team (SART) 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 will include useful information on how to:

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

Students will receive a downloadable **Tool Kit** that offers guidance and plan templates, and a **state-certified Certificate of Completion** approved by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

## COURSE DATE

August 2020

## COURSE LENGTH

4 hours

## COURSE FEE

Free

## COURSE MODE

100% online at  
[www.FLSART.org](http://www.FLSART.org)

## PRIMARY AUDIENCE

Emergency Managers  
County Employees  
Veterinary/Animal Services  
Shelter Volunteers

## PROVIDED BY

Florida State Agricultural  
Response Team (SART)

## CERTIFICATE

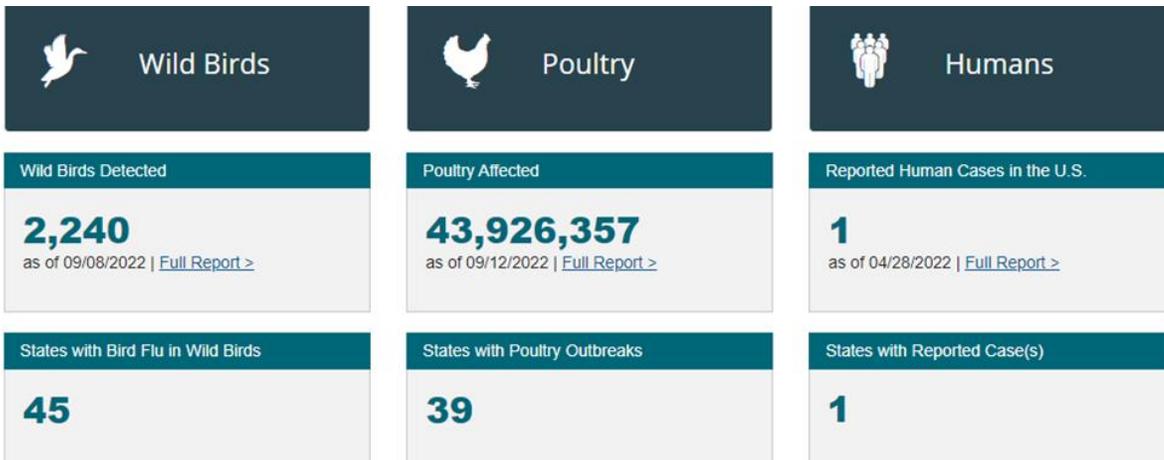
State-Certified  
Course Code FL-017

## POINT OF CONTACT

LeiAnna Tucker  
Florida Department of  
Agriculture and Consumer  
Services  
(850) 410-0920  
[LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov](mailto:LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov)



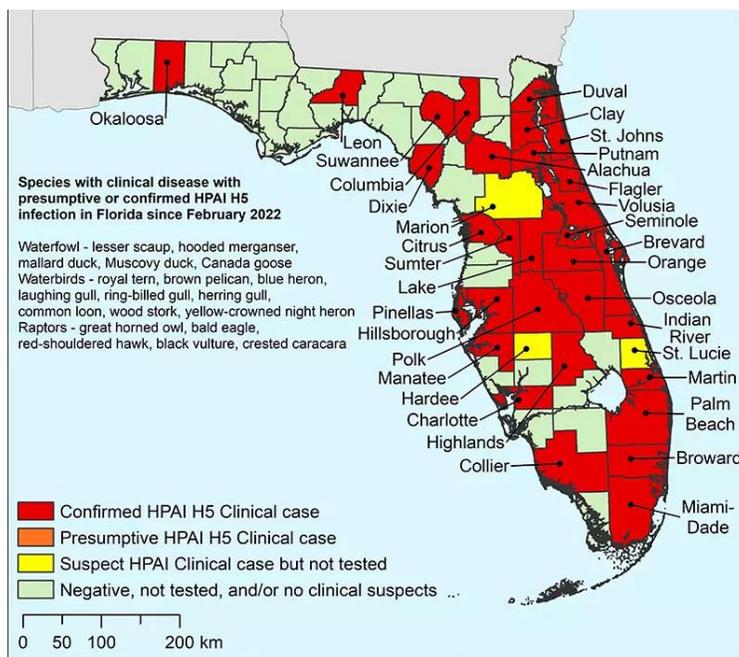
# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Found in Wild Birds in Florida



[Bird Flu Current Situation Summary](#) | [Avian Influenza \(Flu\)](#) (cdc.gov) Updated September 13, 2022

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has been monitoring the presence of confirmed cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) strain: H5 2.3.4.4 in a lesser scaup, black vultures and other avian species around Florida. There is a low risk of HPAI transmission to humans and, to date, there has only been one known human infection in North America.

To prevent the spread of HPAI, the public should avoid handling sick or dead wildlife, prohibit the contact of domestic birds with wild birds, and report [wild bird mortalities](#) to FWC so deaths can be investigated. Please be advised that because HPAI is not treatable and is easily transmitted in wild birds, some wildlife rehabbers may not be accepting these animals at this time. Those with free-range chickens are at higher risk of HPAI infection due to lack of security and close proximity to wild birds.



The FWC is working closely with the United States Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, University of Florida, National Wildlife Health Center, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, Florida Department of Health, and wildlife rehabilitators to investigate mortality events involving wild birds. For more information on HPAI in wild birds, visit the [FWC Avian Influenza](#) website.



## ✓ Checklist: Tips To Help Keep Your Flocks Healthy

This checklist is a general guide to practicing good biosecurity, but if you have a site-specific biosecurity plan, please follow it. Commercial growers should be sure their site-specific plans follow the National Poultry Improvement Plan biosecurity principles.

- Wear personal protective equipment** or clothing and shoes that you only use when caring for your poultry. This includes boot covers or boots that can be disinfected. Change into fresh protective gear between poultry houses or coops.
- Enclosures must be empty for a thorough cleaning.** If you have a poultry house, wait until the house is empty to start the cleaning process. If you have a coop or other type of enclosure, move the birds to a separate area before cleaning.
- Remove all litter, manure, and other debris.**
- “Dry” clean all areas**—brush, scrape, and shovel off manure, feathers, and other materials. Disinfectant will not penetrate organic matter or caked-on dirt.
- “Wet” clean all surfaces**—scrub with water and detergent. Work from top to bottom and back to front.
- Rinse all surfaces carefully with water.**
- Apply disinfectant** according to the directions on the label. Be sure to use a disinfectant that is registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and indicates that it is effective against avian influenza and other poultry diseases.
- Leave the enclosure empty** until it is completely dry. Use fans and/or open doors and windows to help speed the drying process. Wet surfaces can be harmful to poultry.
- When you’re done, remove and discard** your protective gear. If using dedicated clothing and boots, change clothing and clean and disinfect your boots.
- Wash your hands thoroughly** with soap and water. Wash and dry your dedicated clothing.

For more information about how to keep your flocks healthy, follow **Defend the Flock** on **Facebook** and **Twitter** and visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalhealth/defendtheflock).



## Participation in the NPIP Program

To become an NPIP Participant, you must:

- Complete and submit an application for participation to the FDACS, Division of Animal Industry
- Have your premises and facilities inspected and approved
- Have your flock tested negative for Pullorum-Typhoid

Participation helps to ensure a healthy poultry industry in the state of Florida, and allows flock owners greater ease in moving hatching eggs and live birds within the state and across state lines to shows and exhibitions. If your flock qualifies, a certification card and flock approval number will be issued to the participant by the FDACS. To maintain your NPIP status, your flock must be tested annually.



### State Veterinarian's Office

Telephone: (850) 410-0900  
 Toll Free: 1-877-815-0034  
 24 Hour Reporting: 1-800-342-5869  
 Email: rad@FreshFromFlorida.com

Division of Animal Industry  
 Florida Department of  
 Agriculture and Consumer Services

[www.FreshFromFlorida.com/ai](http://www.FreshFromFlorida.com/ai)

FDACSP-00041 Rev. 07/15

## NATIONAL POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN



Florida Department of  
 Agriculture and Consumer Services



**T**he National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is a cooperative Federal-State-Industry mechanism for controlling certain important diseases of poultry. It is a voluntary program developed by the USDA in 1935 and consists of a variety of programs to control egg-transmitted and hatchery-disseminated diseases. It establishes standards for evaluation and certification of poultry flocks and hatching eggs with respect to freedom from certain poultry diseases. Over 95 percent of the U.S. breeding and hatching industry participates in the program. In Florida, the NPIP is administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Participation in the NPIP is voluntary, but flocks must first qualify as "Pullorum-Typhoid Clean" as a condition for participating in other NPIP programs.



Flock owners are encouraged to participate in this program as Subpart E Participants.

### The NPIP program consists of different subparts.

- Subpart B:** commercial egg industry
- Subpart C:** commercial meat industry
- Subpart D:** commercial turkey industry
- Subpart E:** exhibition and game birds

## Florida NPIP Program

Raising chickens, turkeys, and other types of poultry – whether done for profit or pleasure – entails undertaking the serious responsibility of disease prevention. The objective of the Florida NPIP Program is to monitor for and prevent/control poultry diseases that could be devastating to the state's poultry industry. Part of this objective is to provide education and assistance to backyard flock owners (non-commercial birds and other poultry) about flock best management practices for disease prevention and control, sanitary environments for raising poultry and implementing biosecurity measures to protect one's flock from diseases as well as preventing spread of diseases to other flocks.

### Program Diseases

In order to protect Florida's poultry industry from serious disease outbreaks, the Florida NPIP Program conducts disease surveillance activities at both commercial and non-commercial poultry farms and hatcheries throughout the state for the following diseases: Pullorum-Typhoid, Avian Influenza and Exotic Newcastle Disease. These diseases are highly contagious and pose a serious threat to the economic viability of the state's valuable poultry industry. Non-commercial poultry owners can help ensure that Florida's poultry industry is not affected by these diseases.



## Hurricane Season Prep

As Florida enters the height of Hurricane Season, it is important to take stock of your personal resources that you have available to get you through, at minimum, the next 72 hours following a storm. As we look at our neighbors in [Jackson, Mississippi](#), we see how important having a plan can be. After a hurricane, many people find themselves without clean water and without power. [Ready.gov](#) states that “water quickly becomes a precious resource following many disasters.”



On top of having an emergency reserve of food and water, it is important to have an evacuation plan in case an evacuation order has been issued or conditions worsen to the point where it is unsafe to stay in your home. At that point, having preplanned destinations to evacuate to is essential. If you have pets, it is essential that you take your animal with you as you evacuate as animals do not have a means of evacuating on their own. Coordinate with your evacuation location to ensure they will allow you to bring your pets. Under Florida Law, if a county opens a shelter for people, they must also open pet friendly shelter. You can visit the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services [website](#) to view links that help you plan for where to go with your pets.

The 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season runs through November 30, with the historical peak of the season occurring in September. While the season has been off to a relatively quiet start, disasters can strike at any time. The Division of Emergency Management encourages Floridians to stay prepared and take advantage of no-cost and low-cost disaster preparedness activities, including:

- **Make a Plan** – Every household should have a disaster plan specific to the needs of their household. Every individual in the household should assist in developing the emergency plan and understand the plan. Visit [FloridaDisaster.org/Family-Plan](https://www.floridadisaster.org/Family-Plan) for more information.
- **Know Your Zone, Know Your Home** – It's important for residents to know if they live in an evacuation zone, a low-lying, flood-prone area, a mobile home or an unsafe structure during hurricane season. It is also very important for residents to know their home and its ability to withstand strong winds and heavy rain. This information will help residents better understand orders from local officials during a storm. Visit [FloridaDisaster.org/Know](https://www.floridadisaster.org/Know) for more information.
- **Keep Gas Tanks Half Full** – Residents should keep their gas tanks at least half full during hurricane season to ensure they have enough fuel to evacuate as soon as possible without worrying about long lines at gas stations and to avoid gas shortages prior to a storm.



# DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST



## General

- Two week minimum supply of medication, regularly used medical supplies, and a list of allergies
- A list of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of required medical devices
- Batteries
- Flashlights  
*Do not use candles*
- NOAA Weather Radio  
*Battery operated or hand cranked*
- Cash  
*Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm*
- Cell phone chargers
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

## Phone Numbers

- Maintain a list of important phone numbers including:  
*County emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, a number for out of town contacts, friends and family*

## Clothing

- Rain gear such as jackets, hats, umbrellas and rain boots
- Sturdy shoes or boots and work gloves

## Special Needs Items

- Specialty items for infants, small children, the elderly, and family members with disabilities

## First Aid

- First Aid Manual
- Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes
- Sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Sewing needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Disinfectant wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Thermometer
- Tube of petroleum jelly
- Safety pins
- Soap
- Latex gloves
- Sunscreen
- Aspirin or other pain reliever
- Anti-diarrheal medicine
- Antacid
- Laxative
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips

## Food and Water

- Food  
*Nonperishable packaged or canned food and beverages, snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary items to last at least 7 days*
- Water  
*1 gallon per person per day*
- Non-electric can opener
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Plastic cups
- Utensils

## Important Documents

- Insurance cards
- Medical records
- Banking information
- Credit card numbers
- Copies of social security cards
- Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates
- Other personal documents
- Set of car, house, and office keys
- Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership
- Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and dosage
- Copy of Will

*\*Items should be kept in a water proof container*

## Vehicle

- Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline

## Pet Care Items

- Pet food and water to last at least 7 days
- Proper identification
- Medical records/microchip information
- A carrier or cage
- Muzzle and leash
- Water and food bowls
- Medications
- Supplies for your service animal

Find more disaster preparedness tips at [FloridaDisaster.org](http://FloridaDisaster.org)

## 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](mailto: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

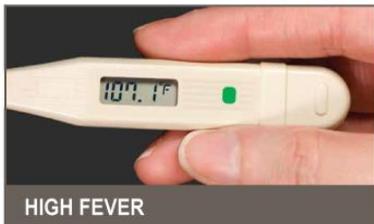


Photo Credit: USDA APHIS Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center

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 Patrol 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...

- [Governor Ron DeSantis Commemorates 5th Anniversary of Hurricane Irma, Encourages Floridians to Prepare for Historical Peak of Hurricane Season](#)
- [Commissioner Nikki Fried Announces \\$24.8 Million Local Food Cooperative Agreement with USDA to Support Underserved Producers](#)
- [U.S. sweltered through third-hottest summer on record](#)

# EDIBLES TO PLANT IN October



	North	Central	South
 <b>EASY TO TRANSPLANT</b>	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry, Swiss Chard	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Strawberry, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tropical Spinaches	Arugula, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Chinese Cabbage, Collards, Eggplant, Endive, Kale, Kohlrabi, Lettuce, Peppers, Strawberry, Sugarcane, Swiss Chard, Tomatillo, Tomatoes, Tropical Spinaches
 <b>TRANSPLANT WITH CARE</b>	Celery, Mustard, Spinach	Celery, Mustard, Pineapple, Spinach	Amaranth, Calabaza, Celery, Long Squashes, Luffa, Mustard, Pineapple, Potatoes, Seminole Pumpkin, Spinach
 <b>USE SEEDS</b>	Carrots, Onions (bunching), Radish, Turnips	Carrots, Onions (bulbing, bunching), Radish, Turnips	Beans (bush, lima, pole), Carrots, Corn, Cucumbers, Okra, Onions (bulbing, bunching), Peas (southern), Radish, Squashes, Turnips

**UF** IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Gardening SOLUTIONS

GardeningSolutions.ifas.ufl.edu  
Text only: go.ufl.edu/EdibleText



## 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.

[Vegetables to Plant in October - Gardening Solutions - 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](mailto:LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov).



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## Florida State Animal Response Coalition

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.

Awareness Level	Operations Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>October 15, 2022</li><li>December 3, 2022</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>TBD</li></ul>

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

## SART Monthly Meeting

Due to Hurricane Ian, the September SART Monthly Meeting was postponed. The next scheduled meeting is October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM EST. This meeting will be hosted in Gainesville, Florida. Agenda topics include an update on the In-Kind partner contributions, an animal disease update, and SART updates. The SART Monthly Meeting is for SART partner agencies and is not intended for the public. Please contact LeiAnna Tucker at [LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov](mailto:LeiAnna.Tucker@FDACS.gov) for additional information.



## Florida Disaster Preparedness Guide Thank You! (Continued from page 1)

Thank you to the below contributors. Your help has made the Disaster Preparedness Guide possible.

### Florida State Agricultural Response Team (Florida SART)

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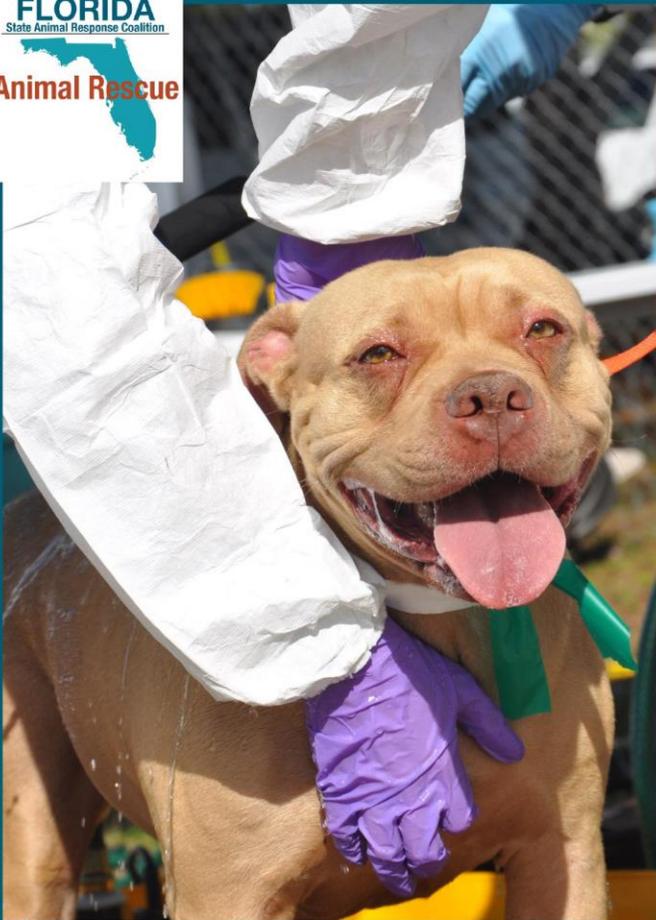
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# TRAIN WITH FLORIDA SARC

## WE HAVE THE SKILLS TO SAVE THEM

Florida SARC is the only FEMA-approved organization that teaches people how to build and operate a temporary emergency animal shelter in response to natural disasters and large cruelty cases.

Join us on Saturday  
October 15th, 2022  
At Jefferson County  
Emergency Mgmt  
Office



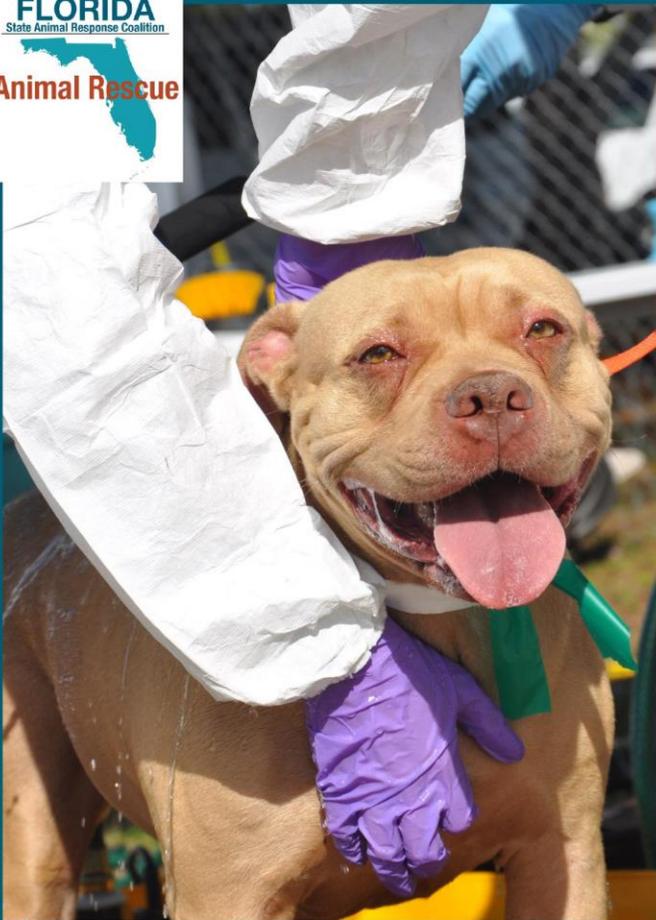
**THIS TRAINING IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AT JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND FLORIDA SART**

### Florida SARC will teach you:

- Disaster management.
- Ensuring you are ready to deploy.
- Designing an emergency animal shelter.
- Responding appropriately to animal behavior.
- Recognizing diseases and parasites.
- Cleaning and disinfecting appropriately.
- Tearing down ready for the next disaster.

**This class is offered for FREE for a limited time - use code SART at check out  
To sign up, visit [FLSARC.org](http://FLSARC.org) or scan the QR code.**

**BECAUSE THE ENTIRE FAMILY MATTERS**



# TRAIN WITH FLORIDA SARC

## WE HAVE THE SKILLS TO SAVE THEM

Florida SARC is the only FEMA-approved organization that teaches people how to build and operate a temporary emergency animal shelter in response to natural disasters and large cruelty cases.

Join us on Saturday  
December 3rd 2022  
At Bay County Dept  
of Emergency  
Services



**THIS TRAINING IS MADE POSSIBLE BY BAY COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES AND FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM**

### Florida SARC will teach you:

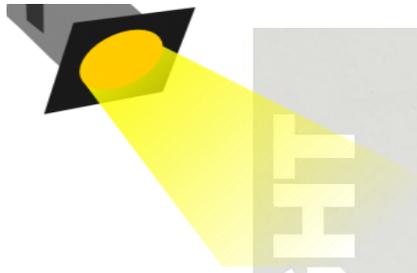
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**BECAUSE THE ENTIRE FAMILY MATTERS**

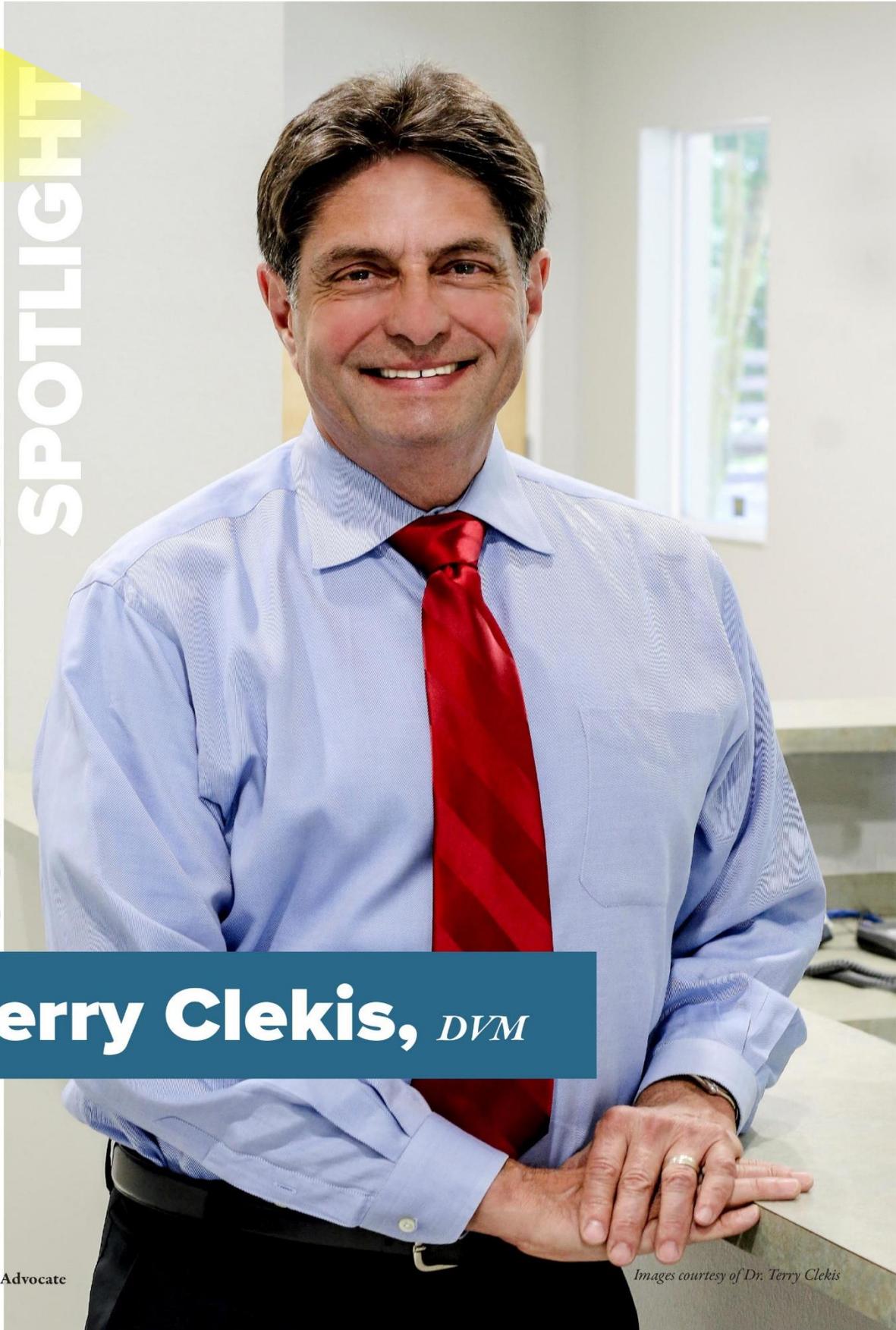
# SART Partner Spotlight: Dr. Terry Clekis

Presented by FVMA Advocate



**DISASTER RELIEF  
COMMITTEE CHAIR**

**SPOTLIGHT**



**Terry Clekis, *DVM***

FVMA Advocate

*Images courtesy of Dr. Terry Clekis*

From an early age, Dr. Terry Clekis always knew he wanted to become a veterinarian. After completing his undergraduate studies at the College of Charleston and graduate studies in reproductive physiology at the University of Georgia, Dr. Clekis went on to attend and graduate from the University of Georgia's veterinary school in 1983.

After gaining experience as an associate veterinarian and hospital owner in the Charleston, South Carolina area, and St. Petersburg, Florida, Dr. Clekis purchased Braden River Animal Hospital in 2002 and built the current, state-of-the-art facility behind the original building in 2007. After many successful years at Braden River Animal Hospital, Dr. Clekis further expanded the grounds by building a new boarding and grooming center adjacent to Braden River Animal Hospital to help offer comprehensive care. In 2017, he expanded to the greater Sarasota-Bradenton area and opened North River Animal Hospital in Parrish, Florida.

Today, Dr. Clekis is instrumental and influential in setting the direction for veterinary medicine. He is widely known for his expertise in wellness care, and he routinely speaks on the use of cutting-edge products and protocols related to veterinary medicine. Dr. Clekis has also been featured in many local, state and national publications such as *Veterinarian Compendium* and the *Merrial Monitor*. Under his leadership, Braden River Animal Hospital is one of the few nationally recognized clinical trial research sites for all major animal health pharmaceutical companies. He is also well-known for his work in organized veterinary medicine and disaster relief.

When Dr. Clekis moved back to Florida in 1992, he began working with Bill Goldstein, who became his mentor. Dr. Clekis credits Dr. Goldstein's involvement in the Florida Veterinary Medical Association (FVMA) and American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) as his driving force for joining organized veterinary medicine.

"He taught me that it was important to give back to organized veterinary medicine. Before then, I would go to meetings and stuff like that, but I never really thought I was one of those 'joiner' kind of guys," Dr. Clekis said. "It was under his guidance and suggestions, suggestions more like 'You're going to the freaking



meetings!' that I learned it was important to give back to the profession that's been supporting me."

Dr. Clekis was instrumental in starting and serving as president of the Manatee County Veterinary Medical Society. In 2007, he was awarded a Gold Star Award by the FVMA, which recognizes outstanding contributions to veterinary medicine. In 2019, he was awarded Veterinarian of the Year for his outstanding leadership, service and dedication to his team while offering aid in the Florida Panhandle after Hurricane Michael. He was a board member of the Southeast Guide Dog Association, the Manatee County Humane Society and the American Heartworm Society. Dr. Clekis is an active member of the AVMA, the FVMA, and the Florida Veterinary Corps.



[www.fvma.org](http://www.fvma.org) [@thefvma](https://www.facebook.com/thefvma) [@the\\_fvma](https://twitter.com/the_fvma) [@thefvma](https://www.instagram.com/thefvma)

Dr. Clekis said one of his greatest passions involves giving back to the veterinary community and supporting younger veterinary professionals. His reputation landed him an invite to serve as a facilitator for Veterinary Management Group (VMG), where he organizes biannual meetings of twenty veterinarians from across the country to discuss best business practices in an ever-changing industry.

As Dr. Clekis became involved in organized veterinary medicine, he began to lean toward disaster relief. And then, in 2004, four hurricanes, Charlie, Francis, Ivan and Gene, rocked Florida and brought Dr. Clekis truly into the disaster community. An advocate of preparedness, he cites having a plan as the most important thing veterinarians and their offices can do to be ready.

"The more people who know and are thinking about this kind of stuff, the more prepared we will be," he said, "and the better cared for the animals of the state will be. Disaster preparedness starts at home. Priority is to take care of your family first and expand that to your business, staff, clients, etc. Once your family and business are secured that's half the battle, only then you can start reaching out to your colleagues to assist."

Dr. Clekis has served as the FVMA's Disaster Response Committee Chair since 2010, where he is responsible for ensuring that all veterinary hospitals have a plan of action for their clients and patients in the event of a natural disaster. Thinking about his veterinary legacy, Dr. Clekis hopes the disaster preparedness committee will be organized, self-sufficient and more than a committee of one – himself. At the end of his tenure, he aims for it to be a self-perpetuating, well-oiled machine that anyone can step into – and he encourages the veterinary community to step up. Having a plan, distributing disaster preparedness information to clients, and reaching out locally to emergency operations centers and other county officials. He notes that it's key to establish relationships before disaster strikes.

"The more you can reach out locally the better the response, rather than waiting on state or national responses. You need to be prepared yourself. I'm in a very unique position to have these relationships with industry, with the state, the FVMA, the University of Florida and just by the nature of my personality, I know a lot of people. Disaster medicine is a relationship business. The time to meet people is not during a disaster but before. It's amazing thing to I know I can bring people together and facilitate a response, just based on who I know."

Dr. Clekis enjoys being a vital part of the Manatee County and Bradenton communities. Whether in the hospital, educating on disaster preparedness or on the road with his family in their RV, Dr. Clekis is committed to ensuring that he does everything in his power to build long-term relationships with anyone he comes in contact with.

When asked about why he has dedicated so much time and effort to this work, he only has one answer: "To give back to the community that has welcomed me with open arms."

#### FVMA Advocate



## Food Safety and Food Defense Report

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

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

### Enjoy Food Safe Treats This Halloween

With Halloween right around the corner, learning more about Halloween food safety could help prevent illness with your family or friends. Visit the [Division of Food Safety's Fall Food Safety website](#) to access an interactive Halloween Food Safety Flyer to help you check off the important items for the big night as well as an informative Halloween Food Safety video with important tips to help keep you and your family food safe.

Interested in other food safety topics? Visit the [Division of Food Safety's Consumer Resources and Outreach website](#) to find helpful videos, flyers, and more listed by category!



# Halloween is a real treat!



Follow these simple tips to help prepare and protect your family for the big night:



Give children a light meal or snack before they go trick-or-treating—don't send them out on an empty stomach.



Tell children not to accept—and especially not eat—anything that isn't wrapped.



If children want a tasty sweet, urge them to wait until they get home so you can inspect their loot before they eat any of it.



Inspect wrapped treats for signs of tampering like unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes, or tears in wrappers. Throw away anything that looks suspicious.



If your child has a food allergy, check the label to make sure the allergen isn't listed. (*Important Note: Candy purchased in bulk bags may not be individually labeled with ingredients or allergen warnings.*)



If you have very young children, remove any choking hazards like gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys.



Before and after eating treats, wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.



## SART Resources and Links



### **FEMA National Resources Hub:**

[National Resource Hub - Preparedness Toolkit](#)  
[FEMA Resources on YouTube](#)

### **Veterinary Services Training and Exercise Program (VSTEP):**

[USDA APHIS | Veterinary Services Training and Exercise Program](#)

### **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](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/disaster_preparedness_and_recovery)

*Please log in and update  
your membership  
information online at:*

[www.FLSART.org](http://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](http://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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