

Workbook



Emergency First Aid for Cats and Dogs



SART Training Media



Emergency First Aid for Cats and Dogs

Workbook

Prepared by: Dr. Amy Stone, Clinical Assistant Professor – Small Animal Surgery,
Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine
Eric Hallman, Agricultural Safety Specialist,
Charles M. Brown, Information and Publications Specialist,
Carol J. Lehtola, Associate Professor,
Agricultural and Biological Eng. Dept. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Copyright by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Published April 2008

SART Training Media are available for download from the Florida SART Web site <www.flsart.org>.

Contents

About Florida SART	4
Introduction	5
Session Outline	5
Learning Objectives	6
PowerPoint Slides – Handout Pages	57
Resources	91

About Florida SART

SART is a multiagency 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 the state of Florida.

SART operates at the local level through county SART organizations.

SART utilizes the skills and resources of many agencies, organizations and individuals with its multiagency coordination group structure.

SART supports the county, regional, and state emergency management efforts and incident management teams.

SART Mission

Empower Floridians through training and resource coordination to enhance all-hazard disaster planning and response for animals and agriculture.

SART Goals

- Promote the active engagement of each county coordinator who is responsible for animal and agricultural issues
 - Provide assistance in the development and writing of county ESF-17 plans
 - Promote the establishment of a county SART to work as a multiagency coordination group to support emergency management and incident management teams
 - Provide training for all SART and animal and agriculture personnel
 - Identify county resources available for an emergency or disaster
 - Work to comply with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) document
-

Subject: The purpose of this unit is to introduce trainees to basic concepts of the main components of emergency first aid for small animals: animal behavior, treatment practices, and emergency management procedures. The top priority in the emergency care of animals is always the safety of human caretakers.

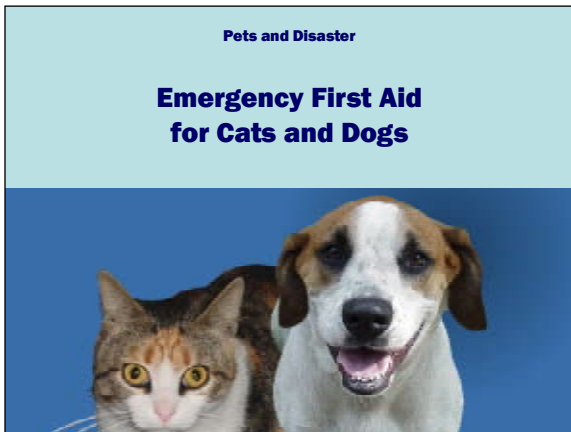
Learning Objectives

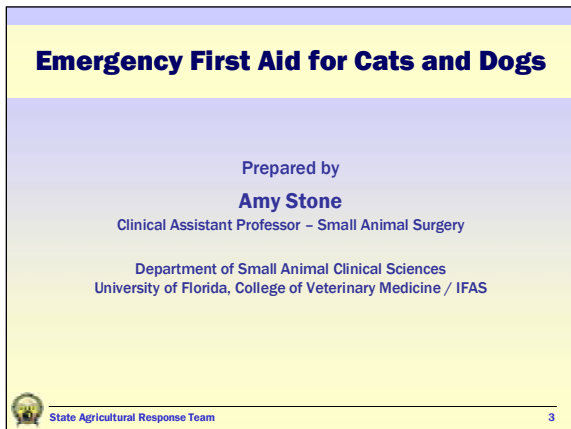
At the end of this unit, participants will be able to:

1. Define emergency first aid for cats and dogs.
 2. Explain the health and safety priority of personnel.
 3. Describe how to survey and evaluate emergency situations.
 4. Identify appropriate handling techniques.
 5. Explain the vital signs for cats and dogs, and their measurement.
 6. Recognize trauma types and the appropriate treatment procedures.
 7. Identify key resources available for more information.
-

Slides 1-3








Slides 4-6

Learning Objectives


After completing this training activity, participants should:

- Describe ways to practice Priority #1 – Prevent Injury to Yourself
- Understand the stages of rendering treatment that represent best practice, including:
 - Describe how to survey and evaluate the emergency situation
 - List appropriate handling techniques
 - List vital signs of dogs and cats and how they are measured
 - List and recognize types of trauma
 - Recognize which first aid procedures are appropriate to type of trauma

 State Agricultural Response Team 4

Primary Objective

- When assisting dogs and cats during an emergency situation
 - Your safety is ultimately the highest priority!!!
 - Do not endanger yourself or fellow first responders to attempt heroic rescue measures for animals

 State Agricultural Response Team 5

This Presentation is Intended for...

- Good Samaritans
- Emergency Medical Professionals
- First Responders
- No Matter the level of experience, remember to seek veterinary advice whenever possible!



 State Agricultural Response Team 6

Slides 7-9

Priority #1 – Avoid Injury to Yourself

- **Animals in emergency situations**
 - Nervous, anxious, possibly injured
 - Unpredictable
 - Dangerous!!!



State Agricultural Response Team 7

Avoiding Injury to Yourself

- **Dogs**
 - Can bite causing crushing injury
 - Can scratch causing skin injury
 - Both bites and scratches can lead to bleeding and infection



State Agricultural Response Team 8

Avoiding Injury to Yourself


- **Cats**
 - Can bite causing puncture, bleeding and serious infection
 - Scratch leading to bleeding and infection
 - They are very flexible and can be difficult to restrain without getting scratched or bitten
 - If you are scratched or bitten by a cat, contact a medical professional immediately!



State Agricultural Response Team 9

Slides 10-12

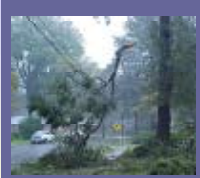
Survey and Evaluate the Emergency



State Agricultural Response Team 10

Survey the Emergency Situation


- Avoid becoming a victim; always survey for potential hazards
 - Oncoming traffic
 - Downed power lines
 - Hazardous materials
 - Dangerous or venomous wildlife



State Agricultural Response Team 11

Survey the Emergency Victim

- Approaching an Injured Dog or Cat
 - Approach very slowly
 - Approach softly as to avoid startling the animal
 - Lower your body so that you are not towering over them – standing at full height could be interpreted as a threat
 - Do not make direct eye contact with the animal or stare directly




State Agricultural Response Team 12

Slides 13-15

Survey the Emergency Victim


- Keep an eye on the animal’s posture and expressions
 - Face, ears, tail, fur and body
- Allow the animal to smell the back of your hand
 - WATCH for reactions carefully
 - Never make quick or sudden movements

 State Agricultural Response Team 13

Emergency Triage

- When presented with the situation, the animal that is most critical but with the best chance of living should be attended to first

Severity of Injury ↑	Critical injury Poor chance	Critical injury Good chance
	Injury Poor chance	Injury Good chance
	← Chance of survival →	

 State Agricultural Response Team 14

Warning Signs – Dogs

- Body Language Signs
 - Growling
 - Hair standing up (back, shoulders)
 - Snarling
 - Tail may be wagging or tucked under the body
 - Ears straight back
- Submission
 - Dog crouches and assumes submissive posture (lays down with belly exposed), may urinate or lick profusely
 - A fearfully submissive dog can become a biting dog if you force the situation

 State Agricultural Response Team 15

Slides 16-18


Warning Signs – Cats

- **Body Language Signs (Aggressive/Fearful)**
 - Ears flattened
 - Salivating or spitting
 - Back may be arched
 - Hair is standing on end
 - Hissing



State Agricultural Response Team 16

Handling and Transportation



State Agricultural Response Team 17

Handling Techniques

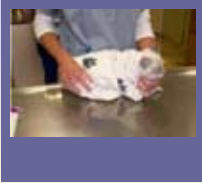
- **Gloves**
 - Thick gloves may cause a loss of dexterity with small animals
 - Latex or vinyl gloves should be worn at all times when handling injured animals
- **Dogs: Leashes (leather, nylon or canvas – no chain-link)**
 - Make a large loop by passing the end you normally connect to the collar through the hole in the handle
 - Standing just behind the animal or to the side, drop the loop over the neck and tighten

State Agricultural Response Team 18

Slides 19-21

Handling Techniques

- **Cats: Towels or Blankets**
 - Be aware of cat's position at all times
 - Drop towel while standing well over cat
 - Grasp scruff of neck and wrap towel around cat's body
- **Cats or Small Dogs: Boxes**
 - Cats will often crawl into them for comfort
 - Then you can use the towel technique
 - This may also work for small dogs



State Agricultural Response Team 19

Handling Techniques – Muzzles

- **May be dangerous to muzzle these situations:**
 - Vomiting
 - Coughing
 - Having difficulty breathing
- **Muzzles may be necessary to treat injured animals**
 - Use soft nylon or leather
 - There are pre-made muzzles for cats and dogs with short noses





State Agricultural Response Team 20

Making a Home-Made Muzzle

If needed you can make a muzzle that can be used for dogs with the exception of those with short noses.

1. Start with 18" of material, such as gauze, stocking, neck-tie, soft rope or a piece of soft cloth
2. Make the beginnings of a knot into a loop that can be placed over the animal's nose

Note: Keep enough space between you and animal's mouth so that the animal can't turn and bite you.


State Agricultural Response Team 21

Slides 22-24

Making a Home-Made Muzzle

3. Tighten the loop down on top of the nose, but not so tight that the animal can't breathe
4. Pull the ends of the material down each side of the face, cross under the chin and bring the ends back behind the ears
5. Tie the loose ends back behind the ears

Note: For short-nosed dogs and cats, after steps 1-5, take one end of the loop and pass it under the nose loop and tie to the other end around the neck to secure onto the nose



State Agricultural Response Team 22

Restraint Techniques -- Dog

- Headlock – Dog Standing
 - Stand or kneel with your chest at dog's side
 - Place forearm under the dog's neck and bring the arm up the other side of the neck (around the head)
 - Lock your forearm under your head
 - Place the other arm over or under the animal's belly

State Agricultural Response Team 23

Restraint Techniques -- Dog

- Lying on their side
 - Stand with your body beside dog, facing dog
 - Reach over dog and then back under dog; take hold of legs closest to your body
 - Slowly pull the legs up and around the dog, forcing to lay on its side. As the animal drops toward the ground, take care not to let the head hit the floor
 - Hold front and hind legs straight out, thus preventing animal from standing
 - Use forearm closest to animal to push neck to the ground




State Agricultural Response Team 24

Slides 25-27

Restraint Techniques -- Cat

- **Lying on their side**
 - The same technique as for the dog with some variation
 - Instead of pushing the neck toward the ground with the forearm, grasp the loose skin behind the neck (the scruff) and hold firmly
- **Scruff in a sitting position**
 - Grasp and hold firmly a large amount of the scruff
 - Using the other hand, hold the cat's body in a sitting position



Warning: Some cats are better managed with minimal restraint. They can actually become harder to handle if restrained.

State Agricultural Response Team 25

Carrying and Transporting -- Dog

- **Small (less than 25 pounds)**
 - Dog can be carried in box or carrier
 - Alternatively, the dog can be carried in a person's arms
 - Cradle the dog with your arms
 - Place your hand around the dog's front legs, with two or three fingers between the legs
 - Hold the legs as you walk
 - Keep the injured side against your body
- **Large (25 pounds or more)**
 - Place one arm under or around the neck
 - Place the other behind the rear legs or under the belly if you suspect a hind-limb injury

State Agricultural Response Team 26

Carrying and Transporting -- Cat

- **Box or carrier**
 - Ideal way to transport a cat
 - They frighten easily and may jump away from you
- **Arms**
 - Use the small dog technique
 - Alternatively, grab the scruff and support the cat's body with your other hand



State Agricultural Response Team 27

Slides 28-30

Zoonoses

- Zoonoses are diseases of animals transmissible to humans
 - Ringworm
 - Scabies
 - Rabies
- Be mindful of these while aiding animals in emergency situations
- In general, CPR is not likely to cause human illness



State Agricultural Response Team 28


Vital Signs of Dogs and Cats



State Agricultural Response Team 29

Normal Vital Signs

- Heart Rates and Pulses
 - Heartbeat can be felt on the left side of the chest just behind the bend in the left elbow
 - If you place your hand over this area, you should be able to feel and count heartbeats





State Agricultural Response Team 30

Slides 31-33

Normal Vital Signs


- **Heart Rates and Pulses: Femoral or inner thigh pulse**
 - Place two fingers as high as possible on the inside of either back leg (use light touch)
 - Feel for pulse in middle of leg about half way between front and back of leg (there is a small recess where the blood vessels run)

State Agricultural Response Team 31

Normal Vital Signs

- **Just below the wrist (carpus)**
 - Locate the area just above middle pad on underside of either front paw
 - Lightly place middle and index fingers at this point and feel for pulse
- **Just below the ankle (hock)**
 - Locate the area just above middle pad on underside of either rear paw
 - Lightly place middle and index fingers at this point and feel for pulse



State Agricultural Response Team 32

Normal Heart Rate


Dog	Small, miniature, or toy breed (30 pounds or less)	100 - 160 bpm
	Medium to large breed (over 30 pounds)	60 - 100 bpm
	Puppy (until one year old)	120 - 160 bpm
Cat		160 - 220 bpm

* bpm – beats per minute
State Agricultural Response Team 33

Slides 34-36

Breathing Rate

- **Dogs**
 - 10-30 breaths/minute
 - Up to 200 pants per minute
- **Cats**
 - 20-30 breaths/minute
 - Up to 300 pants per minute



State Agricultural Response Team 34

Panting

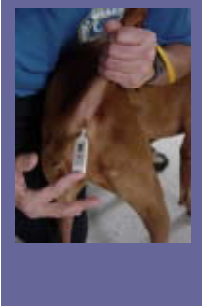


Worry if a cat is panting!!

State Agricultural Response Team 35

Body Temperature

- Use a pediatric rectal or digital thermometer
- Lubricate the thermometer with a water-based lubricant or petroleum jelly



State Agricultural Response Team 36

Slides 37-39

Body Temperature


Normal body temperatures are:

Dogs	100.0 - 102.8 °F
Cats	100.5 - 102.5 °F

Temperatures under **100°F** and over **104°F** should be considered an emergency

State Agricultural Response Team 37

Mucous Membrane Color



- Looking at the color of the oral tissues is a good way to determine if the animal is getting oxygen
- If the dog is pigmented, you can use the membranes in the lower eyelid by gently pulling it down
- The normal color is pink!
- Blue, pale, yellow, brick red or brown mucous membranes is an **emergency**

State Agricultural Response Team 38

Capillary Refill Time

- This is the time that it takes for the gums to return to their normal pink color after you press them
- As you press, the membrane should turn white
- Then it should only take 1-2 seconds for pink color to return
- This is a good way to assess circulation
- If capillary refill time is more than 3 seconds, it is an **emergency**



State Agricultural Response Team 39

Slides 40-42

Hydration

Pull up on the skin at the back of the animal's neck

It should go back into place immediately (1-2 seconds)

If not the animal is likely dehydrated.



 State Agricultural Response Team 40


First Aid for Dogs and Cats




 State Agricultural Response Team 41

Recognizing an Emergency

- Trauma (Falls, hit by vehicle, gun shot, other punctures/cuts)
- Difficulty breathing
- Seizures
- Excessive bleeding (cannot be stopped by applying pressure)
- Snake bites
- Heat stroke or hypothermia
- Poisoning
- Shock
- Burns
- Drowning
- Unconsciousness
- Others



 State Agricultural Response Team 42

Slides 43-45


Survey the Emergency Victim

ABCs of CPR


Airway Is there an open airway?


Breathing Is the animal breathing?

Circulation Is there a heartbeat and a pulse?

 State Agricultural Response Team 43


Survey the Emergency Victim




 State Agricultural Response Team 44

Survey the Emergency Victim

- Mucous Membrane Color ?
- Capillary Refill Time ?
- Any evidence of bleeding ?
- Animal's level of consciousness ?




 State Agricultural Response Team 45

Slides 46-48

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation


- Method to treat an animal that is not breathing and/or has no heartbeat
- It involves rescue breathing (mouth-to-nose resuscitation) and chest compressions
- The ABC's or basic principles (airway, breathing and circulation) must be followed

Warning: CPR does not always work even when performed by an experienced veterinarian. If your attempt fails, know that you did everything that you could to save an animal's life.




State Agricultural Response Team 46

Establish an Airway



- Check to see if the throat and mouth are clear of foreign objects
- To clear the airway, gently tilt the head back and extend the neck
- Pull the tongue between the front teeth
- Use your finger to remove any material or liquid from the airway

Do not put your finger into the mouth of a conscious animal; you will be bitten



State Agricultural Response Team 47

Establish an Airway




State Agricultural Response Team 48



Slides 49-51

Breathing


- If the animal is breathing, let them continue on their own. If not, then do the following:
 - Medium and large dogs (over 30 pounds): seal animal's mouth and lips by placing your hands around its lips
 - Gently hold the muzzle closed
 - Cats and small dogs (under 30 pounds): your mouth will seal the mouth and lips – no need to seal with hands
 - Place your mouth over the animal's nose and forcefully exhale
 - Give 4-5 breaths rapidly, then check if animal is breathing
 - Continue up to 20 minutes. After each breathing session, check if the animal can breath without assistance

 State Agricultural Response Team 49

Artificial Breathing




Artificial breathing for medium or large dogs

 State Agricultural Response Team 50

Artificial Breathing



Artificial breathing for small dogs and cats

 State Agricultural Response Team 51

Slides 52-54

Breathing Rates

Use the following breathing rates:

Small dog or cat:	20 – 30 breaths per minute
Medium or large dog:	20 breaths per minute

Note: If you have access to oxygen for a distressed animal, use it.

State Agricultural Response Team 52

Circulation – Small Dog or Cat

If no pulse or no detectable heartbeat, perform chest compressions

- Lay animal on its right side
- Kneel next to animal with chest facing you
- Place palm of one of your hands over animal's ribs at point where elbow touches chest
- Place other hand around back of and underneath animal
- Compress chest $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 inch (elbows should be locked)
- Alternate with breaths
 - 5 compressions for each breath and check for a pulse
 - If more than one person, each take a position and alternate at 3 compressions for each breath, then check for pulse

State Agricultural Response Team 53

Cardiac Compressions




State Agricultural Response Team 54

Slides 55-57

Cardiac Compressions

- **Medium to Large Dogs (30 – 90 pounds)**
 - Stand or kneel with the animal's back towards you
 - Extend arms at the elbows and cup your hands over each other
 - Compress the chest at the point where the left elbow lies when pulled back to the chest
 - Compress about 1-3 inches with each compression
- **Alternate with breathing**
 - If alone, do 5 compressions for each breath, then check for pulse
 - If two people, perform 2 – 3 compressions for each breath, then check for a pulse

 State Agricultural Response Team 55

Cardiac Compressions




 State Agricultural Response Team 56

Cardiac Compressions

- **Giant Dogs (Over 90 pounds)**
 - Use the same technique for medium to large dogs
 - If alone, do 10 compressions for each breath, then check for a pulse
 - If two people, do 6 compressions for each breath, then check for a pulse

Note: Do not assume there is no heart rate or pulse because an animal is not breathing. Always check for a heartbeat before starting chest compressions.


 State Agricultural Response Team 57

Slides 58-60

Shock


Shock results from decreased blood and oxygen flow to tissues and organs. Symptoms include:


- **Increased heart rate**
 - Pulse may be bounding or, in later stages, weak
- **Increased respiratory rate**
- **Delayed capillary refill time**
- **Decreased body temperature/cool feet**
 - If in septic shock (infection), temperature may be elevated
- **Weakness**
- **Disorientation**
- **Rescue workers must focus on stopping bleeding, warming the animal and the ABC's**

 State Agricultural Response Team 58

End Stage/Terminal Shock


- **When the body can no longer compensate for decreased oxygen and blood to vital organs**
- **Cardiac arrest likely to occur soon**
 - Assess ABC's of CPR
 - Control bleeding
 - Warm animal
 - Elevate hind end slightly (unless broken back is suspected)




 State Agricultural Response Team 59

Bleeding

- **Check ABC's of CPR**
- **Apply direct pressure with gauze or cloth**
- **Add more cloth if material gets soaked**
- **Do not wipe**
- **Secure with tape**



 State Agricultural Response Team 60

Slides 61-63

Bleeding Pressure Points

If previous techniques are not working, use bleeding pressure point technique

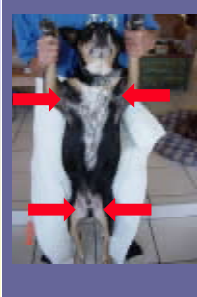
- Pressure points are areas from where the blood vessels travel
- Apply firm and even pressure to appropriate pressure points

Site of bleeding	Pressure point
Forearm	Armpit
Hind limb	Inner thigh
Head	Lower jaw
	Place three fingers at the base of the lower jaw on the same side and below where bleeding is occurring
Neck	Groove next to windpipe
	Place three fingers in groove next to wind pipe (round and hard) on side of neck where bleeding is occurring

State Agricultural Response Team 61

Bleeding Points

- When using pressure points, you must release pressure every 10 minutes (for a few seconds)
 - Prevents permanent damage to limb
- When using head and neck pressure points, take care not to obstruct breathing



State Agricultural Response Team 62



Choking

- Open animal's mouth and sweep from side to side to see if object can be dislodged
- If animal is small enough, suspend animal by the hips with head hanging down
- If animal is bigger, place your arms around animal's waist
- Close your hands together to make a fist just behind first rib
- Compress the abdomen by pushing up 5 times
 - Alternate with performing 5 breaths (any air around the object is better than none)
- As a last resort, administer a sharp blow to the back between the shoulder blades
 - Then repeat abdominal compressions

State Agricultural Response Team 63

Slides 64-66


Choking



State Agricultural Response Team 64

Fractures

- Lameness
- Swelling
- Abnormal limb position
- +/- bruising
- +/- protruding bone



State Agricultural Response Team 65


Fractures

- If a piece of bone is sticking out, wash the area with water or saline
 - Loosely place a dressing over the wound and wrap with tape
- If the animal can't be kept completely still for transport, a splint may be applied
 - Place a rigid structure along each side of the fractured limb (rolled paper, stick, pen, etc)
 - Hold with tape in multiple locations, but do not wrap too tightly

State Agricultural Response Team 66

Slides 67-69


Fractures



Splinting should always include the joints below and above the fracture site. Otherwise, the splint can cause more harm.

State Agricultural Response Team 67

Fractures



State Agricultural Response Team 68

Fractures




If animal is struggling or you can transport it in a box or carrier, do not attempt to splint. Splinting can worsen a fracture.

State Agricultural Response Team 69

Slides 70-72

Puncture Wound and Lacerations



- Remove foreign object
- Wash area with saline
 - Add one teaspoon of salt to a quart of warm water
- Dry foot
- Bandage

State Agricultural Response Team 70


Wound and Lacerations

- Check ABC's of CPR
- Check for shock
- Apply sterile lube
 - To keep hair out of wound
- Clip hair around wound area
 - Clippers or razor blade
- Flush with saline
- Apply a bandage



State Agricultural Response Team 71

Near Drowning



- Check ABC's of CPR
- For unconscious animals, hold the animal upside down and allow water to come out airway (nose or mouth)
- CPR as needed
- Treat for shock (keep quiet and warm)

State Agricultural Response Team 72

Slides 73-75

Eye Injury


Foreign Objects in the Eye

- Swelling, squinting, pawing or obvious object
- Gently wash the eye with large amounts of tap water or sterile eye wash
- Inspect closely to confirm that all of the object has been removed



State Agricultural Response Team 73

Eye Out of Socket



- Flush with sterile eyewash
- Cover the eye with a moistened gauze
- Blind the opposite eye
- Do not put a leash around the animal's neck
- Get veterinary attention as quickly as possible

State Agricultural Response Team 74

Embedded Foreign Bodies

DO NOT REMOVE IMPALED FOREIGN BODIES

- Roll up gauze or other material that can be used to stabilize the object in place
- Use tape or an object that fits over the foreign body to make a brace to hold foreign body still
- If the object is long, make it shorter without removing it
- Get veterinary assistance as soon as possible



State Agricultural Response Team 75

Slides 76-78

Foreign Bodies – Fish hooks




Do not pull or cut the line!

- Push the hook through the exit wound
- Cut the barb off using a wire cutter
- Pull the hook out from the direction that it entered the skin
- Treat the resulting puncture like a wound

State Agricultural Response Team 76

Heat Stroke

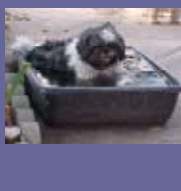
- Collapse
- Vomiting or bloody diarrhea
- Excessive salivation
- Increased heart rate
- Fast or difficult breathing
- Red mucous membranes
- Capillary refill time may be prolonged or very quick
- Body temperature 104°F or above



State Agricultural Response Team 77

Heat Stroke

- Move to cool or shaded area
- Soak in or with cool (**Not iced**) water
- Place towels around neck, head, abdomen and feet
- **Discontinue cooling once the temperature reaches 103°F**



State Agricultural Response Team 78

Slides 79-81

Snake Bite




- ABC's of CPR/Check for shock
- Keep as still and calm as possible (carry the animal)
- **Do not cut wound or suck venom**
- **Do not apply ice or a tourniquet**
- Seek medical attention as soon as possible

State Agricultural Response Team 79

Toxin Ingestion

Signs of potential toxin ingestion

- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Seizures or abnormal mental state (hyperexcitable, depressed)
- Excessive salivation
- Ulcers in mouth
- Bleeding from mouth or any body cavity



State Agricultural Response Team 80

Seizures



- Animals may have seizures from toxin ingestion or other causes
- Protect from harm due to surroundings
- **Do not put hand in the mouth or try to pull on the tongue**

State Agricultural Response Team 81

Slides 82-84

Toxin Ingestion



- Check the ABC's of CPR
- Check the mucous membrane color, capillary refill time, animal's mental state
- Check the surroundings for possible poison or toxin
- If possible, call the National Animal Poison Control Center 1-800-548-2423 or 1-900-680-0000

State Agricultural Response Team 82

Toxin Ingestion


If advised to induce vomiting, give household (3%) hydrogen peroxide orally (animals only!)



- 1 teaspoon per 10 pounds of body weight
- This can be repeated every 10-20 minutes for 3 - 4 doses
- Ipecac should not be used in dogs or cats

State Agricultural Response Team 83

Burns




- Check for shock
- Flush chemical burns profusely with water
- Apply cool water or cool compresses to burned area
- Apply sterile nonstick dressing
- **Do not immerse in water or ice!**
- **Do not apply butter or ointment!**

State Agricultural Response Team 84


Slides 85-87


Remember Emergency Triage

When presented with the situation, the animal that is **most critical** but with the **best chance** of living should be attended to first

 State Agricultural Response Team 85


Euthanasia



 State Agricultural Response Team 86

Treatment or Euthanasia

- Criteria to be included in the decision making should include
 - Pain and distress of the animal
 - Likelihood of recovery
 - Diagnostic information
 - Welfare for the animal, humane considerations


 State Agricultural Response Team 87

Slides 88-90

Euthanasia


- In some cases, sustained injuries may necessitate humane euthanasia
- Best performed by a veterinarian or under veterinary guidance
- However, such assistance may not be readily available – The person performing a physical method of euthanasia must be well trained for each technique that may be used

www.avma.org/issues/animal

 State Agricultural Response Team 88

Important Considerations


- When euthanasia is necessary, always minimize animal distress as much as possible
 - The presence of humans may be reassuring for animals accustomed to human contact (penetrating captive bolt (dogs)/exsanguination in unconscious animals may be preferred)
 - For wildlife, human contact causes fear and greater distress (gunshot may be preferred – gunshot permits the least amount of human contact)

 State Agricultural Response Team 89

Aesthetic Concerns

Humane Euthanasia by Gunshot or Penetrating Captive Bolt


- Despite being humane, both are aesthetically displeasing procedures
 - Involuntary movement will occur
 - Exsanguination requires several minutes and is visually uncomfortable to observe
- These procedures should be conducted out of the public view

 State Agricultural Response Team 90

Slides 91-93


Confirmation of Death

- Death should be confirmed by evaluation of the following physical parameters over a period of several minutes
 - Lack of heartbeat
 - A pulse is normally not present under such circumstances
 - Lack of respiration
 - These may be erratic in an unconscious animal
 - Lack of blink reflex
 - Lack of movement over a period of several hours
 - The presence of "rigor mortis"

 State Agricultural Response Team 91

Unacceptable Methods of Euthanasia

- The following are forbidden under Florida Law 828.12
 - Manually applied blunt trauma to the head such as a large hammer
 - Injection of any chemical substance not labeled for use as a euthanasia agent
 - Injection of air into a vein
 - Electrocution

 State Agricultural Response Team 92

Pets in Disasters



 State Agricultural Response Team 93

Slides 94-96

Where can pets go?

- Florida Pet Friendly.com
<http://floridapetfriendly.com/shelters.htm>
 - Lists shelters (by county) where people can stay with their pets if they must evacuate
 - Requirements for each shelter are also listed



State Agricultural Response Team 94

Pet Disaster First Aid Kit


- Establish a disaster first aid kit before the need arises
<http://www.canismajor.com/dog/fstaidk.html>



State Agricultural Response Team 95

Pet Identification

- Microchipping is the best way to reunite animals with their owners after a disaster situation




State Agricultural Response Team 96

Slides 97-99

Closing Thoughts

- In an emergency, your safety is of the utmost importance
- Prevention and preparation are key
- Providing animals with adequate shelter, water, and food is critical in the immediate aftermath of an emergency
- Treating injured animals may not be feasible without help from trained professionals

 State Agricultural Response Team 97

References and Helpful Resources

- HSUS Pet First Aid. Bobbie Mammato, DVM, MPH. 1997
- Small Animal First Aid Presentation, Bay Area Animal Response Team. May-li Cuypers, DVM, DACVIM. 2007



 State Agricultural Response Team 98

 **Thank You!**

SART Training Media



Resources

The following sources of information, including agencies, may be helpful.

- The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), established in 1863, is a not-for-profit association representing more than 76,000 veterinarians working in private and corporate practice, government, industry, academia, and uniformed services. Information on animal welfare and euthanasia can be found at: <http://www.avma.org/issues/default.asp>
 - Animal Management in Disasters. Heath, Sebastian E. Ph.D., DVM., Mosby, Inc, 1999.
 - Disaster Planning Tips for Pets, Livestock and Wildlife. Federal Emergency Management Agency publication, June 2002.
 - Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) is a collaborative multi-state effort by Extension Services across the country to improve the delivery of services to citizens affected by disasters. This site serves primarily Extension agents and educators by providing them access to resources on disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery that will enhance their short- and long-term programming efforts.
 - Florida Agricultural Law Enforcement. The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement is dedicated to protecting Florida's agriculture and its consumers through professional law enforcement. <http://www.fl-aglaw.com/>
 - Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us>
 - Florida Animal Disease Control http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/adc/adc_main.shtml
 - Florida Dept. of Community Affairs, Div. of Emergency Management. <http://www.floridadisaster.org>
 - Florida Pet Friendly: Florida emergency shelters where you can stay with your pet if you must evacuate from your home during hurricanes or disasters. <http://www.floridapetfriendly.com/pet-friendly-hurricane-shelters.htm>
 - Guidelines for the Development of a Local Animal Care Plan in Emergencies, Disasters, and Evacuations. Heath, Sebastian E. Ph.D. D.V.M., Purdue University, School of Veterinary Medicine.
 - Homeland Security <http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtml>
 - Humane Society of United States (HSUS), Cat First Aid Kit: http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/cat_care/keys_to_a_healthy_cat/your_cats_firstaid_kit.html
 - National Agricultural Safety Database (NASD), The information contained in NASD was contributed by safety professionals and organizations from across the nation and provides a national resource for the dissemination of information. <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/>
 - o Animal Handling Safety
<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001801-d001900/d001823/d001823.html>
-

- o Fleas
<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001201-d001300/d001253/d001253.html>
 - o Preparing to Evacuate Your Farm, Safety Measures When Flooding is Expected
<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d001401-d001500/d001487/d001487.html>
 - o Things to Know about Pet Grooming and Pesticides
<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/docs/d000901-d001000/d000986/d000986.html>
 - Pet First Aid Kit – list of supplies can be found at the dog owners website: <http://www.canismajor.com/dog/fstaidk.html>
 - State Veterinarian Office contact information for each state. <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/sregs/official.html>
 - United States Dept. of Agriculture (USDA). <http://www.usda.gov>
 - University of Florida Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension publication resource (EDIS) offers many fact sheets for veterinary and animal health issues. http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/Departement_Veterinary_Medicine
 - University of Florida IFAS Extension Disaster Handbook. <http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu>
 - USDA–APHIS Veterinary Services publication, “Animal Health Hazards of Concern During Natural Disasters”(Feb. 2002). This publication aims to “describe some of the natural disasters that have occurred in the U.S. during recent years and to review some infectious and noninfectious hazards that are perceived to be related directly to natural disasters.” http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/EmergingAnimalHealthIssues_files/hazards.PDF
 - World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). <http://oie.int>
-