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SART Shelter Training—Awareness Level

With the implementation of NIMS (the National Incident Management System) after 9/11, it is becoming necessary for all emergency responders to be “typed” as a resource and to define basic and advanced skills certifications. Until now, animal response personnel had no defined role within the INCIDENT COMMAND system. Soon, only credentialed (“typed”), certified and trained responders will be permitted to enter the disaster area. All others will be asked to leave or be jailed. This will prevent untrained personnel from coming into the area and working outside Incident Command as well as getting injured and taking resources away from the incident. The deadline for all responders to comply with NIMS is quickly approaching.



Bay Area DART, along with the University of Florida VETS team, Sumter DART and SART, is proud to be on the forefront of Animal Disaster Response for the State of Florida and nationwide. They are in the final stages of rolling out the basic training curriculum for all responders within the state of Florida. The state team will be known as the Florida State Animal Response Coalition, or FLSARC. This certification will enable the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to quickly identify and call up all animal response resources available during a disaster. If successful, FLSARC hopes to be the model for this certification system nationwide.

The first level certification course has been created and will roll out this April 24th—25th at the SART Shelter Training weekend. Upon completion, this certification will provide the basic animal sheltering skills needed to respond throughout the State of Florida.

With so many facets to animal rescue—from sheltering to search/rescue to documentation to medical—it will be necessary to define the credentialing requirements for these skills. If you wish, you may continue your training in one or more of these specialized areas. If you choose not to, you will still be able to respond using the skills acquired in the basic certification class, however you will not be able to work beyond your training level.

It is important to note that the requirements to respond in Pinellas County have not changed. If you are unable to attend the April training course, but have completed the DART course, 30+ hours of hands on volunteering at a local animal shelter and Incident Command System/National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements, you can still respond in Pinellas. Likewise, the requirements to deploy nationally have not changed. These requirements will vary depending on the agency (HSUS, ASPCA, AHA, etc) You can refer to www.BayAreaDART.org for those requirements.

Training is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 24-25, 2010.

If you have registered to attend, you should have received the final instructions via email from Pam Burns. If you did not receive this email, please contact Pam immediately. Also, if you have not pre-registered to attend, you may not show up at the last minute.

RECENT EVENTS:

DART BBQ and Training (Brooksville). A big “Job Well Done!” too all those who attended, and especially those who presented. Topics covered included proper nutrition/hydration during deployment, basic backpacking essentials, proper cleaning & disinfection techniques, and microchip scanning as well as trapping equipment and techniques and a very educational presentation by May Li on how to navigate using a compass. Lunch and dinner were really great, but the s’mores were a definite hit!

SPCA Garden Party. A Garden Party to thank SPCA and DART volunteers for all their service and hard work took place earlier this month. Dinner was provided by Crabby Bills. Lots of laughs and fun—and some really interesting beach attire. Thank you to all volunteers!



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DART Large Animal Handling Training—Operational Level

The second level Large Animal Handling course (Operational Level) was recently held at the St Petersburg College Fire Science Training Center in Pinellas Park. The training was conducted by the University of Florida VETS Disaster Response Team. They brought along Randy, a lifesize, fully jointed horse mannequin. Randy weighs in at about 500 pounds and is considerably easier on the eyes than our old pal Fugly from the Awareness Level training from last year.



Training covered a progressive series of topics. The morning started with a real brain buster—tying knots. The team also learned the different configurations for rescuing a downed horse using different webbings, as well as how to set up an A Frame and attach a Becker sling to bring the horse out of a ravine or sinkhole. Pulley systems were next, followed by the big event of the day—rapelling! Margo had a great presentation showing the team rapelling from the fire tower. There were some very unique methods of descent—which can be seen on the DART page on Facebook! The last exercise of the day was to rescue Randy, implementing the Incident Command System. Congratulations to everyone who participated!

Other Recent Training

Pet CPR Training. April 17th was the Pet CPR training class at the SPCA. The class was taught by Dr Michael Rumore from the Lake Seminole Animal Hospital. Cost of the course was \$65.

“Cat Talk” Cat Behavior Class. This course, presented by Behavior Manager Donna Bainter and SPCA Veterinarian Dr Buisson, covered a wide range of cat topics such as cat behavior and psyche, health and nutrition as well as tips for cat owners.

DART Member Bio

Each newsletter, we will be featuring a Bay Area DART member bio. This will enable us to put faces with names and get to know each other a little better. Please email Kris at KrisG8r@tampabay.rr.com with your bio information and a picture. Feel free to include as much information as you are comfortable with, but please include the following: name, city, how long you’ve been a DART member, occupation, area of interest with DART, and any other interests you’d like to include. Our first bio featured is Laura Fletcher-Taylor.



Name: Laura Fletcher-Taylor

Laura has been a DART member since September 2009. She is employed by Fletcher’s Harley Davidson where she specializes in Damage Control. In her spare time, Laura is a Roller Coaster enthusiast! Laura has volunteered with DART speaking engagements, special events, has helped with Transport as well as the upcoming DART Fun Run!



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MAY

- **May 14th: Raymond James Hurricane Expo.** 10:00–3:00 PM. 880 Carillon Pkwy, St Petersburg 33716. Need 2 volunteers per shift to man the booth and speak to the general public about disaster preparedness. (9:30–12:30 and 12:30–3:00)
- **May 15th: Hurricane Expo at Surgi-Care center for Horses.** 10:00–2:00. 605 S Bloomingdale Ave, Brandon. Volunteers needed. If you have large animal experience and are DART certified and want to help, contact Judy Baum at Tommy225@tampabay.rr.com.
- **May 17th: Franklin Templeton Hurricane Fair.** 10:00–2:00. 100 Fountain Parkway, St Petersburg 33716. Need 2 volunteers per shift to man the booth and speak to the general public about disaster preparedness. (10:00–12:00 and 12:00–2:00)
- **May 23rd: DART Fun Run.** Our awesome friends at Fletcher's Harley Davidson's is organizing this benefit for the Bay Area and Sumter DART teams.
- **May 25th. Bimonthly DART Meeting.** Meeting will be at 7:00 PM at the SPCA Tampa Bay Education Center, located at 9099 130th Ave N, Largo, FL. Pinellas County Animal Services will be discussing Pinellas County Pet Friendly Shelter protocols (set up/registration/sheltering/breakdown and cleaning). See you then!

JUNE

- **June 11-13: DART Training Course.** To be held in Vero Beach. For more information, please email Pam Burns at pamburnsDART@gmail.com.

Adoption Requests from DART Members

Has it ever happened to you? You help with a rescue or with intake, and there's one special dog or cat that captures your heart—and you know you just have to bring them home. Completely understandable, and I'm sure most of us have been there.

For a number of reasons, Connie asks that you allow time for the medical department to complete their assessments of all the intakes. First, medical is often overwhelmed by the volume of incomings, and going into the medical area to ask about a specific dog takes time away from the animals. Second, as you know, many of these animals are neglected and often ill. The reality is that we just can't save them all, and some will not survive.

If there is a specific animal you are interested in adopting, please do not go directly to the medical staff. Get in touch with Connie and let her know you are interested. Once it has been cleared by medical, then the question of adoption can be addressed. Thanks so much for understanding.

Other News:

To read the latest edition of the E-Lert Emergency Newsletter from Pinellas County please visit: http://www.pinellascounty.org/newsletters/e-lert/Hurricane_news.html.

Update from Valerie on her foster, Wonder. Wonder is a blind border collie mix who came from Raven's Hope. Wonder is doing great and has adjusted to her new environment very quickly.

Recently our partners at Sumter DART were featured on National Geographic Channel's DogTown, the Best Friends Sanctuary in Utah, and on their website. For those of you who know Ronnie and his team, they are some of the most dedicated animal advocates you'll ever have the pleasure of meeting. To view the article, visit <http://network.bestfriends.org/campaigns/pupmills/14843/news.aspx>.

And don't forget our Bimonthly meeting to be held May 25th at 7:00 PM at the SPCA. This will be a very important meeting, as Animal Services will be discussing Pet Friendly Sheltering—with Hurricane season approaching quickly we want to be prepared and ready!



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DART Fun Run with Fletcher’s Harley Davidson

When: Sunday May 23rd
 Registration begins 9:30 AM
 First bike out: 11:00 AM
 Last bike in: 3:00 PM
 Where: Quaker Steak & Lube, 10400 49th St N, Pinellas Park, FL

All proceeds benefit Bay Area DART.
 Music and entertainment by Jake and the HouseWreckerz 2:00—4:00 PM

Typically, motorcycle/car poker runs work like this. Participants buy a “HAND” (\$15 per hand / 2 hands for \$20), Then they ride/drive to specific locations, “STOPS”, and draw a card at each STOP. The “HAND” cards are marked and at the end of the run the “HANDS” are tallied and the best poker hand wins. Our Fun Run will be similar but with a few twists.

We will not be drawing cards at the STOPS, though riders must visit all the stops. At the end of the run, back at QS&L the riders will get their cards via a series of carnival games. Please note we are inviting non riders to join the run in automobiles as well.

The STOPS are animal shelter/rescue facilities that the riders will visit. As this is an animal event, we hope that this will increase public awareness as to the services available in the bay area.

Here are the stops;

- 1) Humane Society of Tampa Bay
- 2) Big Cat Rescue
- 3) Equestrian Club Country Horse Rescue
- 4) Seabird Sanctuary
- 5) SPCA Tampa Bay

We will need 10-15 volunteers to support the event and to help hand out goody bags to the participants. If you would like to promote your business with a goody (like a doggy bone with your business card attached), or to volunteer, contact Jessica Whitehouse at jesswdart@gmail.com. Deadline to submit items for your business is May 12th.

RECENT DEPLOYMENTS

Many thanks to all those who were involved in the recent rescues in Kemper County, MS (Raven’s Hope Sanctuary) and in Gulfport, MS. At Raven’s Hope, a total of 210 dogs were rescued and placed in shelters and clinics all around Florida and Georgia. In Gulfport, 6 DART members assisted in rescuing a total of 305 animals. These animals were all found living in deplorable conditions. At Raven’s Hope, when the responders arrived on scene, they found dead dogs in runs with live dogs, animals without any water, animal skulls, feces all over. The sanctuary was so overwhelmed physically and financially, they were feeding bread from the day-old bread store to the animals.

In Gulfport, MS, many of the animals had a variety of medical issues including parasite infestations. The American Humane Association and the local Humane Society received volunteer assistance from a visiting Lutheran Ministry as well as from the inmates from the local correctional facility.

So far this year, there have been 5 raids on these overwhelmed shelters, due largely to the visibility and education of the general public regarding animal neglect. The knowledge and professionalism of the DART members on site also provide an example of what can be done when multiple agencies act together.

Way to go everyone involved—in Mississippi as well as here at our shelter!

