

MART News & Views

Winter 2013



Dog and Cat Behavior/Handling Class... a Success!



The MBAH hosted a Dog and Cat Behavior/Handling course for MART members and animal control officers in October.

Designed by the National Animal Control Association, the course provided students with information and hands-on techniques for handling dogs and cats safely and appropriately in various situations.

In addition, common equipment used to capture and restrain animals was presented. Students worked with equipment and live animals to practice techniques learned in the classroom.



Nina Wingfield offers tips on how to handle cats.

NACA instructors, Nina Wingfield and John Robinson, from animal services in Collierville, TN, taught the class. Both donated their time to teach the class and we appreciate their willingness to share their knowledge. Also, the International Fund for Animal Welfare's Jennifer Gardner assisted with the hands-on instruction, and we appreciate her support of our MART training.

Thanks to the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), which sponsored this course. The MBAH often works with IFAW during disaster response issues involving animals.

Special thanks to Debra Boswell and the Mississippi Animal Rescue League for letting us borrow some of their animals for the hands-of portion of the class.

Look for more MART training coming soon...

Have you completed your ICS classes?

Find the Incident Command System classes at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>. Remember all MART members need to complete the following ICS classes and email a copy of your certificate to beth@mdac.ms.gov:

- IS-100.b - Introduction to Incident Command System
- IS-200.b - ICS for Single Resources and Initial Accident Incidents
- IS-700.a - National Incident Management System (NIMS): An Introduction



MS Animal Disaster Relief Fund Provides Assistance



The Mississippi Animal Disaster Relief Fund (MADRF) provides immediate assistance to Mississippians during recovery from animal-related disasters, as well as supports efforts to mitigate, prevent, and protect animal health and welfare in disasters.

This includes activities such as reimbursement for out-of-pocket veterinary costs, support of local veterinary infrastructure, preparation for animal care and sheltering, stockpiling supplies, providing for emergency hay and feed needs, and training emergency responders.

Donations can be made to the Mississippi Animal Disaster Relief Fund by sending a check to:

*MADRF
P. O. Box 964
Trussville, AL 35173

Funds may be earmarked for particular response activities or for a specific species (eg, horses, dogs and cats), veterinarians, or shelters. Any funds not specifically earmarked will be disbursed at the discretion of the committee under the MADRF guidelines.

The MADRF is a 501 (c) 3 organization; therefore, donations are tax deductible.

**This fund is managed by the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association and the executive director currently lives in Alabama.*

“I Care for Animals” Car Tag Helps MS Animals

So, what is the one thing all of you reading this have in common?
You care for animals.

Well, isn't that an interesting segue? The state of Mississippi has a personalized car tag following that same theme...
"I Care for Animals."

The funds from the sales of these tags go to assist animal shelters and other humane organizations within Mississippi, primarily with their spaying and neutering efforts.

Since 2004, this program has awarded funds to over 61 organizations around the state.

When it is time for you to renew your car tag, purchase an "I Care for Animals" car tag and you'll be helping animals throughout Mississippi.

Organizations interested in applying for an "I Care for Animals" car tag grant can find the information and application form on the MBAH website at www.mbah.ms.gov.



Rabies Vaccination Clinics Helpful Around the State



The Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH) supports local Rabies Vaccination Clinics (RVC) by providing vaccine and supplies to local veterinarians that want to hold mass rabies vaccination clinics in their area.

The goal of the clinics is to vaccinate animals that would otherwise not be vaccinated for rabies. The cost for individuals is \$5.00 per animal, with \$3.00 going to the veterinarian and \$2.00 going to the MBAH to purchase additional vaccine and supplies.

In some areas, animal shelters work with their local veterinarians to schedule the clinics in conjunction with other events.

If you are interested in hosting a RVC in your area, contact Deputy State Veterinarian Dr. Brigid Elchos, at brigid@mdac.ms.gov. Scheduling information is also available on the MBAH website at www.mbah.ms.gov.

Protect Your Horses from WNV and EEE

West Nile Virus and **Eastern Equine Encephalitis** are both mosquito-borne viruses that affect humans and horses. Cases of these viruses have shown up all over the state of Mississippi. WNV and EEE most commonly occur spring through late fall but can occur throughout the year.

These diseases can be prevented in horses by vaccination. Contact your veterinarian for information on WNV and EEE.



Lifting up people and animals
in times of need.

Peanuts characters or **MART members**?!!

The Mississippi Board of Animal Health's latest news can be seen on Facebook.



www.facebook.com/msboardofanimalhealth

Be sure to "like" our page!

Mississippi Animal Disaster Hotline
1-888-722-3106

TLAER and ICS Training Important at Accident Scene

Emergency responders were just settling in for a day of Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue training in Verona when the call came on Sept. 28.

Jesse Carter, a field director with the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH), was attending the class when he received the call from the central office of the MBAH. A livestock trailer had overturned in DeSoto County. The trailer was on fire and cattle were loose on the road. Assistance was needed!

Jesse, along with other trained first responders who were in the class, immediately reported to the scene of the accident. Many of them were from DeSoto County. Also in the class was Dr. Tom Abernethy, a veterinarian from Grenada. Dr. Abernethy, being a member of the Veterinary Strike Team with the Mississippi Animal Response Team was logically chosen to assist.



Lance Newman, an Extension area livestock agent, was on the scene. "It helped that several of us had attended some of the large animal rescue classes in the past," Newman said.

Tim Curtis, deputy director of the DeSoto County Emergency Services, said the experience confirmed his belief in the importance of the Incident Command System, or ICS.

"The Incident Command System allowed a wealth of knowledge from multiple agencies to come together," Curtis said. "We had 14 separate agencies and numerous private resources come together and function as a team under the command structure."

-An excerpt from a MSU Ag Communications article



Jayne Wells was recently hired as an Administrative Assistant with the MBAH.

She is a former school teacher from Seattle, Washington and now lives in Copiah County with her husband Frank.

Jayne is very active in her community, and has volunteered with her local animal shelter for years. She is also a member of MART!

Welcome Jayne!



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