



MART News & Views

Mississippi Animal Response Team

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Studying Animal Behavior**
- **Animal Disaster Relief Fund**
- **Go-Bag Gear**

Safety: Number One Priority

In the world of emergency management, there is no such thing as too much training. These courses are essential to our communication and coordination efforts during a disaster, but more importantly training helps keep us SAFE. MART members are required to complete ICS classes 100, 200 and 700, and we also encourage the completion of ICS 800, IS-10.a and IS-11.a.

The following training is listed on the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security's website - <http://www.homelandsecurity.ms.gov/calendar.html>. These are not required classes for MART members; however, they are good classes to complete. Other types of trainings are listed on this same website (radiological emergencies, campus emergencies, etc.). Check the website often, as new classes are added throughout the year. A great deal of training is free.

March 11th-12th, Friday-Saturday - ICS 300 - Coahoma county Hospital, Clarksdale
CONTACT: Johnny Tarzi at 662-624-3042 or Jesse Murphree at 601-933-6357 or jmurphree@mema.ms.gov

March 24th-25th, Thursday-Friday - ICS 400 - Coahoma county Hospital, Clarksdale
CONTACT: Johnny Tarzi at 662-624-3042 or Jesse Murphree 601-933-6357 or jmurphree@mema.ms.gov

The MBAH will provide an instructor for **Pet First Aid Training** to a group of 12 or more people in your area. The training is based on the American Red Cross' Pet First Aid class. The ARC Pet First Aid books can be purchased from the ARC or from Amazon.com. After completion of the class, the ARC Pet First Aid Certification Card is \$5. Contact Beth Adcock at beth@mdac.state.ms.us to schedule a class in your area.

TOP REASONS WHY K9 CANDIDATES DON'T MAKE IT AS DETECTION DOGS....

1. Arson Dogs -- couldn't get the dog fired up.
2. Water Search Dogs -- dog was in over his head.
3. Airport Detection Dogs -- dog was too flighty.
4. Drug Detection Dogs -- dog wouldn't inhale.
5. Currency Detection Dogs -- dog was a poor candidate.
6. Agricultural Products Detection Dogs -- dog had no taste for the work.
7. Wildlife Detection Dogs -- dog was just winging it.
8. Explosives Detection Dogs -- dog kept blowing it.
9. Termite Detection Dogs -- dog bugged me too much.



By Chomi Ohoyo

The Importance of Studying Animal Behavior



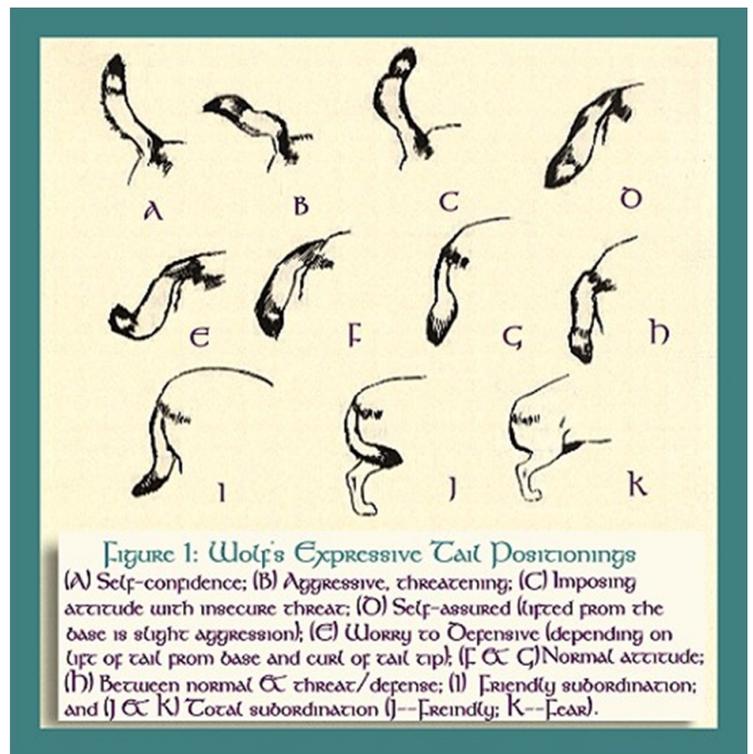
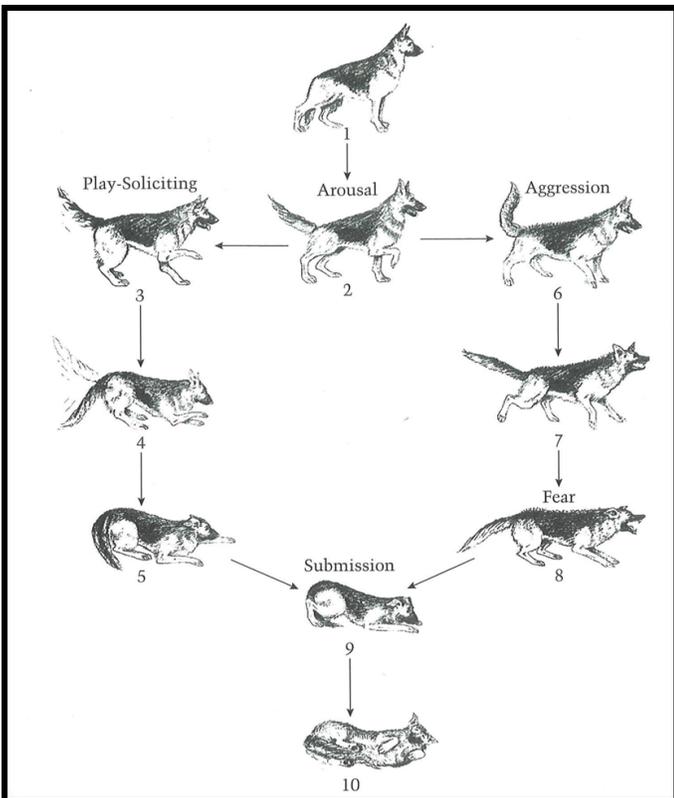
According to a recent article in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA), hospitalizations for dog bites in the United States jumped 86 percent over a 16-year period.

What does this mean to you as a MART member? Get trained on basic animal behavior! Know whether that wagging tail is a sign of “glad to see you” or “get away from me.” If you volunteer at a MART Emergency Animal Shelter you will be working with animals you do not know. It is extremely important to familiarize yourself with animal behavior, whether it is through MART training or another source. All dogs are capable of biting; therefore, do not assume it is only a big, burly dog who will bite. Should you be afraid of dogs? Absolutely not, just be smart.

Below is an excerpt from the JAVMA article published February 1, 2011:

An estimated 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs annually in the United States, according to the AVMA and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Of those, some 800,000 receive medical attention.

The Department of Health and Human Services’ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) also found seniors and young children were most likely to be hospitalized for a dog bite. The highest rates of dog bite-related emergency department visits were for children under the age of ten.



“Wolf’s Expressive Tail Positionings” by Kim Miles

MADRF Provides Assistance

The Mississippi Animal Disaster Relief Fund (MADRF) is a collaboration between the Mississippi Board of Animal Health the Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association and the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

The MADRF is designed to provide immediate assistance to Mississippians during recovery from animal-related disasters, as well as support efforts to mitigate, prevent, and protect animal health and welfare in disasters.



This includes activities such as reimbursement for out-of-pocket veterinary costs, distribution of vouchers for immediate medical care, 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:

MS Animal Disaster Relief Fund
c/o The MS Veterinary Medical Association
P.O. Box 964
Trussville, AL 35173

Funds may be earmarked for particular response activities or for a specific species (examples: horses, dogs and cats, veterinarians, shelters). Any funds not specifically earmarked may be disbursed at the discretion of the committee under the MADRF guidelines. Unless specifically designated by the donor, funds may not be used for loss of income, wages, or salaries.

Application for Funds: Any individual Mississippi resident who may incur or has incurred expenses for animal care related to a natural or man-made disaster may apply. Groups such as animal shelters, veterinary clinics, and farm entities may also apply. Supporting agencies under the Mississippi Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11: Animals, Agriculture, and Natural Resources may apply for monies to prepare for and respond to the care, health, and welfare of animals in disaster situations per their responsibilities in the state response plan.

Application forms are available on the following websites:

MBAH - www.mbah.state.ms.us

MSU-CVM - www.cvm.msstate.edu

MVMA - www.msvet.org

Completed applications should be sent to the MVMA. Application forms must be accompanied by receipts and/or any other documentation verifying the applicant's needs and expenses. Additional documentation may be requested by the committee based on the disaster event and may include site assessments performed by the Mississippi Animal Response Team.

Distribution of Funds: Completed applications for funding will be distributed to MADRF committee members by the committee chair and reviewed within 14 days. A written response will be provided by the MADRF committee chair to the applicant as soon as possible after completion of the review and no longer than 30 days after receipt of the application by MVMA. Final approval will be made by the State Veterinarian and the committee chair.

Further application information can be obtained by contacting the MVMA at 601-324-9380 or www.msvet.org.

MART Members Need Go-Bag



Responders deployed to an event should be prepared to be **self-sufficient for up to five days**. The following list provides **suggested** supplies and equipment for your Go-Bag. These items may change depending on the type of event (example: hurricane vs. disease), so compose your bag accordingly.

Beth Adcock has a more extensive list. If you are interested in the list please email her at beth@mdac.state.ms.us.

- Deployment Information (MART)
- Identification Badge (MART)
- Uniform (MART T-shirt)
- Emergency Contact Information (for you personally)
- Other Important Documents
- Personal Hygiene Kit
- Medications (Two Week Supply, Labeled)
- Credit Card, Phone Card
- Cash
- First Aid Kit (Human)
- Writing Supplies, Sharpie
- Boots/Protective Footwear
- Rain Gear
- Sun Screen
- Flashlights and Batteries
- Cell Phone Batteries
- Duct Tape
- Multi-Tool (Leatherman)
- Gloves
- Ear Plugs, Face Mask
- Radio
- Bug Spray
- Food Supply, Snacks
- Water Supply
- Small Tent
- Sleeping Bag
- Cot or Sleeping Pad

Rabies Program: A Collaborative Effort

Mississippi's rabies program is unique. Mass vaccination clinics are co-sponsored between the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) and the Mississippi Board of Animal Health (MBAH).

The program enables local veterinarians to order vaccine, syringes, tags, and certificates from the state agencies in order to hold rural area vaccination clinics. The clinics can happen any time of the year and the cost of the vaccination is only \$5.00 per animal. A portion of the money goes to the local veterinarian and a portion of the money goes to the MSDH for the re-purchase of vaccine. The MBAH absorbs the cost of administering the program and shipping the supplies to the local veterinarian.

This program has been key to maintaining a rabies-free status in Mississippi's land animals for the last 40 years. A challenge has always been to keep the program viable since complacency for vaccinating domestic animals has been prevalent for many years.

Efforts to maintain this program remain in place since the program keeps animals that may come in contact with rabid wildlife protected, thereby protecting pet owners.



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Know Your Responsibilities During A Disaster Response

- ◆ **Protecting and saving human lives is always first**
- ◆ Protecting animals and property is second priority
- ◆ Personal preparedness (home and family) - make sure your family is prepared for a disaster, and never deploy to an emergency scene if your family has been affected by the disaster and needs your help. Always put yourself and your family first.
 - Transportation and Evacuation- does your family have a plan
 - Pets/Livestock- do you have a plan for your own pets/livestock
 - Finances and Insurance- do you have a plan to handle finances and insurance
- ◆ Go-Bag (See Page 4 of this newsletter for a suggested list of supplies)
 - Gather information containing any special technical information (Examples: maps, manuals, contact lists, and reference materials)

www.mbah.state.ms.us



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Purchase an
"I Care for Animals" Car Tag to
Help Mississippi's Homeless Animals