

Hitting the Training Trail

Winter is the season for learning new skills and sharpening those already acquired. Groups around the state are setting goals high for enhanced emergency preparedness and education. We are always searching for ways to increase our knowledge and network of experts in the field of large animal emergency response.

Recently, HALTER attended several important educational events:

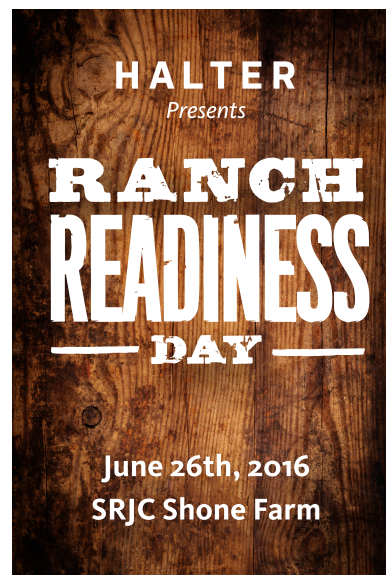
On January 7, the UCD SVM FARM Club produced their annual Beef Improvement Symposium. This year, 2 of our favorite veterinarian-educators were part of an impressive program. Dr. Mike Payne, who is both a large animal vet and firefighter, gave a highly entertaining and informative presentation. First, he walked us through trailering safety considerations from the firefighter perspective. Next, we watched a film of a fire sweeping through a foothill ranch, and saw just how a strike team defends property. Eye-opening!! Last, Dr. Payne, a dairy cattle expert, shared a video of a local cow being rescued from a well by firefighters, assisted by UCD vets. Later in the day, Dr. Eric Davis and SVM VET students demonstrated a variety of large animal rescue equipment and techniques. In between, lots of great presentations. A yummy carnitas lunch break allowed for some good networking with other ranchers and vets from around the state. A great event by the student FARM Club!

The next weekend, Jan. 16-17, was the first winter FSTEP-Operational Large Animal Rescue training. Taught by the nationally-renowned LAR Company, and hosted by the Glen Ellen Fire Department and Atwood Ranch, a capacity roster of 23 firefighters and other qualified students studied at tabletop sessions, then drilled in 6 field exercises. Heavy rains made the "rescues" highly realistic. The scenarios, which utilize life-size "Rescue Randy" mannequins, simulate a wide variety of common road, ranch, and trail emergencies. The team-building and certification skills gained at these trainings are providing the framework for large animal rescue services to be available around the North Bay.

Next stop: Oroville, for the North Valley Disaster Group (NVADG). Volunteer Training over Jan 23 & 24. This elite group deploys to local, national, and international emergencies to help animal rescue efforts. The Awareness Training covers every basic aspect of volunteer emergency and disaster response involvement, enabling members to decide which roles are the best fit for their abilities and time. This was an exhaustive and exhilarating 2 days. We met more than 100 people, from all over the state, who ranged from Animal Control and Law Enforcement officers, to firefighters, vets, trauma therapists, communications specialists and wildlife rehabbers. A truly humbling and gratifying weekend! To volunteer or donate, go to www.nvadg.org

Back in the North Bay, on Jan 30, local hero, Captain Cindy Machado of the Marin County Humane Society guided Marin and Sonoma CERT members in an Advanced Animal Disaster Training. Captain Machado is one of the most respected and experienced Animal Services officers in the state, and has deployed in management roles to many disasters, most recently, the Valley Fire. A great opportunity to connect and train with more than 70 local CERT volunteers. To get involved, go to ReadyMarin.org

SAVE THE DATE!



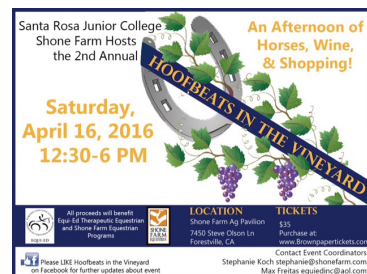
Free & Family-Friendly Fun & Learning!

Chat with experts, watch demonstrations, meet your Emergency First Responders.

Sunday, June 26, 2016
SRJC Shone Farm

To Participate or Sponsor, contact:
Shilo Porter at rescue@halterfund.org

EQUI-ED BENEFIT



HALTER will also be at the "Hoofbeats in the Vineyard" benefit for Equi-Ed on April 16.