



The Siren

Basic Animal Rescue Training's Newsletter

Our mission is to empower first responder personnel with the training, knowledge and equipment necessary to safely and effectively handle domestic animals they encounter in emergency situations, in order to help preserve human health, safety and well being.

For more information, please visit the BART website www.BasicAnimalRescueTraining.org.

BART Gains Federal Approval

That's right! You've heard about our application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency/Department of Homeland Security's Office of Grants and Training to see if we could get BART training established as a nationally approved course. We recently received the great news that our Small Animal Basic Life Support curriculum passed their extensive review process with flying colors - our class received TOP SCORES in every category! This edition of The Siren is dedicated to those people who helped make it happen. Thank you!

On March 3, 2008 the Federal Emergency Management Agency/US Department of



Homeland Security (FEMA/DHS) approved the curriculum for the Basic Animal Rescue Training (BART) Small Animal Basic Life Support course. Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management approved the course for delivery in Minnesota in 2007 and assisted the BART organization with the FEMA course approval application process. **FEMA approval makes the BART class a national standard course for training first responders in safe pet handling and rescue on the scene of emergencies.** FEMA approval also makes BART and departments we train eligible for federal funding to help cover the costs of holding classes.

Why did BART pursue FEMA approval? BART has received training requests from over 30 states and is pursuing national expansion. As an almost completely volunteer organization, BART realizes our Minnesota trainers cannot personally train all the first responders in the nation. We needed a way to standardize our course and FEMA provided the route. BART was able to require that our course can only be taught in other states when the State Veterinary Medical Association and Board of Veterinary Medicine approve, and that the trainers have to be in the veterinary profession and certified by BART to teach our class. This will ensure that the course continues to meet our high standards, no matter where it is taught. BART plans to travel to other states to hold Train the Trainer classes and teach veterinary volunteers how to deliver the BART courses.

Why is there so much demand for BART? The public wants and needs their animals to be respected and cared for in emergencies. In response to the Gulf Coast hurricanes of 2005, federal legislation entitled the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act was introduced and signed into law in October 2006. The PETS Act requires local and state disaster plans to include provisions for evacuating household pets and service animals - because human lives were lost and endangered when these plans were not in place.

Did you know? More than 2,500 first responder personnel in Minnesota have been BART trained and equipped. First responders are first on the scene in emergencies and disasters and need basic animal handling skills and equipment to keep themselves safe, while protecting public health and animal welfare. The intense bonds people form with their animals frequently result in them putting their own safety at risk when their animals are in jeopardy. BART-trained first responders learn how to safely handle animals in emergencies, are equipped to assist them, and are

informed of the available local, state and national resources for managing pets and livestock during emergency events.

The risk to first responders is minimized, the medical outcome for animals caught in an emergency / disaster situation is improved, and the public is protected and served by BART's preparedness efforts.

This edition of The Siren is dedicated to those members of BART and the emergency response community who helped make our FEMA approval possible. Dr. Janet Olson, Founder of BART, and Dr. Karina Burger, Executive Director of BART, our fearless leaders. Kim Helmbold and Mary Avriette, Masters of Public Health students, and Michelle Miller CVT - the curriculum team. Our new Board of Directors, who are committed to taking BART into the future. Bob Berg of MN Homeland Security and Emergency Management for his invaluable encouragement and guidance in the FEMA application process. The Minnesota Animal Disaster Coalition, for coordinating animal emergency preparedness and response efforts and supporting BART's growth. Our many passionate volunteers for helping support the mission in so many ways, and to our many supporters, who have made our journey so much easier along the way. We thank each of you for helping make this wonderful achievement possible, and look forward to even greater accomplishments in the years to come!

Sincerely,
The BART Team



BART: National Standard

Leaders and Partners

BART thrives on the unique and complimentary skills of its original leadership: Dr. Janet Olson's ties to the firefighter community, and Dr. Karina Burger's experience in the emergency and disaster response network. While this duo is capable of many awesome things, BART could not have achieved the milestone of national acceptance without our many supporters and partners, and our current leadership team. Thank you.

Basic Animal Rescue Training (BART)

President and Founder Dr. Janet Olson graduated in 1996 from the University of Minnesota – College of Veterinary Medicine and then completed a Small Animal Medicine and Surgery Internship in 1997 at the University of Missouri – College of Veterinary Medicine. She has worked in the companion animal veterinary profession for now over 16 years. She practiced in a private, small animal referral clinic for eight years, providing her with extensive critical care experience, and is currently a cardiology resident at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.

Olson established Basic Animal Rescue Training as a program of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association in 2004, in response to the tragic loss of a pet in a house fire in her community. The burning home belonged to a firefighter and his 13-year-old German Shorthaired Pointer named Bart was trapped inside. The department was able to put out the fire and locate Bart, but he was unresponsive. The firefighters, including Dr. Olson's husband, did not have the knowledge or equipment to help Bart; he



President and Founder of BART, Dr. Janet Olson

succumbed to smoke inhalation. The entire fire department was deeply affected by this tragedy and felt helpless to save a family member of one of their own. Olson developed the BART program in honor and memory of Bart the dog, to prepare first responders for animals they encounter on the scene of emergencies and disasters, and ensure fewer families will suffer a similar loss.

Lauded by the veterinary profession in Minnesota, Olson received the prestigious Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association's Veterinary Service

Award in 2007 in recognition of her accomplishments developing and leading the Basic Animal Rescue Training nonprofit organization and veterinary community outreach program. She is also a recipient of the 2008 Wisconsin Alumni Association's Forward Under Forty Award, recognizing 23 University of Wisconsin alumni under 40 years of age who have taken their education beyond the classroom to benefit others. For the full story, please visit: <http://www.forwardunder40.com/olson.html>.

Olson is married to New Brighton Firefighter Brian Olson, and they have two daughters, Gabrielle (6) and Shelby (4). The Olsons reside in New Brighton, Minnesota with their cat "Kitten".

Currently leading the BART small animal curriculum team, Olson is working on the final edits to the FEMA approved Small Animal Basic Life Support Instructor and Student Manuals to ensure an overall high quality to our course.



Cassie Panning, Karina Burger, and Janet Olson with Janet's MVMA award for veterinary service

BART Vice President and Executive Director Dr. Karina Burger graduated from the University of Minnesota-College of Veterinary Medicine in 1996 with Dr. Olson, so their friendship goes way back. She brings a broad range of experiences including eight years of equine and large animal practice to BART. In addition, Burger was employed as an Emergency Planning Veterinarian for Minnesota during which time she helped develop and lead the Minnesota Veterinary Reserve Corps. Currently a Veterinary Medical Officer with USDA – Veterinary Services, she covers central Minnesota, and is one of the three founding members of the Basic Animal Rescue Training nonprofit organization.

Burger's thorough understanding of animal emergency planning has been instrumental to ensuring that BART training works within and strengthens the existing response networks. Not to be overlooked, Burger's ability to build new contacts in the emergency preparedness community has been critical to establish BART's credibility as a much needed organization to help first responders, the public and their animals nationwide. Her efforts have paved the way for many of the partnerships that have contributed to BART's growth and success.

Burger is married to veterinary pathologist Dr. Tim O'Brien and they reside on a farm in rural Cokato, Minnesota with a sled dog team of 9 Alaskan Malamutes, 5 assorted horses and 6 cats.



Executive Director and Vice President of BART, Dr. Karina Burger

Burger currently volunteers her time on BART's Executive Committee along with Michelle Reckard and Dan Winkel (see page 4) to run day to day operations - an exciting and challenging task for such a rapidly growing organization!

Where is BART going now? Disneyland! Well, sort of. We are planning expansion within Minnesota this year, to start regional BART programs in Duluth and Bemidji. We also have \$50,000 in matching funds from the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) to help expand BART to 5 new states. We launched our national expansion in January <http://basicanimalrescuetraining.org/national-expansion/>, with deadlines of April 30 and September 30, so the timing of the FEMA/DHS approval is ideal! Over 30 states have contacted us thus far with interest.

We thank our many partners for the support they have given BART along the way! BART is endorsed and supported by both the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association and Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation. These organizations brought Dr. Olson's idea to life and provided the initial start up money for BART. BART exists due to their generosity.



Endorsed by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association

BART has received letters of support from the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Minnesota – College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Public Health, the Minnesota Association of Veterinary Technicians, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Animal Control Association, Veterinary Medical Assistance Team – 5 (VMAT-5), USDA-Veterinary Services, and the Minneapolis and Andover Fire Departments.

Kim Helmbold, DVM/ MPH student

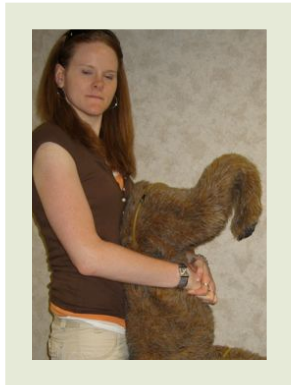
BART's application for course approval is heavily dependent on the specialized work of several people including two Masters of Public Health students. Kim is one of the students we've had the good fortune of working with.

Kim Helmbold first heard about BART in 2006, when Dr. Olson and Cassie Panning came to the University Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine to present an informational lecture, followed by a training session for students who were interested in becoming BART trainers. Kim learned to teach Patient Assessment and First Aid and was soon out training the Minneapolis Fire Department!

In May of 2006, Kim informed BART about her desire to do a small-animal oriented project for her Masters of Public Health Project. Dr. Olson referred Kim to Dr. Burger, who met with Dr Larissa Minnicucci, Director of the DVM/MPH Program in the School of Public Health. Dr Minnicucci approved Kim's project to help write the curriculum for FEMA with Dr Burger as her advisor - that's when things really took off!



Kim started attending all the BART training sessions that she could, to become familiar with the details of the entire course. She also began literature reviews, documenting the importance of BART's mission to public health and safety - something very important when writing grants and seeking endorsements! Kim then attended an orientation meeting with Bob Berg, our advisor from MN Homeland Security and Emergency Management, to learn the process our nation uses to develop new emergency preparedness efforts like BART. Bob taught Kim along with Drs. Olson and Burger the detailed procedure for curriculum development and guidelines for submitting the course approval application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Then the team started writing - a process that took five months to complete due to the detailed format and extensive documentation required by FEMA!



Kim's main motivator for being a BART volunteer is her passion for the human-animal bond. She feels it is imperative that first responders and other emergency personnel understand how people often react emotionally in regards to their pets during a disaster - and put their own health and safety at risk as a result of their animals being in danger.

Kim is originally from New York; she moved to Minnesota

in 2005 in order to work on her Masters' of Public Health and start her veterinary study. She is currently a third year student, concentrating on small animal emergency medicine. Her plans are to graduate in 2009, then pursue a specialty degree in emergency medicine. Currently, Kim works at Midwest Veterinary Specialty Group and Emergency, and enjoys leading the BART CPR station - when her studies allow!

Mary Avriette, MBA, DVM/MPH student

Mary Avriette first learned about BART when she attended the 2007 Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention. Mary thought BART was a fantastic idea, took some informational material, and showed up to her first training a couple of weeks later.

After observing the small animal course, Mary was very impressed with the professionalism of the volunteers, the enthusiasm of the firefighters, and passion of Dr. Olson. Determined to get involved right away, Mary asked Dr. Olson what BART needed, and what she could offer the organization. Soon after, she attended the Governor's Conference to meet Dr Burger and help tell emergency responders about BART!



Curriculum Spotlight

The lifeblood of BART is our passionate volunteers. We're pleased to introduce you to two of our curriculum development volunteers, Kim Helmbold and Mary Avriette.

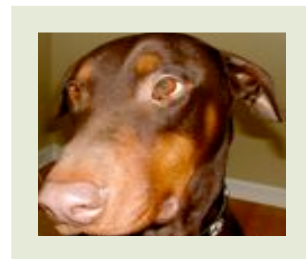
Editor's Note: Michelle Miller, CVT, featured in last month's issue of *The Siren*, also assisted with the curriculum development. Please read her Spotlight by [Clicking Here](#).

Mary is a registered veterinary technician, and a current DVM/MPH student at the University of Minnesota. Between her undergraduate degree and starting vet school, she managed a vet practice in San Diego, and earned her Masters of Business Administration. Drs. Olson and Burger asked Mary to consider helping write the formal curriculum proposal to FEMA as part of her Masters of Public Health project. Last summer, she helped write the Speaker and Patient Assessment portions of the curriculum. She looks forward to writing the curriculum proposal for BART's Community Responder course this summer.

BART offered Mary the first paid position we created - Program Assistant! In this part time position, Mary is Co-Editor of *The Siren*, which she very much enjoys producing. A BART-certified trainer for Patient Assessment/First Aid, Mary is also learning to teach Pet CPR, Large Animal Restraint

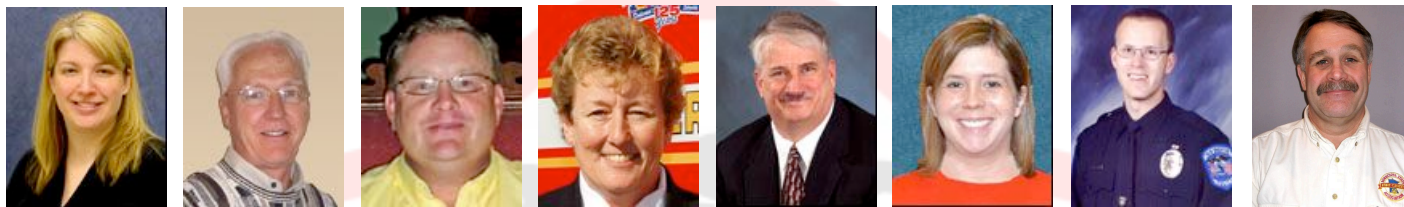
and Handling, and be a Small Animal Speaker! She often brings Jack, her big red and rust Doberman, to help her train. He's got large arteries that help first responders find his pulse, and is quite friendly. Jack is pictured several times in the Small Animal curriculum, and is likely to star in the Community Responder curriculum as well!

Mary is a recipient of the competitive US Army Health Professions Scholarship Program; she will be a US Army Veterinary Corps officer upon graduation from Minnesota, a career she is very excited to start. She looks forward to being able to use her "swiss army" DVM degree for everything it is used for in the US Army: large-, small-, and exotic- animal medicine, herd health, food inspection, and public health. While she won't be able to stay in Minnesota after graduation and deployment, she gives two big thumbs up to Drs. Olson and Burger for their incredible efforts to bring BART this far, and looks forward to watching BART's national expansion!



BART's New Board of Directors

Running an organization is hard work! BART is very fortunate to have this leadership team to help with the technical skills and dedication it takes to get the job done right!



Pictured, Left to Right: Michelle Reckard, Jerry Sprau, John King, Charlotte Holt, Mike Murphy, Cassie Panning, Tony Paetznick, Dan Winkel
Not pictured, John Fruetel. For more information visit <http://basicanimalrescuetraining.org/staff/>

Michelle Reckard, CVT

Michelle Reckard graduated from the University of Florida in 1998 with a major in Mathematics and minor in actuarial science. For the past 8 years she has worked in the actuarial consulting industry. In 2002 she began a career change into veterinary medicine, graduating from Argosy University in 2005, and is now a Certified Veterinary Technician. She is employed part time at Hudson Road Animal Hospital in Woodbury. Michelle continues pursuing her veterinary career and will begin her first year of study for her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in the Fall of 2008, at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Michelle lives in Woodbury, MN with her two cats, Gus and Zoey.

Jerry Sprau, DVM

Dr. Jerry Sprau graduated from the University Of Minnesota College Of Veterinary Medicine in 1968. He is the owner of Scenic Hills Animal Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota. His professional affiliations include the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) where he has served as president and currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer. He has also served on the Animal Emergency Clinic as president and as a board member of the Veterinary Hospitals Association (VHA). He received the MVMA Veterinarian of the Year Award in 1994. Dr. Sprau has served on his church council, is president of the Lions Club and served for 12 years on the Ramsey County Society for Companion Animals Board of Directors.

Cassie Panning, CVT

Cassie Panning graduated from Argosy University in January of 2004 with an A.A.S. in Veterinary Technology. After graduation she completed an internship at Metropolitan Veterinary Referral Services (MVRS). She continued to work at MVRS for an additional year and a half before moving to general practice. Cassie is currently employed at St. Boni Pet Hospital located in St. Bonifacius Minnesota.

John King, DVM

Dr. John King graduated in 1989 from the University of Minnesota - College of Veterinary Medicine and then completed a large Animal Medicine, Surgery and Theriogenology Internship in 1990 at the University of Prince Edward Island Canada – Atlantic Veterinary College. He has been active in his primarily equine practice from 1990 to present. He is also served as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine since 2002. Dr King has been a member of the LeSueur Fire Department since 1991. He is married to his wife Kay and has twin daughters Maggie (15) and Molly (15) and a son Evan (14) and numerous animals large and small.

Dan Winkel

Dan Winkel has worked in the Fire Service for over 30 years, and in his current position as Andover Fire Chief since 1995. Prior to his position in Andover Dan was the Public Works Superintendent in Arden Hills as well as serving on the Lake Johanna Fire Department, where he was the Fire Chief for nine years. While with the Lake Johanna Fire Department, Dan acted as the Vice President and President of both the Ramsey County Chiefs Association and the Capitol City Regional Firefighters Association. He is currently serving his third term as President of the Minnesota State Fire Department Association (MSFDA). Dan also served on the Board of Directors for the MSFDA from 1989 to 1999, and was reappointed by his region to once again serve in 2005 until the present. He has used his many connections to spread the word about BART to firefighters throughout Minnesota.

Mike Murphy, DVM

Mike Murphy is a veterinary toxicologist and attorney. His wife, also a veterinarian, and two labs - Barney and Bailey - all enjoy being BART volunteers.

Charlotte Holt

Charlotte is the EMS Chief for the Minneapolis Fire Department. She first got involved in BART in 2005 when she met Dr. Janet Olson through a vet tech who recommended BART training for Minneapolis firefighters. In early 2006 all 440 of the Minneapolis Firefighters went through BART training!

Take it from Charlotte: *"BART training has been exceptional and our folks...while many of them have been rescuing animals for years, now have the tools, skills and capability of being more aggressive in saving the lives of those we love. Since our department BART training we have worked numerous house fires or personal injury accidents and saved many pet lives...all thanks to BART!"*

Tony Paetznick

Tony Paetznick serves as a Police Officer and Deputy Fire Chief for the New Brighton Department of Public Safety, where he has been employed since 1997. In these roles, he coordinates the Police Division's Citizen Corps Programs, including CERT, VIPS/Fire Corps and Neighborhood Watch, and is responsible for leading all training activities of the Fire Division. He is also a member of the North Suburban Hazardous Materials Response Team. A graduate of the University of St. Thomas, Tony holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Spanish, and a Master of Arts in Police Leadership. Tony lives in New Brighton with his wife Stacie and their two sons, Isaac and Andrew. As New Brighton is the home of BART, Tony is proud to maintain a relationship with our community organization.

John Fruetel

John Fruetel is the Minneapolis Assistant Fire Chief. He will receive the Firefighter Ready award at the 2008 Heroes Breakfast, presented by the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Red Cross for his leadership during the I-35 bridge collapse last summer.