

Animal Strike Team Training

Why am I here?

(not you, me)

- Florida Keys Exotic Invasive “Big Snake” Rapid Responders
 - primarily to populate a call list with competent responders
- ECISMA Animal Strike Team
 - ECISMA-wide pool of qualified/certified individuals
e.g. fire training model?



Animal Strike Team Training

- Many references to draw from... for this exercise today...
 - Best Practices for Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators: A Training Manual, New York State
 - BTS Training Manual
 - Wildlife Management Training – What Are You Doing? MSP International Airport Wildlife Management Training Program Review
 - James Stanford, USDA
 - Personal experiences/needs of ECISMA members



Animal Strike Team Training

- Most have the following shared goals (Why Train?)
 - To reduce liability.
 - To increase credibility of ECISMA/Florida Keys Program
 - To meet local, state or federal requirements.
 - To protect the safety, health and welfare of staff and public.
 - To establish minimum, uniform performance and knowledge standards.
 - To provide the necessary instruction and skills to do the job.
 - To clearly identify those individuals who are authorized to implement the program.
 - To maintain employee skills and knowledge.



Animal Strike Team Training

- Who gets trained? The following groups are often identified...
 - Staff
 - Cooperators
 - Contractors
 - Volunteers



Animal Strike Team Training

Topics

- Safety and first aid
- Health concerns/wildlife diseases
- Animal signs
- Interviewing
- Animal and/or specimen disposition, and carcass disposal
- "Approved" methods, tools, and techniques for capture, removal, restraint, transport, and euthanasia
- Record keeping
- Public relations/media training
- Sensitivity training and animal rights (issue awareness)
- Priority species identification and T & E species
- Why we need rapid responders (the problem)
- Some basic exotic invasive species biology
- Laws and regulations
- Liability



Animal Strike Team Training

- Prepare a Training Plan for “Alison’s Rapid Responders”
 - Provide training objectives by topic
 - Identify existing training resources
 - e.g. Basic American Red Cross First Aid
 - Identify existing resources that can be modified
 - e.g. BTS interview and snake identification kit
 - Develop new materials
 - e.g. How to kill a big snake? (USGS write-up)
 - Identify trainers (in-house, outsource, combination)
 - How will the training be conducted? – (lecture, hands on, discussion, on-the-job, independent study, computer based, role-play, etc.)
 - Where? – (classroom, lab, field, combination)
 - How often? – (once, annually, quarterly, etc.)
 - Cost
 - Seek review and agreement/acceptance by Alison/ECISMA
- Consider how to scale up to the needs of ECISMA



Animal Strike Team Training

.177 Caliber Air Rifle

(example)

Objectives:

- The trainee will be able to identify the following parts of the Air Rifle: stock, safety, action, chamber, sights, barrel.
- The trainee will be able to safely examine the Air Rifle to ensure that it is unloaded.
- The trainee will be able to safely examine the Air Rifle for any obstructions.
- The trainee will be able to safely hold, load, aim and fire the Air Rifle.
- The trainee will be able to hit the target five times consecutively.
- The trainee will be able to safely unload the Air Rifle.
- The trainee will be able to safely transport the Air Rifle.

Prerequisite: Basic Hunter Safety or Basic Firearms Safety (equivalent or better)

Trainer: In-house, Certified Firearms Instructor

How: Lecture, demonstration, hands on.

Where: Classroom, firing range

Duration: 8 hours

How often: Every 3 years

Cost: Coffee and donuts



Animal Strike Team Training

What to look for in a Giant Snake?

(example)

Objectives:

- The trainee shall be able to identify the following heavy bodied exotic snakes: Ball Python, Boa Constrictor, Amethystine Python, Burmese or African Rock Python, Reticulated Python, Green and Yellow Anaconda.
- The trainee shall be able to identify what snakes are considered state or federally endangered or threatened species and what action may or may not be taken against them.
- The trainee shall be able to identify unfamiliar snake species using a variety of reference tools.
- The trainee shall be able to identify what snake species are authorized to be removed under state and federal guidelines.

Prerequisite: None

Trainer: In-house and outsource (combination)

How: Lecture, hands on, discussion

Where: Classroom

Duration: 2 hours

How often: Once

Cost: More coffee and donuts



Animal Strike Team Training

Discussion

Questions/Comments

