

Animal Health and Wellbeing Training
June 20, 2025 8AM – 5PM
Hosted by the Louisiana SPCA
1700 Mardi Gras Blvd. NOLA 70114

8:00AM – 8:30AM Gulf Coast VECTOR – Ana Zorrilla

This presentation provides an overview of a multi-state initiative spanning Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida to assess regional needs and deliver targeted training. The project aims to support animal, human, and public health providers through collaborative education and resource development.

8:30AM – 9:30AM One Health Model – Dr. Susan Streif-Bourgeois

Dr. Steif-Bougeois will explore the concept of health across multiple contexts, introduce the One Health model, and provide an overview of zoonotic diseases. The presentation will include an interactive exercise using Chagas disease to illustrate the One Health approach in action.

9:30AM – 10:30 AM Vector Borne Diseases – Dr. Emily Roberson

Dr. Roberson will discuss the signs and symptoms of vector-borne diseases transmitted by fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, and other vectors affecting both humans and animals. She will also guide attendees on how to effectively communicate the importance of prevention, early detection, and treatment to their clients.

10:30AM - 10:45AM Break

10:45AM – 11:45AM Safe wildlife handling and PPE – Timothy Matherne

This presentation will cover best practices for safely handling wildlife, with a focus on preventing the transmission of vector-borne diseases relevant to animal responders. It will also emphasize the critical role of personal protective equipment (PPE) in minimizing exposure and ensuring responder safety.

11:45AM – 12:45PM Lunch break and post training survey

12:45PM – 5:00PM Disaster Preparedness and Response for Animal Wellbeing Professionals – Dr. Renee Poirier

Topics covered include Louisiana's Pet Plan including which agencies have authority for animals during a disaster, common zoonotic and vector borne diseases of concern during disasters and how to mitigate these diseases and some post disaster operations to assist in recovery such as assessments, feed in place as well as how to register as part of an emergency volunteer response corps.