



Table of Contents

Our Vision, Our Mission, Our Promise	1	Accreditation	20
A Message From Allison A. Sakara	2	The Joy of Koi	21
Our Leadership Team, Board, and Officers	3	Animal Welfare Organization	
The First Twenty Years of the High Alert Mission	4	All Hazards Awareness & Readiness	22
Timeline	5	Partnerships, Collaborations, and	
Twenty Years of Clients	7	Mutual Aide Agreements	23
The High Alert Institute Activity Report 2020 - 2021	9	Freshwater Non-Native Exotic and Ornamental	
Reconditioning PAPRs for FHCWs	10	Aquatic Pet Rescue Map	24
Shelter Animals Spawn	11	Communications	25
Essential Workers Bill of Rights	12	Who You Gonna Call?	26
Building Ventilation Standards	13	Member Services	27
Founders Donate Two New Tanks	14	Climate Change	28
Review & Analysis of the World Scientific		Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion	30
Literature for COVID-19 Anti-Viral Treatments	15	High Alert Institute Fundraising & Financials	31
ROAR Against COVID-19 Protocol	16	Donor Outreach & Direct Donation	32
The Institute – Our Next Twenty Years	17	Intellectual Property Donation	33
Animal Rescue	18	Nature Photo Donation	34
Shelter Capital Expansion	19	In-Kind Donation (1% for the Planet)	35
		Financials	36
		Looking to the Future	38

Our Vision

The High Alert Institute, Inc. envisions a world where all people, families, communities, businesses, and organizations are disaster-ready.

Our Mission

The High Alert Institute helps those not served by municipal, local, county, state, regional, or federal programs/agencies to be disaster-ready.



Our Promise

We will support, promote and when possible, provide:

- Disaster Education, Planning, and Preparedness for animal owners, animal caretakers, animal shelters, and animal welfare organizations.
- Disaster Response and Recovery for animal owners, animal caretakers, animal shelters, and animal welfare organizations.
- Disaster Rescue, Domestic Violence Respite, and Voluntary Surrender for freshwater non-native exotic and ornamental aquatic pets.
- Shelter for rescued and surrendered freshwater non-native exotic and ornamental aquatic pets.
- Coordination and Mutual Aid between freshwater non-native exotic and ornamental aquatic pet rescues and shelters in North America.

We will advance:

- Alignment of Emergency Management and Disaster-Readiness guidance to match best practices in animal care, rescue, conservation, and welfare.
- Technology to reduce the carbon footprint for aquatic animal care and sheltering, while increasing the resilience of aquaponic facilities in the face of natural and manmade disasters.
- Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion Practices in the profession and integrate these as values into our organizational culture.

A Message from Allison A. Sakara

The global needs and challenges created by the COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as the numerous ways to serve, have exemplified the very heart of the High Alert Institute mission. Many of our Board members, past and present, are or have been frontline workers. In this renewal year, we thank those who have left at the end of their term on the Board. And we look forward to working again with all who have volunteered for another term, while welcoming several new faces to the Board.

Our entire Institute was saddened by the death of one of our founding Board members last year, Dr. Martin (Ed) Thornton. Opting to work in an underserved community Emergency Room, even after that ER ran out of personal protective equipment for staff, Ed died from complications of COVID-19.

In the first six months of the pandemic, the High Alert Institute partnered with Medical & Regulatory Affairs Specialists, LLC (MRAS) to review the scope of antiviral repurposing literature, in an attempt to identify an existing licensed drug combination demonstrating statistically significant effectiveness against COVID-19. The Institute and MRAS prepared an article for publication and also developed a protocol for facilities to use when administering the most effective drug combinations, shared freely throughout the United States and with other countries. Data analyzed by the Institute concluded that no single drug regimen available as of June 2020 was effective against COVID-19. Published in November 2020, the World Health Organization clinical trial would prove the Institute correct.

The Institute's interest in contributing to underserved aquatic pet rescue also began during the pandemic. Fortunately, 2020 and 2021 saw no major storms resulting in the need for fish rescue in FEMA Region 4. However, the koi in our community tank spawned, yielding 200+ hatchlings that survived to adult size. Dubbed the "KOIVID" fish on social media, these animals are now part of the High Alert Institute family, residing in two 1,000 gallon tanks and a 1,600 gallon community pond.

Moving toward a post-Pandemic phase, every healthcare and essential worker has "been there, done that" when it comes to pandemic and disaster. And the Institute recognizes that our prior concentration on Healthcare Disaster Education (including pandemic preparedness) is not the current area of need. Our partners in the animal wellness and conservation community, however, have recognized the need for more disaster education and training to be truly disaster-ready. In 2022, the Institute is pivoting to a post-pandemic approach to fulfilling Our Vision and Our Mission.

We are excited to bring our mission to a new focus in support of animal owners, animal caretakers, animal shelters, and animal welfare organizations to be disaster-ready. Scaly is the New Cuddly!!!

Allison A. Sakara

Allison A. Sakara, NP, MSN, RN, PHRN

Executive Director, High Alert Institute, Inc.

Operations During the Pandemic

The High Alert Institute team spent the first two decades after 9/11 working with our Federal Partner Agencies to improve disaster readiness across the disaster lifecycle for hospitals, frontline workers, and first responders. Given our expertise in healthcare and research, we were called upon to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic response. This has been the focus of our activities from December 2019 through the present.

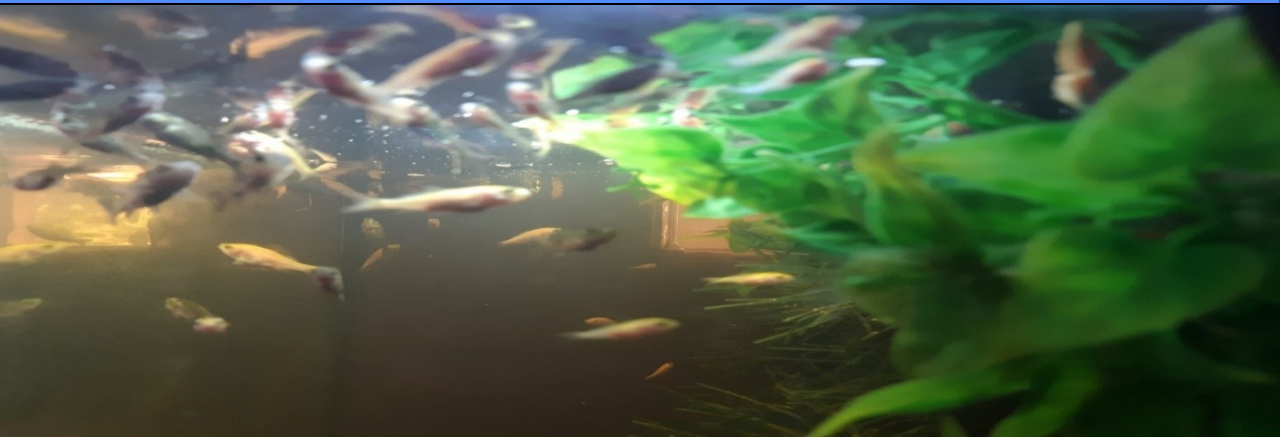
Social distancing and the overriding needs of the pandemic response forced the Institute to suspend plans for the rescue and rehoming of aquatic pets. Meanwhile, the fish in our care spawned and our shelter is now near capacity. As the Institute begins to resume normal operations, our aquatic pet rescue and shelter programs are just in time for hurricane season.



Our Leadership Team

The Institute is led by a diverse team that includes:

- Current and former Federal Medical Officers (USA & Canada)
- Current and former Frontline Healthcare Workers & MedTech Executives
- Founding US Department of Homeland Security Officers
- Founding Chairperson for the American Board of Disaster Medicine
- Manhattan FDNY EMS Medical Director for the 9/11 Response
- Leadership for Disaster Behavioral Health teams (USA & Canada)
- Former Chairperson of the American Psychological Association's Committee on Disaster Behavioral Health
- Recipient, Lifetime Achievement Award in Disaster Medicine
- Recipient, EMS Physician Excellence Award Recipient
- Recipient, National Disaster Medical System (HHS/DHS/ASPR) Distinguished Member of the Year
- Recipient, American Psychological Association Presidential Citation
- Recipient, Stevie Award for Best Multicultural Communications Campaign
- Renewable Energy Systems Engineers
- Ambassador for Aphasia Awareness

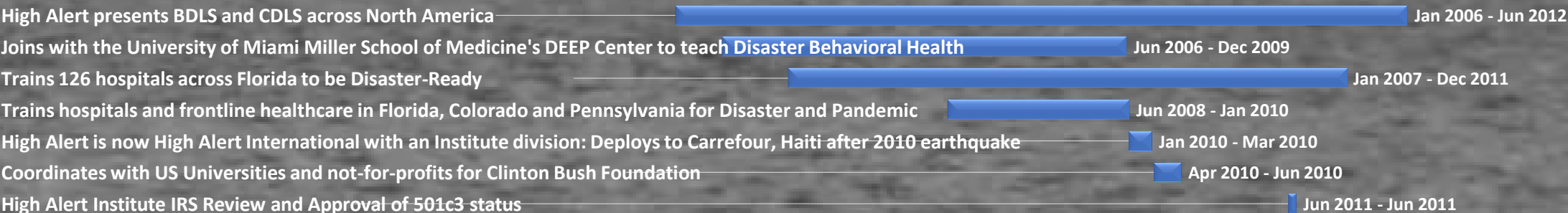


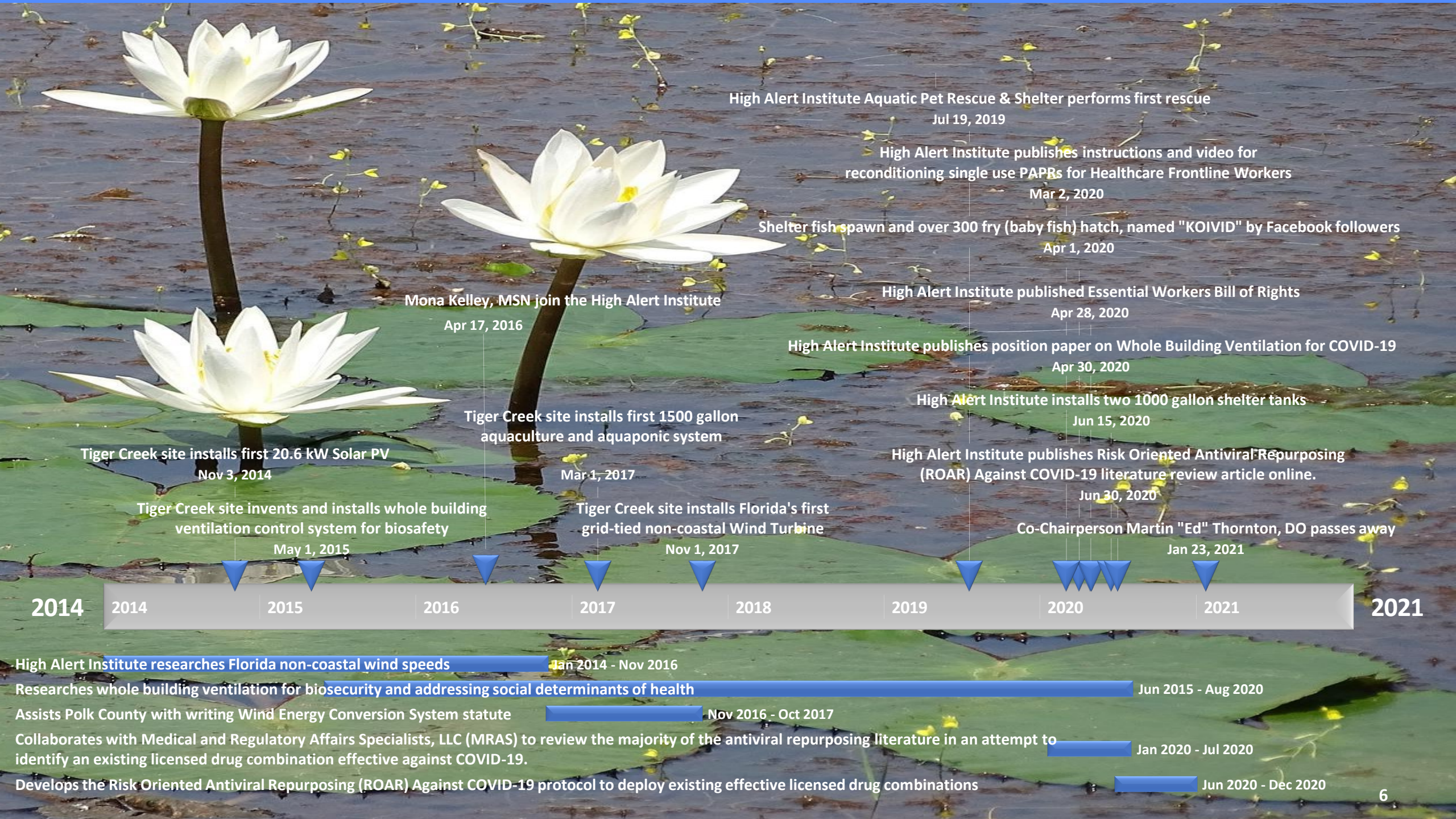
Our Board and Officers

- **Maurice A. Ramirez, DO, Ph.D.**
Founder, President/Chairperson of the Board
Lifetime Achievement in Disaster Medicine Award Recipient
- **Heidi Cordi, MD, MPH, MS**
Vice-Chairperson of the Board
Former FDNY EMS Medical Director for Manhattan
- **Jeanne LeBlanc, Ph.D.**
Board Member
Disaster Behavioral Health Team Leader
- **Amy Walters, BA**
Board Member
Ambassador for Aphasia
- **David Billingsley, BS**
Board Member
Environmentalism
- **Monique Tapie**
Board Member
Corporate Communications Executive
- **Sadie Walters, RN**
Board Member
Environmentalism & Frontline Healthcare Worker
- **Zachary Walters, M.Eng**
Secretary/Treasurer, Board Member
Mechanical & Renewable Energy Engineer
- **Allison A. Sakara, RN, MSN, NP, PHRN**
Executive Director
DHS/FEMA Service Award Recipient



The First 20 Years of the
High Alert Mission





2014

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2021

Tiger Creek site installs first 20.6 kW Solar PV
Nov 3, 2014

Tiger Creek site invents and installs whole building
ventilation control system for biosafety
May 1, 2015

Mona Kelley, MSN join the High Alert Institute
Apr 17, 2016

Tiger Creek site installs first 1500 gallon
aquaculture and aquaponic system
Mar 1, 2017

Tiger Creek site installs Florida's first
grid-tied non-coastal Wind Turbine
Nov 1, 2017

High Alert Institute Aquatic Pet Rescue & Shelter performs first rescue
Jul 19, 2019

High Alert Institute publishes instructions and video for
reconditioning single use PAPRs for Healthcare Frontline Workers
Mar 2, 2020

Shelter fish spawn and over 300 fry (baby fish) hatch, named "KOIVID" by Facebook followers
Apr 1, 2020

High Alert Institute published Essential Workers Bill of Rights
Apr 28, 2020

High Alert Institute publishes position paper on Whole Building Ventilation for COVID-19
Apr 30, 2020

High Alert Institute installs two 1000 gallon shelter tanks
Jun 15, 2020

High Alert Institute publishes Risk Oriented Antiviral Repurposing
(ROAR) Against COVID-19 literature review article online.
Jun 30, 2020

Co-Chairperson Martin "Ed" Thornton, DO passes away
Jan 23, 2021

High Alert Institute researches Florida non-coastal wind speeds
Jan 2014 - Nov 2016

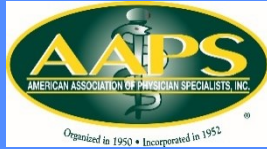
Researches whole building ventilation for biosecurity and addressing social determinants of health
Jun 2015 - Aug 2020

Assists Polk County with writing Wind Energy Conversion System statute
Nov 2016 - Oct 2017

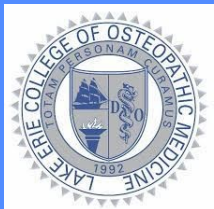
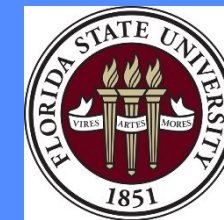
Collaborates with Medical and Regulatory Affairs Specialists, LLC (MRAS) to review the majority of the antiviral repurposing literature in an attempt to
identify an existing licensed drug combination effective against COVID-19.
Jan 2020 - Jul 2020

Develops the Risk Oriented Antiviral Repurposing (ROAR) Against COVID-19 protocol to deploy existing effective licensed drug combinations
Jun 2020 - Dec 2020

Twenty Years of Clients



Twenty Years of Clients



A grayscale electron micrograph of a cell, showing various organelles like mitochondria and vesicles. Numerous small, solid blue circles are overlaid on the image, primarily concentrated within a large, irregularly shaped central vacuole or lumen. The circles appear to be highlighting specific points of interest or activity within the cell's internal structure.

High Alert Institute Activity Report 2020 - 2021



Program Snapshot

- Program Detail -Disaster response and force protection during the pandemic using materials and equipment already on hand in many healthcare facilities.
- Base of Operation – Our headquarters in Lake Wales, Florida
- Area of Operation – Online distribution of written instructions as pdf and email; online distribution of links to instructional videos
- Operational Categories - Disaster Response and Force Protection
- Service Population – Frontline Healthcare Workers Worldwide
- Emergency Support Function(s): 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15

Reconditioning PAPRs for FHCWs

The first six months of the COVID-19 Pandemic demonstrated the failure of the Healthcare Industry to ensure the supply and supply chain for basic protective equipment for Frontline Healthcare Workers (FHCWs). The High Alert Institute, working with its stock of donated instructional Purified Air Powered Respirators (PAPRs), developed techniques for reconditioning two Mine Safety Apparatus (MSA) PAPR systems:

- Single Use Class C Hooded PAPRs
- Single Use Metal Can Style Filter Cartridges

The Institute published a set of written instructions for replacing the single use battery with rechargeable batteries from lighted Exit Signs found in every public building. In addition, the Institute published written instructions for replacing the filter material inside the filter cartridge with HEPA filtration material. Videos were produced demonstrating these techniques.

Shelter Animals Spawn

The famous line from the Jurassic Park franchise:

“Nature finds a way”

was demonstrated by the Koi fish in the care of the High Alert Institute, as the COVID-19 pandemic reached its first deadly peak surge. Despite the very necessary moratorium on aquatic pet rescues and new animal intake, nature found a way to increase the shelter population by nearly 300 hatchlings.

The new fry (baby fish) soon had their own Facebook following. The group found itself named “KOIVID” fish. The hatchlings were transferred to an incubator tank in the High Alert Institute headquarters office. Over the ensuing two years, the hatchlings were transferred to shelter tanks as they grew past the peanut stage (body length over 4 inches).

The KOIVID fish are now nearing adulthood and measure from 8 inches to 18 inches in length.

“Nature finds a way!”



Program Snapshot

- Program Detail - Disaster recovery and disaster behavioral health as the only freshwater non-native ornamental and exotic aquatic pet rescue and shelter in the southeastern United States was unable to rescue due to COVID-19 shutdowns, nature provided animals for us to care for and to care for us.
- Base of Operation – Our freshwater non-native aquatic pet rescue and shelter in Central Florida.
- Area of Operation – Our Lake Wales Headquarters
- Operational Categories - Disaster Recovery & Disaster Behavioral Health
- Service Population – High Alert institute staff and board
- Emergency Support Function(s): 8, 11 & 17



Program Snapshot

- Program Detail - Disaster response and force protection using materials and equipment already on hand in many healthcare facilities.
- Base of Operation – Our headquarters in the Lake Wales, Florida
- Area of Operation – Online distribution of press releases and Essential Workers Bill of Rights document as pdf and email.
- Operational Categories - Disaster Response and Force Protection
- Service Population – Essential Workers Worldwide.
- Emergency Support Function(s): 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15 & 17

Essential Workers Bill of Rights

The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented pressures to bear upon the essential emergency support functions of our country – revealing serious gaps that need to be addressed. With stay-at-home orders and quarantines, these essential emergency support functions facilitate the activities of our daily lives. It is imperative to the care of our citizens that all Essential Workers, First Responders, Healthcare Workers and their Families be protected and supported at work and at home.

The High Alert Institute joined with the Renaissance Worldwide Solutions, LLC (RWS) family of companies, politicians, and the press to enumerate and support the rights and protections that must be afforded all Essential Workers, First Responders, Healthcare Workers, their Families, our Patients and Society.

Building Ventilation Standards

SAR-CoV2, the causative virus for COVID-19 and the global pandemic, demonstrated the ease with which illnesses can be spread by recirculated air in even the most modern of buildings. COVID-19 also provided unprecedented evidence of the health effects of air quality in acute illness and infection. Starting before the pandemic, the High Alert Institute was working with the RWS family of companies to support mitigation of the impact of these social determinants of health (SDoH) via air quality responsive whole building ventilation.

The Institute's headquarters offices benefit from a proof-of-concept whole building ventilation control system. This controller not only improved HVAC efficiency by 40%, but also helped the Institute maintain a "COVID Bubble", protecting both immunocompetent and immunocompromised Institute staff and Board Members.



Program Snapshot

- Program Detail - Disaster risk mitigation and force protection using a technological solution based on updated air quality and building ventilation standards.
- Base of Operation – Our freshwater non-native aquatic pet rescue and shelter in Central Florida.
- Area of Operation – Adaptable to buildings worldwide
- Operational Categories - Disaster Risk Mitigation & Force Protection
- Service Population – Occupants of buildings and homes worldwide
- Emergency Support Function(s): 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15 & 17



Program Snapshot

- Program Detail - Disaster response and recovery by providing shelter space for additional freshwater non-native ornamental and exotic fish rescues.
- Base of Operation – Our headquarters in the Lake Wales, Florida
- Area of Operation – FEMA Region 4 (Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky)
- Operational Categories - Disaster Response and Recovery
- Service Population – Commercial and Private freshwater non-native aquatic pet owners within FEMA Region 4.
- Emergency Support Function(s): 11 & 17

Founders Donate Two New Tanks

The unexpected spawning of nearly 300 koi hatchlings accelerated the planned addition of two 1,000 gallon shelter tanks. Each shelter tank is capable of housing 200 twelve to eighteen inch long koi fish.

Once these two shelter tanks were installed, the KOIVID fish started moving in to their new homes. While most shelter spawning results in fewer than 50 fry surviving to adult size, over 200 KOIVID fish ultimately moved into the new shelter tanks. The Institute's three shelter tanks now house more than 100 large freshwater non-native ornamental and exotic fish.

Our capital expansion will include a large community pond and numerous isolation tanks for sheltered or surrendered fish. Until the expansion is complete, the majority of the KOIVID fish will remain in the High Alert Institute's shelter. The Institute plans to rehome fish as part of the Joy of Koi program and to public botanical gardens in the southeastern United States.

Review & Analyze the World Scientific Literature for COVID-19 Anti-Viral Treatments

In the first six months of the pandemic, The High Alert Institute partnered with Medical & Regulatory Affairs Specialists, LLC (MRAS), a subsidiary of Renaissance Worldwide Solutions, LLC. Our task was to review the majority of available antiviral repurposing literature, in an effort to identify an existing licensed drug combination effective against COVID-19. The Institute and MRAS prepared an article for publication and developed a protocol for facilities to use when administering the most effective drug combinations.

The Institute found that no single drug available as of June 2020 was effective against COVID-19. To provide comparisons of anti-viral therapy regimen efficacy, a proposed performance goal was calculated and published online. The WHO clinical trial, published in November 2020, would prove the Institute correct regarding monotherapy and performance goals.

TITLE

The Role of the OPC During Public Health Emergencies: A Clinical and Regulatory Affairs Approach to Antiviral Repurposing for COVID-19

SHORT TITLE

OPCs for COVID-19 Antiviral Selection

AUTHORS

Allison A. Sakara, RN, MSN, NP, PHRN
High Alert Institute, Inc.
4800 Ben Hill Trail
Lake Wales, FL 33898
asakara@high-alert.com
Corresponding Author

Mona Kelley, RN, MSN
High Alert Institute, Inc.

Richard P. Chiacchierini, PhD
R. P. Chiacchierini Consulting

Maurice A. Ramirez, DO, PhD
High Alert Institute, Inc.

Karl Kelley, MD
High Alert Institute, Inc.

Terrance L. Baker, MD, MS
Solray Kenyan Foundation, Inc.

Funding

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Word Count = 3,802

Page 1 of 27

ABSTRACT

Background/Aims

Pandemic COVID-19 punctuates the therapeutic challenges inherent to public health emergencies. With the paucity of randomized control trials (RCTs) for therapies to combat COVID-19 illness, the need for literature-derived Objective Performance Criteria (OPCs) for Efficacy and Safety is paramount. The Clinical and Regulatory Affairs approach was employed for this meta-analysis of antiviral drugs repurposed to the treatment of moderate to severe COVID-19, leading to a prospective open label trial design.

Methods

Following the systematic search of more than 87,000 relevant peer reviewed publications, only 16 articles contained data sufficient for analysis. Data mined from these articles were analyzed by Fleiss and benchmark OPCs for Efficacy, Safety, and Death Rate were derived. Subsequently, data were mined from Real-World Evidence, analyzed by Fleiss and compared to the OPCs.

Results

Literature-derived OPCs for Efficacy, Safety and Death were calculated as 79.0%, 5.7% and 3.8%, respectively. Test for statistical superiority determined that Combination Antiviral regimens were statistically superior to the OPC for Efficacy but statistically not superior and not inferior to the OPCs for Safety or Death. Antiviral Monotherapy regimens as a group were statistically not superior to all three OPCs. Looking individually at monotherapy with hydroxychloroquine or lopinavir/ritonavir or remdesivir, each was statistically not superior to all three OPCs. No statistically valid statement could be made regarding the Efficacy, Safety or Death for the Addition of Steroids to any Antiviral Drug Regimens. Test for statistical superiority comparing the Real-World Evidence to the OPCs determined that Antimalarial-based and RNA Polymerase Inhibitor-based Combination Antiviral regimens each were statistically superior to the OPC for Efficacy. Antimalarial-based Combination Antiviral regimens statistically not superior and not inferior to the OPCs for Safety and Death. RNA Polymerase Inhibitor-based Combination Antiviral regimens were statistically superior to OPC for Safety but statistically not superior and not inferior to the OPC for Death.

Conclusions

The study of clinical outcomes during public health emergencies is severely limited by the very nature of such emergencies. As COVID-19 treatment protocols evolve, it is essential that the available data be compared to appropriate benchmarks (OPCs) for Efficacy, Safety, and Death.

Key Words

Antiviral, COVID-19, Efficacy, Objective Performance Criteria, OPC, Repurposing, Safety

Page 2 of 27

Program Snapshot

- Program Detail - Disaster Research using the PRISMA-P approach to literature search and review combined with the Fleiss Method of Inverse Weighted Average for analysis of heterogenous data for the determination of Objective Performance Criteria (OPCs).
- Base of Operation –Our headquarters in the Lake Wales, Florida
- Area of Operation – Worldwide
- Operational Categories - Disaster Research
- Service Population – Healthcare providers and researchers worldwide.
- Emergency Support Function(s): 8 & 11

ROAR Against COVID-19

Risk Oriented Antiviral Repurposing Against COVID-19

A Retrospective Analysis Protocol Based Upon Literature-Derived Objective Performance Criteria for Efficacy and Safety

High Alert Institute, Inc. (a 501c3 not-for-profit) - Primary Sponsor

Allison A. Sakara, RN, MSN, NP, PHRN – Co-Founder and Executive Director
Mona Kelley, RN, MSN – Secretary/Treasurer
Karl Kelley, MD – Board Member
Heidi Cordi, MD – Board Member

Maurice A. Ramirez, DO, PhD – Co-Founder and Emeritus Medical Director
Richard P. Chiacchierini, PhD – Statistical Consultant
Rodolpho Aldre, MD – Contributing Consultant
Elizabeth Maxwell-Schmidt, MD – Contributing Consultant
4800 Bea Hill Trail
Lake Wales, FL 33898

Sollay Kenyan Foundation, Inc. (a 501c3 not-for-profit)

Terrance Baker, MD, MS – Co-Founder and Board Member
Modesta Yesouder, CRNP, MS – Co-Founder and Board Member
3700 Koppers St., Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21227

AskCo19 Data Project (an AI/ML Cooperative by Nth Opinion)

Roger Mg, MD – Co-Founder at Nth Opinion and Project Chairperson
Ray Ng, MD – Co-Founder at Nth Opinion and Project Vice Chair
Ben Goertzel, PhD – AI/ML Chairperson and Founder at SingularityNET
Marc van der Cuijs – Co-Founder at Nth Opinion
Chris Wern – Founder at Veridia Health
Pierre Casco – Founder at People Science Analytics
Susan Mu – Partner at The Blockchainer
Sriyasan Padmanabhan, MD, PhD – Physician at AskCo19
Jonathan Polos – AI/ML Actuary at AskCo19
Jay Sethuraj – Director EIS at TOMRA Collection Solutions
Deborah Duong – Director of AI Development at ReJuvy & Developer at SingularityNet
Michael Duncan – Lead Bioinformatics Scientist, SingularityNET
Harini Perera – AI Data Scientist at X.O. Concepts
1812 S J St.
Tacoma, WA 98405

Corresponding Author – Allison A. Sakara
Primary Sponsor – High Alert Institute, Inc.

Table of Contents

1. Background information	12
2. Clinical background	13
2.1 Emergence of 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (2019-nCoV/COVID-19)	13
2.2 Pneumonia Grading Systems and COVID-19	13
2.3 Symptoms and Course of the Disease	14
2.4 Treatment Options	15
3. Literature Searches	15
3.1 Peer Reviewed Literature	15
3.2 Non-Peer Reviewed Literature	16
4. Study Regimens	16
4.1 Rationale for Selection of Antiviral Drugs Against COVID-19	16
4.2 Literature Derived OPCs	17
4.3 Drug Repurposing for COVID-19	17
4.4 Rationale for Protocol Drug Selection	18
4.5 Protocol Drug Combinations	18
4.6 Additional Medications Reported as Standards of Care for COVID-19: Review of the Literature	18
4.7 Risk/benefit review	20
4.8 Study population	21
5. Study Design	21
5.1 Primary Efficacy Outcomes	22
5.2 Additional Efficacy Outcomes	22
5.3 Primary Safety Outcomes	22
5.4 Additional Safety Outcomes	22
5.5 Expected Subject Duration	23
5.6 Opt-In Data to be Collected	23
6. Selection and withdrawal of subjects	24
6.1 Inclusion criteria	24
6.2 Exclusion criteria	25
6.3 Vulnerable Populations Potentially Eligible	25
6.4 Participant withdrawal or study termination	25

ROAR Against COVID-19 Protocol

The speed, virulence and mortality associated with the first six months of the global COVID-19 pandemic outstripped the ability for pharmaceutical companies to develop new anti-viral drugs and COVID-19 vaccines. Detailed review and analysis of the world scientific literature performed by the High Alert Institute demonstrated that single drug treatments were no more effective than supportive care. Further, many proposed treatment regimens proved ineffective and even dangerous. By the end of the first international surge, most governments had restricted the use of both investigational drugs and repurposed anti-viral drugs to study protocols.

The High Alert Institute published an Investigational Review Board (IRB)-ready study protocol for use by any healthcare facility, listing the most successful multi-drug regimens as of June 2020. Once approved by an IRB and implemented, the protocol provided the support needed to permit scientifically supported COVID-19 therapy even by small facilities and non-US missions.

Program Snapshot

- Program Detail - Disaster research and response by providing healthcare facilities an IRB-Ready study protocol, to support that facility's choice to use multi-drug anti-viral therapy against COVID-19 until new FDA approved anti-viral therapy and vaccines become available.
- Base of Operation – Our headquarters in the Lake Wales, Florida
- Area of Operation – Worldwide
- Operational Categories - Disaster Research and Response
- Service Population – Healthcare facilities and providers worldwide.
- Emergency Support Function(s): 8 & 11



The Institute Our Next Twenty Years



Program Snapshot

- Program Detail - Disaster response and recovery as the only freshwater non-native ornamental and exotic aquatic pet rescue and shelter in FEMA Region 4.
- Base of Operation – Our freshwater non-native aquatic pet rescue and shelter in Central Florida.
- Area of Operation – FEMA Region 4 (Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky)
- Operational Categories - Disaster Response and Recovery
- Service Population – Commercial and Private freshwater non-native aquatic pet owners within FEMA Region 4.
- Emergency Support Function(s): 11 & 17

Animal Rescue

After leaving licensed aquaculture facilities, non-native freshwater aquatic pets and ornamental fish are not included in the disaster plan at the local, county, regional, state or federal disaster plans. As a result, ornamental fish seldom survive a regional disaster where the grid power providing pond aeration is lost for as few as 8 hours. This represents not only a significant financial loss to private owners and business owners but also a significant emotional cost to owners and business clientele.

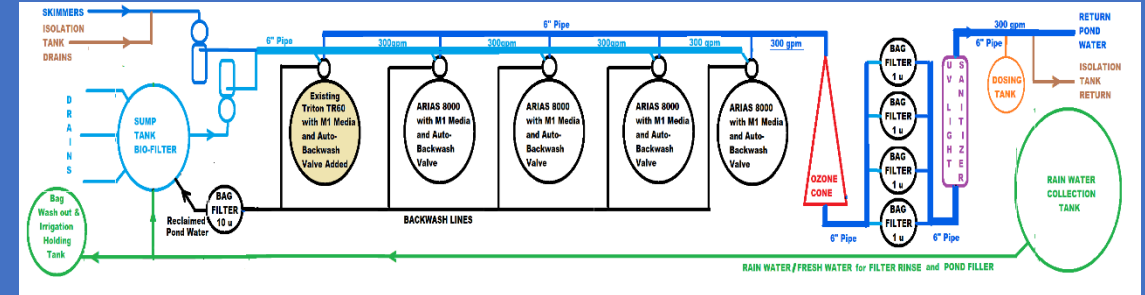
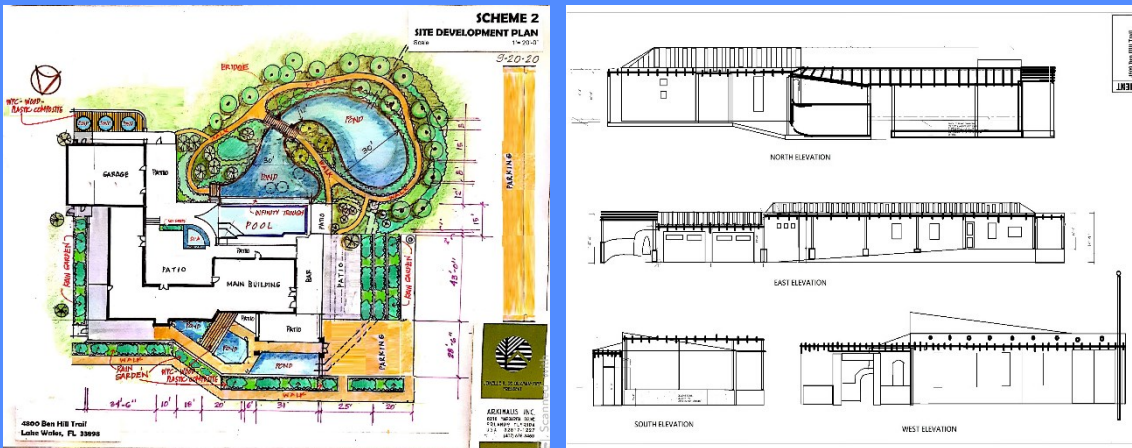
Currently, the Institute is the only freshwater non-native ornamental and exotic pet rescue in Southeastern United States (Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, & Mississippi). The Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FL-SARC), as well as county and state EOCs, all have been very supportive of our mission. And our growing list of established relationships includes the following:

- local, state and national aquaculture organizations
- Local, state and Federal partner agencies
- State of Florida Animal Response Coalition
- animal rescue, botanical gardens, aquariums, aquaponic operations and ornamental fish owners.

Shelter Capital Expansion

We have worked slowly over the past 7 years to build towards a permanent aquatic pet rescue and shelter in Lake Wales, FL. Blessed to have founders with the ability to pay for this dream themselves until recently, the Institute has not relied on donor campaigns. The founders own our 5 acre location with a pond and 2 shelter tanks, totaling 3,600+ gallons. To support our planned expansion, we currently have filtration/sanitation for up to 60,000 gallons.

The Institute has a relationship with a manufacturer for rescue tanks (aquatic pet kennels) and storm shielded space for these tanks. We also have designs for an additional 64,000 gallons of long term shelter tanks/ponds for additional animals. And our entire aquaponic system is powered by the power grid, solar, wind turbine and propane generator. This on-site power generation capacity will run the aquaponic pumps and filtration without external financial support.



Program Snapshot

Our next and final construction phase includes:

1. Acquisition of 100 wheeled 200 gallon isolation tanks
2. Construction of the 64,000 gallon community shelter ponds (concrete)
3. Expansion of our hydroponic filter gardens and water reclamation/salvation systems.
4. Upgrade of filtration system to service all ponds and tanks

Our 501c3 is listed with Candid (formerly GuideStar), NetworkForGood, LinkedIn, Facebook, Amazon, GoFundMe, and others. Below are links to our website, currently being revised, and several other related links:

<https://www.HighAlertInstitute.org>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/high-alert-institute>

<https://www.facebook.com/HighAlertInstitute/>

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-5078437>

<https://gofund.me/ec42100e>

ACCREDITATION

The Institute has had extensive discussions with state and federal regulatory agencies, along with many private animal welfare associations.

Our research has revealed that organizations providing rescue and shelter for freshwater non-native ornamental and exotic aquatic pets are not licensed, regulated, inspected, certified or accredited by any agency or organization.



Category	Oversight Agency
Native Aquatic Species (Saltwater & Freshwater)	State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Freshwater Aquatic Species (Native ONLY)	State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Saltwater Aquatic Species (Native & Non-Native)	US Dept. of Interior State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Threatened or Endangered Aquatic Species (Native & Non-Native; Saltwater & Freshwater)	US Dept. of Interior State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Dangerous Aquatic Species (Native & Non-Native; Saltwater & Freshwater)	State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Aquaculture and Fish Farms (Offering animals or animal products for sale)	State Dept. of Agriculture State Dept. of Revenue
Business Selling Aquatic Animals (Native & Non-Native; Saltwater & Freshwater)	State Dept. of Agriculture State Dept. of Revenue
Native Species Animal Rescue (Saltwater & Freshwater)	State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Saltwater Species Animal Rescue (Native & Non-Native)	US Dept. of Interior State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Freshwater Non-Native Aquatic Animal Rescue (NOT offering animals or animal products for sale)	<none currently>

The Joy of Koi

For centuries, koi have been cultivated for their beauty, grace, gentleness, longevity, and intelligence. Unlike most finned pets, koi have the ability to learn their habitat, navigate mazes, overcome physical obstacles, interact with their keepers, and even obey commands. Even beginner enthusiasts can quickly teach koi to hand feed – some advanced keepers even have taught their fish eat from customized baby bottles.

Disasters are defined as situations in which needs exceed or overwhelm available resources. Some disasters affect an entire community, while other disasters impact individuals and families. Crises of physical or psychological health can be very personal disasters.

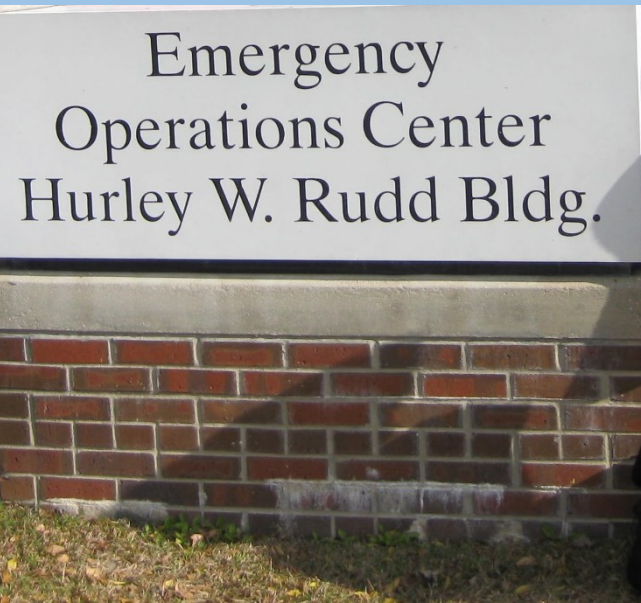
The therapeutic value of pets during illness, trauma, and recovery is well established. And Koi fish may be well suited for people who are not able to provide verbal pet commands or physically care for pets like dogs and cats. Koi ponds are also a source of beauty and peace, providing an ideal setting for quiet reflection or meditation.

We are working to partner with pond installers and aquatic pet rescues/shelters to offer free or reduced-cost ponds with rehomed Koi fish to people seeking this type of pet therapy.



Program Snapshot

- Program Detail - Disaster recovery and disaster behavioral health as the only freshwater non-native ornamental and exotic aquatic pet providing aquatic pets to special needs individuals.
- Base of Operation – Our freshwater non-native aquatic pet rescue and shelter in Central Florida.
- Area of Operation – United States of America
- Operational Categories - Disaster Recovery & Disaster Behavioral Health
- Service Population – Special needs individuals and neurological injury survivors.
- Emergency Support Function(s): 8, 11 & 17



Program Snapshot

- Program Detail - Disaster education, planning and preparation for the aquatic animal industry (AAI), zoos and aquariums.
- Base of Operation – Our freshwater non-native aquatic pet rescue and shelter in Central Florida.
- Area of Operation – Global
- Operational Categories - Disaster Education, Planning, Preparation & Disaster Behavioral Health
- Service Population – The AAI and related facilities.
- Emergency Support Function(s): 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15 & 17

Animal Wellness Organization All Hazards Awareness & Readiness

The High Alert Institute leverages the expertise of the aquatic animal industry (AAI), the disaster preparedness sector, contingency planners and our decades of experience to provide resources for enhancing preparedness for and resiliency to all-hazards that may impact facilities caring for animals and their habitats.

Preparedness is a crucial part of animal care and conservation. The valuable work of aquaculturists, zoos, aquariums, shelters, rescues and other managed aquatic life facilities is predicated on the safety and security of the people and animals in their care. This program aims to help facilities protect their personnel, animals, assets, and the future viability of that work.

The Institute aims to support and serve the AAI by providing reliable information, education, and outreach opportunities to address the unique needs and challenges of this community, as well as to recognize its capabilities and subject matter expertise. We are committed to building capacity for preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation within the AAI by working to strengthen coordination and communication with the larger response community, government response agencies, emergency operations centers and supporting response partners during major events.

We are developing a partnership with AAI associations and zoological associations to support education and programs, as well as to support the entire community to be disaster ready.

Partnerships, Collaborations and Mutual Aide Agreements

The High Alert Institute has joined the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) and the State of Florida affiliate (Volunteer Florida) as a gateway to inclusion in Federal, Regional, State, County and local emergency plans and responses. The Institute is a member of the Zoological Disaster Response Collaborative for Exotic Animals and is a partner in the Zoological Disaster Response, Rescue and Recovery (ZDR3) mutual aide agreement.

The Institute is also a member of

- Florida Aquaculture Association (FLAA)
- Association of Animal Welfare Advancement (AAWA)
- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
- SPCA Florida (SPCA-FL)
- Florida Animal Response Coalition (FLARC)
- Adopt-A-Pet
- National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA)
- National Alliance of State and Agricultural Emergency Programs (NASAEP)

Our Founders and Board of Directors are individual members of multiple organizations in Disaster Response, Disaster Behavioral Health, Healthcare, and Animal Welfare. And as an organization, all of the Institute's Officers and Directors soon will be members of 1% for the Planet.

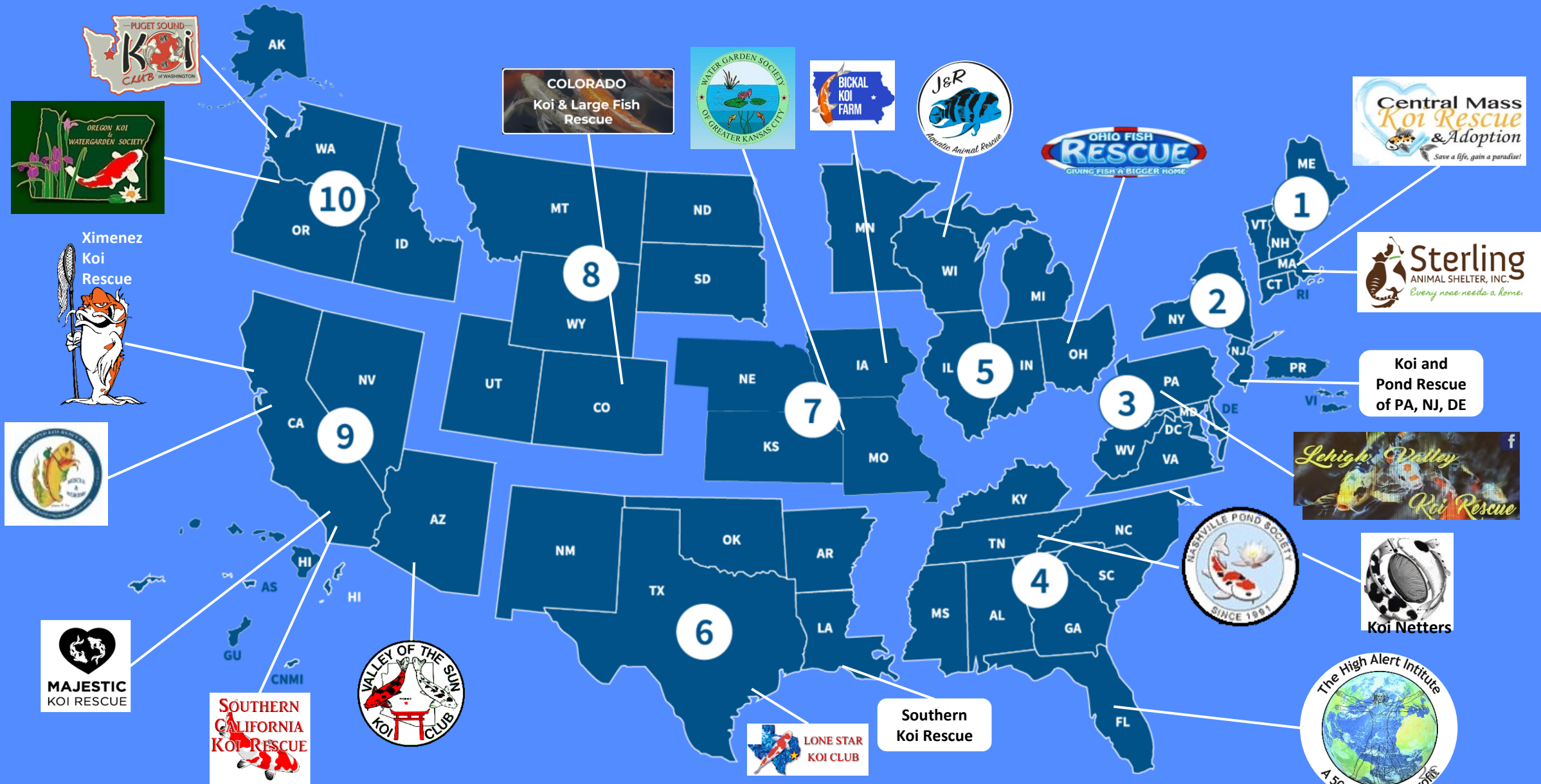


National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

Program Snapshot

- Program Detail – Mutual Aide, Support, Advocacy with local state federal and Fundraising partnerships.
- Base of Operation – Our freshwater non-native aquatic pet rescue and shelter in Central Florida.
- Area of Operation – Global
- Operational Categories - Disaster Mutual Aide & Fundraising
- Service Population – Disaster Partners Globally
- Emergency Support Function(s): 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15 & 17
- VOADs serve as a resource for emergency managers and a voice for disaster survivors.
- Blue sky planning by Emergency Managers must include VOADs to truly gain a comprehensive picture of how the post-disaster landscape will look.
- Funders prioritize building strong networks of VOADs to help improve disaster relief and response.

Freshwater Non-Native Exotic and Ornamental Aquatic Pet Rescues





Program Snapshot

- Program Detail – Mutual Aide, Support, Advocacy and Fundraising partnerships.
- Base of Operation – Our freshwater non-native aquatic pet rescue and shelter in Central Florida.
- Area of Operation – Global
- Operational Categories - Disaster Mutual Aide & Fundraising
- Service Population – Disaster Partners Globally
- Emergency Support Function(s): 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15 & 17

Communications

We have developed relationships with local, state and national aquaculture organizations, local, state and Federal partner agencies, State of Florida Animal Response Coalition, animal rescue, botanical gardens, aquariums, aquaponic operations and ornamental fish owners as the only freshwater non-native ornamental and exotic aquatic pet rescue and shelter in the southeastern United States.

We have exchanged emails and hosted several conference calls with the leadership of the Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FL-SARC). FL-SARC has been very supportive.

We next plan to contact the other 21 Freshwater Non-Native Aquatic Pet and Koi Rescues across the continental United States with the intention of developing mutual aid agreements and joint funding opportunities among the 30 operations. Ideally, each of the 22 organizations would not only become parties to a Koi Mutual Aide Agreement but also join ZDR3 and the Zoological Disaster Response Collaborative for Exotic Animals.

Who You Gonna Call?

With all the jurisdictions involved in the oversight of aquatic animal welfare, it is difficult to know who to call for help during a disaster. Here is a list of animal types and the rescue organizations who serve and protect them in FEMA Region 4.

Animal Type	Examples	Rescue Organization
Freshwater Pond/Pool Fish	Koi, Carp, Japanese Goldfish	High Alert Institute
Freshwater Pond/Pool Non-Fish	Eel, Turtle, Frog, Snake	State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Saltwater Pond/Pool Fish	Shark, Fish	State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Saltwater Pond/Pool Non-Fish	Ray, Eel, Shellfish	State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Freshwater Aquarium Pet	Aquarium/non-Tropical Fish, Eel, Turtle, Axolotl	Predatory Fins Fish Rescue Florida Fish Rescue
Saltwater Aquarium Pet	Aquarium/Tropical Fish, Shark, Eel, Seahorse	Predatory Fins Fish Rescue Florida Fish Rescue
Freshwater Aquaculture	Tilapia, Catfish, Bass, Eel, Turtle, Frog	State Fish & Wildlife Commission State Agricultural Response Team
Saltwater Aquaculture	Grouper, Snapper, Salmon, Oyster, Clam, Mussel, Crab	State Fish & Wildlife Commission State Agricultural Response Team
Shellfish (wild and domestic)	Clam, Mussel, Snail, Crab	State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Reptile (wild and domestic)	Alligator, Snake, Turtle	State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Amphibian (wild and domestic)	Frog, Salamander	State Fish & Wildlife Commission



Program Snapshot

- Program Detail – Aquatic pet owner membership, Aquatic Pet Rescue Kennel prepositioning and disaster response coordination.
- Base of Operation – Our freshwater non-native aquatic pet rescue and shelter in Central Florida.
- Area of Operation – FEMA Region 4 (Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky)
- Operational Categories - Disaster Response and Recovery
- Service Population – freshwater non-native aquatic pet owners
- Emergency Support Function(s): 1, 2, 5, 11, 15 & 17

Member Services

We are planning and developing policies for owners of freshwater non-native ornamental and exotic aquatic pets to purchase an emergency sheltering membership for their finned friends. Plans for this membership include:

- An Aquatic Pet Rescue Kennel (200 gallon wheeled tank)
- Reserved isolation space for Aquatic Pet Rescue Kennel
- Pickup of Aquatic Pet Rescue Kennel arranged by High Alert Institute
- All feed and shelter costs, excluding veterinary costs.

We believe that by working with individual koi clubs, backyard pond clubs, water garden clubs, and Koi International Organisation (K.O.I.) that we will develop a subscription-based contingency plan and koi evacuation sheltering service as a funding source for all 30 oi rescues nationally.

To meet these objectives, we will continue to coordinate with local, county, state and federal EOCs and establish the shelter as a listed rescue/shelter for freshwater non-native ornamental and exotic aquatic pets .

Climate Change

Green Plans, Policies, and Budgets

The heart of a facility's green practices often takes the form of a sustainability facility design, plan and/or policy, and a facility's commitment to natural resource conservation and sustainability must be demonstrated by RESNET, Energy STAR, LEEDS or other accreditation. Many facilities also opt to dedicate a portion of their annual budgets to green practices or reinvest savings from past green practices to future ones. Our headquarters is a Silver Green Building and the most energy efficient renovation rated by RESNET with a HERS rating of -63.

Energy

Accredited green facilities frequently track energy usage (e.g. electricity, natural gas, and propane) and make efforts either to purchase renewable energy or generate it on-grounds. Additionally, resources are dedicated to energy conservation and efficiency measures, renewable energy, alternative transportation, greenhouse gas (GHG)-limiting practices, and more. Our on-grounds power generating capacity includes a grid-tied, ultra low noise, bird safe, 15 kW wind turbine and grid-tied 45 kW solar photovoltaic system. These are backed up by a Kohler Propane fueled back-up generator. Each month, the solar and wind systems together generate 4 MWh of electricity.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Greenhouse gases are one of the primary driving forces behind modern global climate change. These gases are directly tied to human activity, as they can result from a variety of industrial processes, the burning of fossil fuels, agriculture, and deforestation.

Conservation

Our facility is located in the Tiger Creek State Forest - Tiger Creek Nature Conservancy. Demonstrated by a recent Florida Dept. of Fish and Wildlife survey, there are 258 unique threatened and endangered species living within 5 miles of our facility and our facilities have no impact on these species.





Local Feed/Local Food

The US Congress in the 2008 Farm Act defined “locally or regionally produced agricultural food product” as one that is transported less than 400 miles from its origin or within the state in which it is produced. Many animal care institutions buy locally-grown feed, grow feed on-site or specifically seek sustainably grown and harvested feed for their animals. We are fortunate to have a local feed manufacturer that is nationally recognized for quality and biosafety. In addition to buying feed locally, we buy animal and pond maintenance supplies locally. We also encourage staff and volunteers to buy their food locally from vendors who observe sustainable production practices.

Waste

Production of waste at any type of facility is inevitable but the protocols used to manage, dispose of, and even reuse it is what sets green facilities apart. Our facility recycles 18 cubic yards of paper, cardboard, metal, glass and plastics. For the past seven years, we have produced less than 1/2 cubic yard of landfill waste annually. We compose and/or process 100% of our on-grounds plant waste and protein waste to fertilize gardens. The final stage of capital improvements will increase our on-grounds processing and reduce landfill to less than 3 cubic feet of waste annually.

Water/Wastewater

Responsible water usage and management is central to the workings of all aquatic animal institutions. Our final capital improvements include a rooftop rain water collection system and a filtration waste water reclamation system that, when combined, will reduce on-site well water usage by over 90%.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESS, AND INCLUSION

In 2021, AZA published its DEAI Action Plan that included resources and guidance for AZA members and a roadmap to evolve AZA member internal practices and operations. The Institute, as an AZA member, will continue to build on and learn from the important work being done by the AZA Diversity Committee.

Funding for Good and Network for Good provide templates for diversity, equity, access and inclusion policies for Not-For-Profits. These templates are in alignment with the AZA's DEAI Action Plan and are being adapted for approval by the High Alert Institute Board.

Facilities at our freshwater non-native aquatic pet rescue and shelter in Central Florida are compliant with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Although we do not anticipate significant people traffic, our entire facility is wheelchair-accessible and our planned expansion areas also will be built to the same standards.



Program Snapshot

Program Detail – Diversity, equality, access and inclusion.

Base of Operation – Our freshwater non-native aquatic pet rescue and shelter in Central Florida.

Area of Operation – Global

Operational Categories - Disaster Behavioral Health & Fundraising

Service Population – Disaster Partners Globally

Emergency Support Function(s): 5, 6, 15 & 17

A koi fish with a pattern of dark brown and grey stripes is swimming in a pond. The water is dark and filled with many gold coins, which are visible as bright, circular reflections on the surface. The fish is positioned horizontally, facing right, and its reflection is visible in the water below it. The overall scene is a metaphor for wealth and fundraising.

High Alert Institute Fundraising & Financials



Program Snapshot

- Program Detail – Contracted with Network for Good to provide software and fundraising coach to help the Institute build email, social media and direct mail lists.
- Base of Operation – Our headquarters in Central Florida.
- Area of Operation – Worldwide and Online
- Operational Categories - Fundraising
- Service Population – Potential direct donors worldwide
- Cost per Dollar Raised - \$0.20

Donor Outreach & Direct Donation

The High Alert Institute has partnered with Network for Good/Bonterra to provide an all-in-one management solution designed for not-for-profits that tracks donors & donations, hosts online mass-market & social media campaigns, tracks volunteer hours & In-Kind Donations, and manages direct mail & in-person events.

By using this system, the Institute will be able to track any activity that involves reaching out to a large group of people, sharing one message with many people all at the same time. These donor campaigns may include activities such as traditional direct mail, email, social media and/or in-person events.

	Cost per Dollar		
Fundraising Type	Greenfield	AFRP	NFG
Capital Campaign/Major Gifts	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10
Corporations and Foundations (Grants)	\$0.20	\$0.20	\$0.20
Direct Mail Acquisition	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$1.60
Direct Mail Renewal	\$0.20	\$0.25	\$0.25
Planned Giving (Estates)	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25
Benefit/Special Events	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
National Average Overall	\$0.20	\$0.20	\$0.20

Intellectual Property Donation

Did you know that unused patents and copyrights can be donated to charity? Intellectual Property (IP) just sitting on a shelf will lose value as it becomes obsolete.

The High Alert Institute IP Donation Program seeks to rescue stranded, technology-related IP with the potential for development into marketable products.

Once accepted by the program, the owner/inventor is eligible for a tax deduction equivalent to the fair market value of the IP. The Institute receives the patent licensing fees or revenue from the sale of the IP to businesses, helping us to fund the programs and services for our mission. In turn, businesses are able to advance their markets and create jobs for less money than starting a project from scratch.



Program Snapshot

- Program Detail – Technology and IP transfer program designed to benefit the donor, the Institute, and society by converting stranded IP into recurring revenue for the Institute and its programs.
- Base of Operation – Our headquarters in Central Florida.
- Area of Operation – Worldwide
- Operational Categories - Fundraising
- Service Population – Inventors of stranded IP, companies with stranded IP, University Development Offices, and companies seeking to develop and commercialize transferred technology.
- Cost per Dollar Raised - \$0.005



Program Snapshot

- Program Detail – Digital image (photo) art donation program allowing amateur and professional photographers to donate photo images to support the Institute and its programs.
- Base of Operation – Our headquarters in Central Florida.
- Area of Operation – Worldwide
- Operational Categories - Fundraising
- Service Population – Commercial, Private, Professional and Amateur Photographers.
- Cost per Dollar Raised - \$0.01

Nature Photo Donation

High Alert Institute Nature Photo Donation Program seeks to sell donated nature photos taken by professional and amateur photographers as a fundraising activity for the Institute. The Institute's Nature Photo Donation Program provides a vehicle for the transfer of the photo and reproduction/display rights from the originator or current copyright owner to an end-user. We are working with several popular online stock image resellers to establish this program and recently submitted our first photos.

For each photo, the originator/owner would be eligible for a tax deduction equivalent to the value of the Fair Market Value of the photograph(s). The Institute benefits from the stock image licensing fee or the revenue from the sale of the stock image. And as the stock images come to market, the greater community benefits from access to new images for personal or professional use, as well as supporting online stock photo industry businesses and the jobs they create.

In-Kind Donation

1% of the Planet

1% for the Planet is a global organization facilitating businesses and individuals to support environmental solutions and non-profits through donations of time and treasure.

Saving charities the cost of paying for every service, 1% for the Planet gives member businesses and individuals strategies for providing In-Kind donations to non-profits. 1% for the Planet certifies donations of time and service and amplifies the impact of the 1% for the Planet network by connecting In-Kind donors with non-profits in need of their services.

Additionally, 1% for the Planet provides not-for-profits a mechanism by which their volunteers who join receive Fair Market Value certification towards tax deduction for the time and service volunteered to the non-profits.

Recently approved by the Board, all officers and directors of the High Alert Institute now will be part of 1% for the Planet .



Program Snapshot

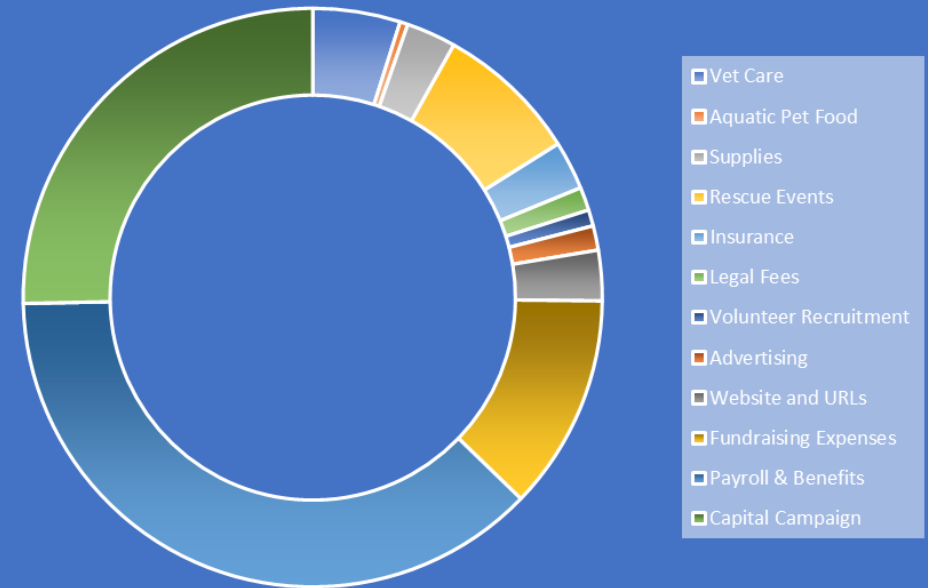
- Program Detail – Third party certification process for In-Kind donations of time and services by volunteers and vendors.
- Base of Operation – 1% for the Planet is headquartered in Burlington, Vermont.
- Area of Operation – Worldwide
- Operational Categories – In-Kind Donation, Donor Relations
- Service Population – Volunteers and those providing In-Kind donations.
- Cost per Dollar Raised: \$0.005

Financials

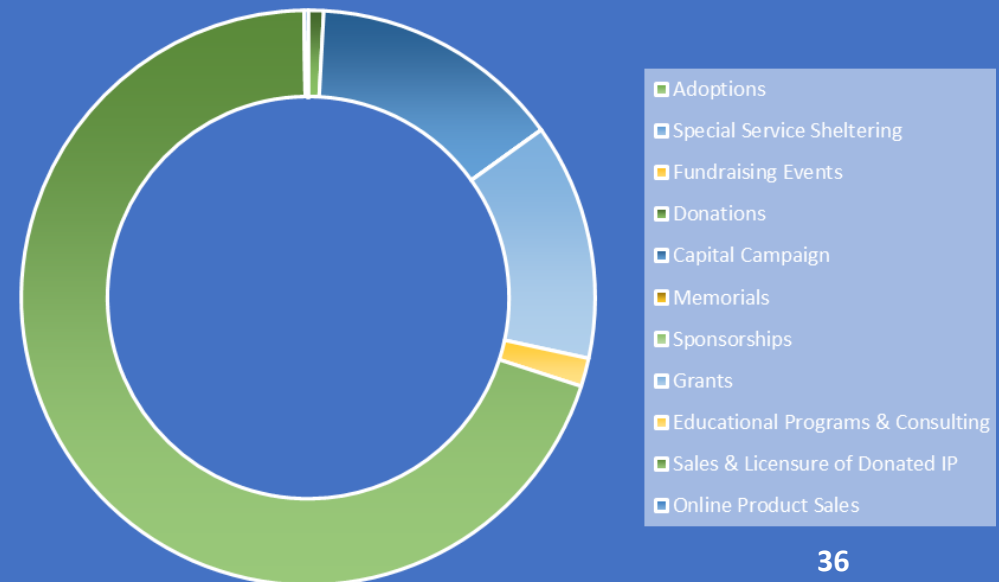
EXPENSE PROJECTIONS	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Vet Care	\$ 11,783.99	\$ 12,121.64	\$ 11,919.05	\$ 11,581.40	\$ 11,513.87
Aquatic Pet Food	\$ 1,067.94	\$ 1,098.54	\$ 1,080.18	\$ 1,049.58	\$ 1,043.46
Supplies	\$ 6,709.18	\$ 6,901.42	\$ 6,786.07	\$ 6,593.83	\$ 6,555.38
Rescue Events	\$ 19,264.80	\$ 19,816.80	\$ 19,485.60	\$ 18,933.60	\$ 18,823.20
Insurance	\$ 6,558.92	\$ 6,462.00	\$ 6,354.00	\$ 6,174.00	\$ 6,138.00
Legal Fees	\$ 3,141.00	\$ 3,231.00	\$ 3,177.00	\$ 3,087.00	\$ 3,069.00
Volunteer Recruitment	\$ 2,186.31	\$ 2,154.00	\$ 2,118.00	\$ 2,058.00	\$ 2,046.00
Advertising	\$ 3,279.46	\$ 3,231.00	\$ 3,177.00	\$ 3,087.00	\$ 3,069.00
Website and URLs	\$ 6,805.50	\$ 1,115.00	\$ 1,205.00	\$ 1,355.00	\$ 1,385.00
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 29,080.24	\$ 26,814.61	\$ 26,496.80	\$ 25,896.78	\$ 25,823.31
Payroll & Benefits	\$ 90,382.40	\$235,158.40	\$274,492.80	\$266,716.80	\$265,161.60
Capital Campaign	\$ 61,127.00	\$148,795.82	\$146,308.98	\$142,164.25	\$149,461.49
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 241,386.73	\$466,900.22	\$502,600.47	\$488,697.24	\$494,089.31

REVENUE PROJECTIONS	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Adoptions	\$ -	\$ 72,000.00	\$ 74,088.00	\$ 75,792.02	\$ 77,307.86
Special Service Sheltering	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,087.00	\$ 3,158.00	\$ 3,221.16
Fundraising Events	\$ -	\$ 15,078.00	\$ 14,826.00	\$ 14,406.00	\$ 14,322.00
Donations	\$ 3,717.33	\$ 17,867.43	\$ 18,090.19	\$ 18,180.12	\$ 18,384.24
Capital Campaign	\$ 61,127.00	\$148,795.82	\$146,308.98	\$142,164.25	\$149,461.49
Memorials	\$ -	\$ 4,242.21	\$ 8,730.47	\$ 8,931.27	\$ 9,109.89
Sponsorships	\$ -	\$ 6,060.30	\$ 12,472.09	\$ 12,758.95	\$ 13,014.13
Grants	\$ 57,226.61	\$ 60,602.98	\$ 62,360.47	\$ 63,794.76	\$ 65,070.65
Educational Programs & Consulting	\$ 6,867.19	\$ 7,272.36	\$ 7,483.26	\$ 7,655.37	\$ 7,808.48
Sales & Licensure of Donated IP	\$300,000.00	\$158,850.00	\$163,456.65	\$167,216.15	\$170,560.48
Online Product Sales	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,059.00	\$ 1,089.71	\$ 1,114.77	\$ 1,137.07
TOTAL REVENUE	\$429,938.14	\$494,828.09	\$511,992.81	\$515,171.67	\$529,397.45

2022-2023 Expense Projections



2022-2023 Revenue Projections



The High Alert Institute



A 501c3 Not-for-Profit

Looking to the Future

In 2022 – 2023 your Institute will:

- 1) Acquire 100 aquatic pet transport and isolation tanks
- 2) Construct a 60,000 gallon community concrete tank
- 3) Expand our hydroponic filter gardens
- 4) Expand our water reclamation system
- 5) Install our proof of concept backwash water salvage system.
- 6) Partner with National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster to receive rescued fish from all of FEMA Region 4.
- 7) Partner with Zoos, Aquariums and Botanical Gardens to help make animal welfare and conservation organizations Disaster Ready
- 8) Partner with Zoos, Aquariums and Botanical Gardens to receive rescued fish from all of FEMA Region 4
- 9) Partner with State Animal Response Coalition (SARCs), Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs), FEMA and Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) to receive rescued fish from all of FEMA Region 4
- 10) Recruit individuals and businesses who own freshwater non-native exotic and ornamental aquatic animals in FEMA Region 4 as members
- 11) Launch the Joy of Koi program by the end of 2023

