



## **DISASTER / HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS *for* PETS**

### **Pets Are Family Too! Take them with you.**

*Remember what is good for you in an emergency is good for your pet, so get them ready now! If you leave your pets behind, they may be lost, injured – worse. Never leave a pet chained outdoors. Keep all animals in mind – domestic and farm!*



### **Arrange a Safe Haven**

- Arrange a safe haven for your pets in the event of evacuation. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND.**
- Remember, if it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. They may become trapped or escape and be exposed to numerous life-threatening hazards.
- Note that not all shelters accept pets, so it is imperative that you have determined where you will bring your pets ahead of time.
- Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster. Pets can become disoriented and wander away from home in a crisis.
- Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities.
- Ask your local animal shelter if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets.
- Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet.

## Make a Plan

- Create a buddy system in case you're not home. Ask a trusted neighbor to check on your animals.
- Find pet friendly hotels along your evacuation route and keep a list in your pet's emergency kit.
- Locate boarding facilities or animal hospitals near your evacuation shelter.
- Locate a veterinarian or animal hospital in the area where you may be seeking temporary shelter, in case your pet needs medical care. Add the contact information to your emergency kit.
- Have your pet microchipped and make sure that you not only keep your address and phone number up-to-date, but that you also include contact info for an emergency contact *outside* of your immediate area.
- Call your local emergency management office, animal shelter or animal control office to get advice and information.
- If you are unable to return to your home right away, you may need to board your pet. Find out where pet boarding facilities are located.
- Most boarding kennels, veterinarians and animal shelters will need your pet's medical records to make sure all vaccinations are current.
- If you have no alternative but to leave your pet at home, there are some precautions you must take, but remember that leaving your pet at home alone can place your animal in great danger!

## Tips for Large Animals

- If you have large animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, goats or pigs on your property, be sure to prepare before a disaster.
- Ensure all animals have some form of identification.
- Evacuate animals whenever possible. Map out primary and secondary routes in advance.
- Make available vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal. Also make available experienced handlers and drivers.
- Ensure destinations have food, water, veterinary care and handling equipment.
- If evacuation is not possible, animal owners must decide whether to move large animals to shelter or turn them outside.
- Take extra time to observe livestock, looking for early signs of disease and injury. Severe cold-weather injuries or death primarily occur in the very young or in animals that are already debilitated.
- Animals suffering from frostbite don't exhibit pain. It may be up to two weeks before the injury becomes evident as the damaged tissue starts to slough away. At that point, the injury should be treated as an open wound and a veterinarian should be consulted.
- Make sure your livestock has the following to help prevent cold-weather problems:
  - Plenty of dry bedding to insulate vulnerable udders, genitals and legs from the frozen ground and frigid winds.
  - Windbreaks to keep animals safe from frigid conditions.
  - Plenty of food and water.
- Visit this link for more information about large animal evacuation.  
<http://www.thehorse.com/articles/27532/hurricane-preparation-tips-for-horse-owners>

## Disaster Preparedness for Pets Checklist

Here's a checklist of some things you can do right now to be prepared for a disaster. Please don't wait to do them. Anyone who has ever been in a widespread disaster will tell you, that at the last minute, vet hospitals are packed with people trying to get copies of their animals' records, microchips and carriers.

You'll also want to pack a storage container with necessary items so you can just grab it and go. Here are the items that should always live in this storage container:

- 1) Food, water, treats, snacks (*for 1 week*)
- 2) Medications (*for 1 month + medical records*)
- 3) Micro Chip number
- 4) Leash, collar, harness, tags, carriers
- 5) Bags to collect waste (*including trash bags*)
- 6) Litter, litter box, scoop
- 7) Photos & descriptions of pets
- 8) Grooming items and animal first aid kit
- 9) Can opener, spoon, bowls
- 10) Paper towels, disinfectant
- 11) Blankets, towels, toys
- 12) Flashlight and batteries
- 13) Nearby animal hospitals, pet-friendly hotels



## Resources

[http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal\\_rescue/tips/pets-disaster.html?referrer=http://www.floridadisaster.org/petplan.htm](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/tips/pets-disaster.html?referrer=http://www.floridadisaster.org/petplan.htm)

[PetFriendlyTravel.com](http://www.petfriendlytravel.com)

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/petplan.htm>

*Document Sources :*

[www.ready.gov/animals](http://www.ready.gov/animals)

[www.bestfriends.org/resources](http://www.bestfriends.org/resources)