

## PLANNING FOR YOUR PETS

### Protect your pets

Just as you prepare a for a hurricane and protecting your family, you should prepare a disaster kit, have an evacuation strategy, and consider post-storm situations.

#### *ITEMS TO REMEMBER:*

- Never leave your pet(s) outside during a storm. Bring them in well in advance of a storm – reassure them and remain calm.
- Never leave a cat with a dog, even if the two are normally friends.
- Confine and keep small pets (birds, hamsters, etc) away from cats and dogs.
- Any unsecured animals posing a danger will be at risk of being destroyed.
- After the storm walk pets on a leash until they become re-oriented to their home.
- After a disaster animals can become aggressive or defensive – monitor their behavior.
- Animal facilities may be subject to some degree of damage or flooding. Keep in mind, boarding kennels and animal hospitals may be without electricity or potable water and have limited personnel and supplies for days to weeks following a disaster.
- Plan your evacuation strategy and don't forget your pet! Specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics, and friends and relatives in areas out of harm's way are ALL potential refuges for your pet during a disaster.
- Make a list of boarding facilities and veterinary offices that might shelter animals in emergencies; include 24 hour telephone numbers.



**IF YOU PLAN TO SHELTER YOUR PET  
WORK IT INTO YOUR EVACUATION ROUTE PLANNING.**

## **BEFORE THE HURRICANE**

### **Prepare an Emergency Supply Kit for Your Pet**

#### ***Vaccinations***

- Make sure your pets are current on their vaccinations.
- Keep a copy of your pet's health records and vaccinations.
- Pet shelters may require proof of vaccinations.
- Store records in a water proof container or plastic zip lock bag.

#### ***Identification***

- Place identification on your pet's collar
- Make sure your pet's tag is on the collar
- Have a sturdy leash accessible.
- Consider having a microchip implanted in your pet for easy identification. (Registered with national database). This procedure is painless and inexpensive. Consult your veterinarian for more details.
- Have a current photo of every pet taken with you (to prove that you are the pet's owner) should you become separated.

#### ***Portable Carrier / Crate***

- Large enough for pet to stand & turn around in.
- Each pet in separate crate.
- Dangerous animals should be secured in special crates or cages.
- Muzzle for dangerous animals.

#### ***Food***

- Two-week supply (canned or place dry food in a watertight container)
- Manual Can Opener

#### ***Water***

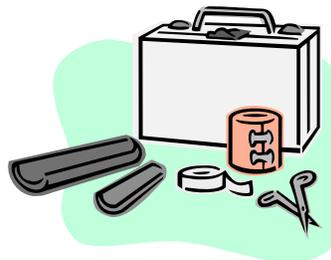
- Two-week supply of bottled or fresh water

#### ***Bowls***

- For food & water that attach to cage

#### ***First Aid Kit***

- First Aid Guide Book
- Roller Bandages
- Scissors
- Gauze
- Antibiotic Ointment
- Medications



#### ***Cat Litter & Litter Box***

- Litter Scooper
- Newspapers or plastic sheet to cover floor

### **Cleaning Supplies**

- Paper Towels
- Disinfectant
- Plastic Trash Bags
- Hand sanitizer
- "Quick Bath" wipes
- Plastic poop bags



### **Medications**

- Heartworm, flea prevention, and other prescribed medicines.
- Coggins test for horses
- Rabies vaccination certificates for pets.



### **Miscellaneous**

- Blanket, pillow, bed, or favorite toy
- Information on feeding schedule, medical conditions, behavior problems, and name and number of veterinarian in case you have to foster or board animals.

In a hurricane, pets are subject to the same hazards as people and have many of the same needs. Remember, Public Shelters do not permit pets and you may not be allowed to return to your home right away. The best plan is to identify a safer location that allows pets (i.e. a friend's home or hotel). That way, you can keep your pets with you when you evacuate.

When planning your response to an emergency threat, you should consider where your pets would stay. Pets are not allowed in public shelters, except dogs that assist the handicapped. Most hotels and motels do not accept pets as a normal business policy. Local kennels located outside the threatened area usually fill quickly. So what can you do? As it is posted it is current, however, you should contact the hotel or motel directly and confirm your reservation and verify that your pet will be allowed *before* you leave home

## **Pet-Friendly Accommodations**

Websites dealing with pet friendly hotels and shelters are:

[www.letsGOPets.com](http://www.letsGOPets.com)      [www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com)  
[www.travelPets.com](http://www.travelPets.com)      [www.floridapets.net](http://www.floridapets.net)  
[www.dogfriendly.com](http://www.dogfriendly.com)      [www.dogfocused.com](http://www.dogfocused.com)  
[www.1clickpethotels.com](http://www.1clickpethotels.com)      [www.petsonthego.com](http://www.petsonthego.com)

**Recommended website for pet information is [www.colliergov.net](http://www.colliergov.net)**

## Hotels & Motels, Which Accept Pets in Emergencies and Disasters

In case you have to go out of state to find accommodations, the following motel/hotel chains are, IN GENERAL, pet-friendly, but when you call to check on room availability, also verify their pet policy:

In addition, if you don't have friends or relatives in non-threatened areas where you and your pet can stay temporarily, call these pet friendly hotel chains toll free and make a reservation. Reserve as early as possible since these facilities fill quickly during storms.

Best Western Inns	1-800-528-1234
Clarion Hotels	1-800-252-7466
Comfort Inns	1-800-228-5150
Days Inn	1-800-329-7466
Econo Lodge	1-800-553-2666
Holiday Inn	1-800-465-4329
La Quinta Inn	1-800-531-5900
Masters Econo Inns	1-800-633-3434
Motel 6	1-800-466-8356
Quality Inn	1-800-228-5151
Ramada Inn	1-800-228-2828
Red Roof Inn	1-800-843-7663
Residence Inn	1-800-331-3131
Roadway Inn	1-800-228-2000
Super 8 Motels	1-800-800-8000

## ***DURING THE DISASTER***

The single most important thing you can do to protect your pets if you evacuate is to take them with you if you evacuate. If it's not safe for you to stay in the disaster area, it's not safe for your pets. Because evacuation shelters generally do not accept pets, except for service animals, you must plan ahead to ensure that your family and pets will have a safe place to stay.

If your family and pets must wait out the storm at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together. Keep dogs on leashes or in a carrier and cats in carriers and make sure they are wearing identification. Have their supply kit handy and in water tight containers. If you find that you do need to leave, remember; do not leave your pets behind.

- Bring pets indoors well in advance of a storm – reassure them and remain calm.
- When taking pets to a pet shelter in addition to the identification and vaccination records, take a carrier or cage, a leash, an ample supply of food, water and food bowls, any necessary medications, specific care instructions, and newspapers or trash bags for clean-up.

- Pet shelters will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Call ahead and determine availability.

### ***AFTER THE DISASTER***

Walk pets on a leash until they become re-oriented to their home-often familiar scents, landmarks, and landscaping may be altered or destroyed and pets could easily be confused and become lost. Also downed power lines, reptiles brought in with high water and debris can all pose a threat for animals after a disaster.

If pets cannot be found after a disaster, contact the local animal control office to find out where lost animals can be recovered. Bring along a picture of your pet if possible.