



Hurricane Protection Guide For Your Pets



Prepared by
Have A Heart for Companion Animals
www.haveaheart.us



Hurricane Protection For Your Pets

Hurricane Protection Guide A Public Service Bulletin

For you and your pet(s). Please don't wait until the last minute to evacuate!

Advanced planning is essential and could save your pet(s) life. The best recommended plan is to take your pet with you when and if you have to evacuate. **Remember there are not Public Shelters that allow pets!**

The separation or loss of a pet can have a profound impact on a family! We should make every effort to insure our pets are safe and with us.

If you think of boarding your pet(s), consider the difficulties of providing a healthy environment without electricity, running water, plus limited supplies and personnel!

Protect Your Pet

Evacuate out of the area of the storm! Visit friends or relatives who will let your pets, come with you. Create a list of boarding kennels within a 100-mile radius of your home. If you don't have friends or relatives to evacuate to, call these pet friendly hotels and make a reservation.

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
Howard Johnson 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	Sleep Hotels 1-800-753-3746
Super 8 Motels 1-800-800-8000	



Emergency Preparedness for Pets



Equipment Checklist

Sky Kennel/Crate
Leash, Collar, ID Tag, Harness
Rescue Facts Collar ID Strap (www.heaveaheart.us)
Food and Water Bowls
Health Records (Rabies Certificate)
Photo of Pet
Newspaper (Dog)
Litter Box,/ Litter (Cat)
3 Bath Towels
Garbage Bags
Water (Dog 1 gal/10 pounds; Cat: gal.)
Dry Food (1-2 pounds of food/10 pounds)
Medications

Real-time Weather Information for Florida Counties

Links to emergency management websites for all counties in Fl. Current weather updates, pet preparedness and sheltering info. Updated Watches and warnings.

www.petfriendlyshelters.org

Why Pet Owners MUST Plan

- > **Most** Public shelters for people will not accept pets.
- >If you wait until the last minute to evacuate, you may have no choice but to go to a public shelter.
- >If such a situation should force you to leave pets behind, please prepare your children and other family members for the fact that their pets may not survive or may be irretrievably lost before you are able or permitted to return to your home.

There is no way to know how long it will be before you are permitted back after the storm. Frightened animals quickly slip out open doors, broken windows or other damaged areas of your home opened by the storm.

LOST pets are likely to die from exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food and water. They can even endanger others on the road..

Even normally friendly animals of different species should not be allowed together unattended since the stress of the storm may cause distinct behavior changes.

REMEMBER: If you must evacuate..Then conditions are not only unsafe for you but unsafe for other living creatures as well!!!

**Marion County, Fl. –Vanguard H.S. N.W. 28th St., Ocala....Motels:
Budget Host Inn 352-732-6940, Comfort Inn 352-629-8850, Days Inn 352-
629-7041, La Quinta Inn & Suites 352-861-1137**

DEVELOP YOUR WRITTEN PLAN NOW
A WRITTEN DISASTER PLAN WILL HELP YOU AND YOUR PETS SURVIVE

- >Determine in advance if you plan to go to a motel that they welcome pets and what, if any, special rules are applicable.
- >Make plans well in advance of the hurricane season for cows, horses, sheep, etc.
- >Additional preparedness guidelines may be obtained from Town of Hempstead Animal Control, or the Nassau County Chapter of the Red Cross.

If you must evacuate, leave early!

An unnecessary trip is far better than waiting too long to leave safely!

" All animals should have secure carriers or collapsible cages for large dogs, as well as collars, leashes, rabies tags and owner ID tags. Carriers should be large enough for the animals to stand comfortably and turn around. ID must be on the carrier.

" Train your pets to become familiar with their carriers ahead of time. Then the carrier will be a secure and comforting refuge if the animal is required to live in it for days-even weeks after the storm.

Before hurricane season begins on JUNE 1st of each year, make sure all your pets have current immunizations and take these records with you if you must evacuate. Photograph each of your pets prior to June 1 every year and include these pictures with your pets' immunization records.

YOUR PETS SURVIVAL KIT

- " **A manual can opener is a necessity.**
- " **Ample Food (at lease 2 weeks supply)**
- " **Water/food bowls**
- " **Medications**
- " **Specific care instructions**
- " **Newspapers**
- " **Plastic Trash bags for handling waste, /cat litter**
- " **Brushes and combs**
- " **Other hygiene items**
- " **Toys and other comfort items**
- " **Muzzles if necessary.**
- " **All belongings should be marked with identification**
- " **First Aid Kit**



Throughout the evacuation and the storm, your pets will need reassurance from you. Remain calm, keep as close to their normal routine as possible and speak to them regularly in a calm, reassuring voice.





IF YOU CAN STAY AT HOME

- >It is just as important to adequately plan for your pets, even if you don't have to evacuate.
- >Carriers, collars with proper ID and leashes should be maintained for your pets at all times. Your pets will be most comfortable and secure in their carriers in a safe area of your home until the storm has passed.
- >If they are not secured during the storm and your house is damaged, your pets may escape and become disoriented, since normal landmarks and scent trails could be obliterated.
- >If your pets become lost, proper ID will ensure their return to you.
- >Place your pet food and medications in watertight containers in a cool, dry, dark place. Store adequate water for your pet.
- >Your water source may become contaminated (To purify water, add 2 drops of household bleach per quart of water, mix, seal tightly, let stand for 30 minutes before drinking.)
- >If you bring plants into the home before a storm, be careful not to allow pets access to them since many ornamental plants are poisonous to them.

After The Storm

Walk your pets **on a leash** until they become reoriented to their home. **CAUTION:** downed power lines and other debris pose real dangers to you and your pet.
. **Do Not** allow pets to consume food or water, which may have become contaminated.
. Be particularly careful in using candles or oil lamps around pets. **NEVER LEAVE THEM UNATTENDED.**

*****When you know you have done everything you can do to protect all members of the family, disaster preparedness will give you tremendous peace of mind.



Pet First Aid



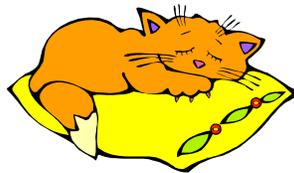
ILL Or INJURED.....Caring For Your Pet In An Emergency.

Your pet is part of your family. And just like any other member of the family, pets can become ill or injured. The below facts will help you care for your pet in an emergency.

- Always approach a sick or injured animal slowly and cautiously.
- Watch the body expressions and sounds your pet makes to warn you. Even your own pet can be aggressive when in pain or frightened.
- DO NOT make quick, jerky or loud movements. They might further scare your pet.
- When necessary, use towels or blankets to subdue cats or small dogs.
- Keep the phone number and address of your veterinarian in a convenient location.
- Have the phone number and address of an after-hours veterinary clinic on hand and keep directions to the clinic in the same place. Whenever possible, call ahead to let them know you'll be coming in.

Pay attention to what is normal for your pet so you can detect signals when something is wrong.

You can learn more about caring for your pet in an emergency by contacting the American Red Cross and order their book "Pet First Aid" or contact your local Red Cross. Also, ask at your local bookstore. The ISBN # 1-57857-000-X.



In Case of An Emergency

by: Tina Valant-Siebelts, September 2005

Last week, I was at a neighbor's home. Was introduced to her friend as a fellow pet lover.... this lady has a small dog (whom she confessed is her *world*). With the threat of one more named hurricane this year, she asked me what she should do, in case of an evacuation. She was flabbergasted as I put my glass of wine down and boldly stated, "YOU MUST BRING YOUR DOG WITH YOU. How could you leave your "world" behind?" Later she came up to me and thanked me for making her realize she must INCLUDE her pet in whatever plans she makes. But, I DID think she was going to slap me, initially!

Later, while reading a pet magazine, I was shocked to see the recommendation of "if you absolutely can not take your pet with you, set it free. Give it a fighting chance". Turning a horse out into a pasture and setting a domestic pet free are opposite ends of a broad spectrum.

Animal abandonment is a first-degree misdemeanor providing for imprisonment and/or fines up to \$5,000 for those convicted under Florida statute 828.13. Setting a pet free with an approaching natural disaster is reckless abandonment, and may also be punishable by law. For an exotic/non-native species, the fine can be up to \$10,000 per instance. So, giving my three iguanas (now three years old, whom I have had since eggs) "a fighting chance" could cost me \$30,000!

Not only is this like signing a death warrant for pets, but in doing so, you would inadvertently endanger countless human lives. Imagine a mass evacuation order with loose dogs, cats, and livestock inhibiting traffic flow.

The North American Pet Owners Alliance was the main control center for pets and companion animals rescued in South Florida after the devastation of Hurricane Andrew in 1992. **Captain Ron Fach of the Alliance shared valuable information, including safety precautions for pets.** "There are several situations to consider, so only one rule does not fit all. In Florida we have evacuation and flood zones. When a hurricane watch is issued, you **MUST** evacuate these areas. There is also a flood level to consider. You may not be in a flood zone but your home might be below flood level. You could also be in trouble, far inland with a lot of rainfall", he stated. Unless you are east of the intracoastal--or below sea level---the possibility of flooding is nothing like what we saw on the Gulf Coast. So, what can you do? **Plan NOW & Review, Annually**

1) Have an evacuation plan--which **INCLUDES** taking your pets along. You would not leave a child or an elderly person behind, either. Make sure pets are micro chipped, registered and/ or tattooed, have collars & ID tags ON, and you have ample supplies (food, water, medicine). Make copies of their medical records, and place them in Ziploc bags.

2) Ask a relative or friend outside of the evacuation area to keep them for you. Get the pet there as soon as the hurricane watch is issued--not later, under the warning.

3) Make sure where you are evacuating to will accept your pet(s). **If not---keep looking!**

4) **This should NEVER be an option. It is a very last resort. FORGET thinking that your pet will be safe/happy when/if you return. If that were true - why are YOU leaving?** By doing this, your pet only has a one in four chance of survival. If you can live with yourself, leave a permanent sign on your front door or wall that there are pets inside (include the number and species).

"Many pets were **lost forever** when authorities checking for Hurricane Andrew's **survivors, opened doors and pets escaped**", Captain Fach informed. Only if you absolutely, positively have no other option----secure the collared, ID'd pet, with food and water **IN YOUR OWN HOME (never a mobile home)**---where he/she feels safe. Use your "safe room" away from doors and windows. They can crawl under a bed or into a closet, surrounded by familiar smells.

Instead of waiting for the next tropical depression/hurricane season to start brewing, empower yourself and your pets with these suggestions:

Action Items for All Animal Lovers to do NOW!!!

a) Contact your local council members, school board (a lot of shelters are located within schools) and demand they get with the program, and open (at least **SOME**) shelters to those of us with pets!!!

b) Contact your Congressperson and strongly encourage their support. The Pet Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act, H.R. 3858), is currently in Congress. This bill will protect pets in federal evacuation plans, and urge officials to save currently stranded pets. Contact them with your thoughts! **Update 6/06: GREAT NEWS!.... This bill has passed!**

c) Sign this petition online, if you haven't done so, already:

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/256230705?z00m=50241&z00m=50241&ttl=1127843114>

d) Sit down and have a serious discussion with your family. What would you do? Where would you go? Divide the responsibilities. Hold a drill as if a category four or five storm is headed your way. Mother Nature is unpredictable. Hurricanes wobble---plan accordingly to save yourself and every family member---including the pets!

I have always said, "This rat sinks with the ship". Since Katrina, we started researching RVs and small motor homes, so we can safely retreat with each and every life, from the dogs and cats, to the reptiles, birds and bettafish.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "A nation can be judged by how it treats its animals". Later, Martin Luther King stated, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort or convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy". An approaching natural disaster qualifies. Let us show our compassion---especially in troubled times---to the finned, furred, scaly and feathered ones we so willingly share our homes and lives with.



Pet Disaster Relief Organizations

Information taken from Pets & Animals in Distress infor@petsandanimals.org

'UAN' (United Animals Nation <http://www.uan.org/>)

They deploy trained volunteer teams (**Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS)**) to disaster areas to rescue and assist.

'HSUS' (Humane Society of the United States <http://www.hsus.org/>)

Their **Disaster Animal Response Team (DART)** also goes into these areas and gets the animals out, treats them and helps to return them home or to new homes.

ANIMAL HELP (<http://www.animalhelp.com/hometown/index.cfm>) is a central clearing house for several organizations as well as anyone who needs their assistance. They can provide information and connections to many other sites.

Noah's Wish www.noahswish.org - RESCUES AND SHELTERS ANIMALS IN DISASTERS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Pet Finder www.petfinder.com Largest search site for animals. Advance search and quick search.



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A Satisfied Customer

Our vet noticed your ID strap on Romeo when we went in for his regular blood glucose level (he's diabetic) and thought it was an absolutely wonderful idea!

Many of the dogs here at Rainbow Ranch Pet Retirement Home are on necessary medications or have severe medical issues. Each one has a medical identification strap from Have A Heart around his or her collar at all times. While we have not had a bolter lately, we have the assurance and peace of knowing that the collar ID would alert anyone finding him or her if one of these medically compromised little dogs gets loose accidentally!

All the dogs, big and little, got used to their collar straps within hours if not immediately! The easy to use little straps are staying cleaner than we expected and the forms tucked inside with the medical information have stayed legible after walks when we got caught in a downpour!

View and order on-line at: Have A Heart For Companion Animals

Heather Miller, http://rainbow_earthlink.net **www.haveaheart.us**

