

After the Storm

After a hurricane, many times people are in shock. This goes for pets, too. It is vital that you keep your pets leashed at all times when out doors - even if they will normally stay right beside you. Unfamiliar scents, stirred up by the storm, may excite or alarm your pets and could cause them to wander off. Hazards like downed power lines and tress are also dangers that could harm your pets if they are not kept close.

If, for any reason, you must leave your home after a storm passes, ALWAYS take your pets with you. The same is true both before, during and after the storm...if it isn't safe for you, then it isn't safe for your pets!



You <u>owe</u> it to your pets to keep them safe. Planning ahead is the best way to ensure the safety of your entire family this hurricane season and in every disaster situation.



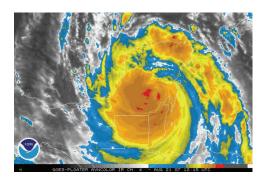
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Hurricane Preparedness for Your Pets

Preparing Your Pets for the Storm: Before, During & After



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Start Planning BEFORE the Storm Arrives!

It is important to remember that if it is not safe for your family to stay at your home, then it isn't safe for your pets, either! Now is the time to develop your disaster plan that includes where your pets will go should you be in a mandatory evacuation zone.

Ask family or friends that live inland if your family and pets could stay with them in case of an emergency or contact hotels in your evacuation

route to determine what their emergency pet policy is, but remember that they may fill-up quickly during an actual emergency, so always have a back-up plan. Some



veterinarian hospitals and boarding facilities do accept client animals during evacuation periods for a fee, however, you should always find out what each location's policies are before an emergency.

Finally, Brevard County has three pet-friendly evacuation shelters: Heritage High School, Port St. John Community Center and Viera Regional Park. Visit Brevard County Animal Services website for more information.

PET DISASTER SURVIVAL KIT



You should prepare a disaster survival kit for all your pets and store it with your family's disaster survival kit. Your Pet Disaster Kit should include:

- ☐ Crate/Carrier to secure your pet(s)
- ☐ Collars (with ID and rabies tags) and leashes
- ☐ Medical records, including vaccination history
- 2-weeks supply of food, water and medication
- ☐ Sturdy bowls to store and serve your pets' meals
- ☐ Hygiene supplies (cat box, litter, dog poop bags)
- ☐ Grooming supplies
- ☐ Toys to keep your pet(s) occupied

For additional information on preparing a pet disaster survival kit, check out the Humane Society of the United States <u>checklist</u>.

DURING A DISASTER...

In the event that there is no time to evacuate prior to a hurricane making landfall or if no evacuation order is issued in your community, here are some tips to weather out the storm:

- Bring all pets inside immediately NEVER leave pets outside for any reason during a storm.
- Feed pets canned food to reduce the amount of water they will need and keep newspaper on hand for your pets to use when they can't go outside for "potty breaks".
- Keep different kinds of pet separate (i.e. cats and dogs) even if they usually get along. Storms can cause pets to act out due to anxiety and even the best of furry friends can have a spat under duress.



For more information, check out <u>FEMA</u>'s tips on what to do during and after a hurricane.