

Preparing Your Pets for a Disaster

Source Unknown

Before the Hurricane

- Make sure pets are current on vaccinations. Shelters may require proof of vaccines.
- Have a current photograph.
- Keep collar with identification on pet and have a leash on hand to control your pet.
- Have a properly-sized pet carrier for each animal.
- If you plan to shelter your pet - work it into your evacuation route planning.

During the Hurricane

- Animals brought to a pet shelter are required to have: Proper identification collar and rabies tag, proper identification on all belongings, a carrier or cage, a leash, an ample supply of food, water and food bowls, any necessary medications, specific care instructions and news papers or trash bags for clean-up.
- Bring pets indoor well in advance of a storm - reassure them and remain calm.
- Pet shelters will be filled on first come, first served basis. Call ahead and determine availability.

After the Hurricane

- Walk pets on a leash until they become re-oriented to their home - often familiar scents and landmarks may be altered 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.
- After a disaster, animals can become aggressive or defensive - monitor their behavior.

Pet Disaster Supply Kit

- Proper identification including immunization records
- Ample supply of food and water
- A carrier or cage
- Medications
- Muzzle, collar and leash