

PLAN FOR YOUR PETS

If you are told to evacuate, take your pets with you. Animals left behind can be injured, lost, or killed, and pets left inside your home can escape through storm-damaged areas, such as broken windows. Animals turned loose to fend for themselves are likely to become victims of exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, or accidents.

The following are steps to take to ensure your pets' safety:

- Contact lodging outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size, and species. Ask if "no pet" policies could be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of "pet-friendly" places, including phone numbers, with other disaster information and supplies. If you have notice of an impending disaster, call ahead for reservations.
- Ask friends or relatives outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals.
- Prepare a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter animals in an emergency.
- Contact your county's emergency management office to find out whether there are pet-friendly shelters in your area and to learn the requirements.

- Keep all pets in the house so that you won't have to search for them if you must leave in a hurry.
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and securely fastened, up-to-date identification.
- Attach the phone number and address of your shelter or of a friend outside the disaster area. You can buy temporary tags or put adhesive tape with indelible pen on the back of your pet's ID tag.
- You may not be home when the evacuation order comes. Find out whether a trusted neighbor would be willing to take your pets and meet you at a prearranged location. This person should have a key to your home and know where to find your pet disaster supplies kit. A pet-sitting service may be available to help, but discuss in advance.
- Animals react differently under stress. Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed. Transport cats in carriers. Don't leave animals unattended anywhere they can run away. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, or even bite or scratch.
- Service animals for the blind, hearing impaired, handicapped, or others with special needs will be allowed



to stay in emergency shelters with their owners.

- If you must leave town after a disaster, take your pets with you. Leash your pets when they go outside. Familiar landmarks may be altered, and your pet may become confused and lost. Wild animals and downed power lines may be hazards.
- Prepare your pet disaster kit:

Pet Supplies

Food and dishes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pet carrier, leash, collar/harness, muzzle	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medications and pet first-aid supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical records and vet information	<input type="checkbox"/>
ID tags (on pet and a spare)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Litter pan and litter and/or plastic bags	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toys and blankets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of ownership and/or recent photo	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sources: petswelcome.com, floridadisaster.org/planprepare/pet-plan, and fema.gov.