

Hurricane / Emergency Preparations for Pets

Prepare:

Get a Pet Emergency Supply Kit

Consider **two kits**. In one, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The other should be a light weight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away. Be sure to review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

Food. Keep at least 3 days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.

Water. Store at least 3 days of water specifically for your pets in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.

Medicines and medical records. Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.

First Aid Kit. Talk to your vet about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs. Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea and tick prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.

Collar with ID tag, harness or leash. Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and id at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in the emergency supply kit. Copies of medical records should be placed in a waterproof container.

Crate or pet carrier. If you need to evacuate. Should be large enough for the pet to stand, turn around and lie down.

Boca Grande
Fire Department
964-2908



Sanitation. Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach to provide for your pet's sanitation needs. You can use bleach as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach), or in an emergency you can also use it to purify water. Use 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented or colorsafe bleaches, or those with added cleaners.

A picture of you & your pet together. If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet. Include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex color and distinguishing characteristics.



For more information about how to prepare, visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY

Plan:

What you will do in an emergency

Be prepared to assess the situation. Use whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and ensure your pet's safety during an emergency. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. Understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and the information you learn to determine if there is immediate danger. In any emergency, local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. Watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet for instructions. If you're specifically told to evacuate, shelter-in-place or seek medical treatment, do so immediately.

Create a plan to get away. Plan how you will assemble your pets and anticipate where you will go. If you must evacuate take your pets with you if practical.

Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors to be sure someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so.

Talk to your pet's veterinarian about emergency planning. Get names of vets or hospitals in other cities where you might need to seek temporary shelter. If your pet is microchipped, keep your emergency contact information up to date and listed with a reliable recovery database.

Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment. Make a list of contact information and addresses of area animal control agencies including the Humane Society or SPCA and emergency vet hospitals. Place "Pets Inside" stickers on your doors or windows. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you could be reached in an emergency.

Protecting your pets

Not only should you have a disaster plan for your family, but your pets as well! Keep up-to-date identification on your pets at all times. Make sure the collar is fitted properly. Consider a microchip ID for your pet in case tags are lost during the disaster. Microchip IDs are available at Lee County Animal Services.

Call 239 432-2083 for more information.

- Have current color photos of your pets to be kept with your emergency supplies.
- Be sure your animals are up to date on their vaccinations.
- If you must evacuate, take your pets with you! Your pet's best protection is to be with you!
- Call ahead to make sure that hotels will accept your animals.
- Most evacuation centers will not accept pets of any kind. Check your local area shelter.
- Links for listings for pet friendly lodging:
www.petswelcome.com/welcome.html
www.hotdealsonhotels.com/pets/sitemap
Pick a location outside of the area where the hurricane is projected to hit.
- Acquire an impact resistant pet carrier for each animal to use as protection if you are riding out the storm with your pets at home. Exceptions can be made to house more than one animal per carrier, but do not mix different animal species together! Frightened animals may exhibit behavior changes. If you evacuate and must leave your pets behind do not leave pets in carriers as they will not be able to get more food and water when needed. Remember, you may not be able to get back to your house for days or weeks.
- A carrier should permit a dog or cat to stand up and turn around in it. Place additional ID on the carrier. Birds should have a perch to grasp. (Birds, however, should be left in their cages for safety.)
- Survey your home to determine the safest location away from windows. Cover large openings of carrier or cage to protect from flying debris. Provide high areas where there is a risk of flooding.

Disaster Supplies for your Pet

- Portable impact resistant carrier. Soft carriers do not provide enough protection
- Food/water bowls, can opener, spoon
- A 2—3 week supply of your pet's food and water in plastic bottles
- Pooper scooper and small plastic bags for dogs
- Litter and litter box for cats
- At least a one week supply of your pet's regular medications
- First Aid Kit
- Health records, including vaccination records
- Instructions on your pet's feeding schedules and diet, medications, and any special needs
- Leashes
- Make sure your pets are wearing proper identification (a collar & a tag). Create a collar tag listing your pet's medical needs.
- Dish soap and disinfectant, paper towels

If you must leave your pets behind

Leaving your pets at home will place them at greater risk. If you must leave them you should provide the following when leaving:

- A room without windows, that still provides ventilation. Do not confine dogs & cats in the same room or space if possible and do not leave them in carriers. Small animals & birds should be safely caged.
- At least a three (3) day supply of food.
- Plenty of water (several gallons) that will not easily be knocked over and a dripping faucet if possible (such as the bathtub).
- Access to a high area that they can reach in case of flooding.
- Familiar bedding and toys (for comfort).
- A note on the door advising of pets in the house, and your phone number.

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