

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR PETS

(courtesy of Horry County Humane Society)

How are animals are affected?

Animals are affected by the stress of a storm just like people. It seems, however, they are more resilient and recover much faster. They also have good instincts for their own survival. As hard as it may be to leave your pet, the odds are good they'll make it, even if the situation is very bad.

The best thing you can do is take your pet to a kennel or veterinarian for boarding during the storm. These spaces fill up quickly, however, so make your reservations early. Some kennels will "hold" spaces for regular customers. If you cannot board your pet, consider asking a friend or relative who lives in a non-evacuation area if they would board your pet.

Pets are NOT allowed in public shelters.

Early Preparations

1. Obtain a carrier for each pet
2. Take quality pictures of your pet. Both front and side views.
3. Make a copy of your pet's medical records. Be sure your animal is current on their vaccinations.
4. Make sure your pet has identification. A special collar with multiple contact phone numbers, addresses and special health concerns is advised. *Luggage or key tags work great for this.
5. Consider having your pet tattooed or microchipped.
6. Let your pet get familiar with the carrier. This will reduce the stress on the pet during an actual emergency.
7. Know where your pet will be if you evacuate. Know where there are pet friendly hotels/motels or locate a kennel where you plan on evacuating.

Prepare For Disaster

1. Make up a disaster kit.
 - a. Dry or canned food and water for 10 days packed in sealed containers. *Canned food will last much longer than dry.
 - b. Food & water bowls
 - c. Leashes and collars with identification for each animal
 - d. Any medications or special foods
 - e. Copy of medical records, pictures and emergency release forms
 - f. Pooper-scooper, newspaper, bags and cat litter if needed
 - g. Muzzle (this may be required in some situations)
 - h. Cleaning supplies for those "accidents"
2. Designate a family member to be responsible for the pets. Have them practice emergency drills.
3. Develop a plan with neighbors or friend who can care for your pets if you are out of the area and cannot return. Give them written permission for vet to treat animals.

During The Storm

1. Get all animals inside
2. Put all animals in their carriers.
3. Load emergency supplies and animals.
4. Turn off electricity, water main and/or gas.
5. **DO NOT** leave pets in a car outside of a shelter.

After The Storm

1. Your pet's landmarks and scents have changed. Keep your pet on a leash.
2. Closely observe the area for your pet. Be aware of any new dangers that may have been created such as downed power lines, debris, flooding, etc
3. Be very careful approaching strange animals. These animals have been traumatized and or injured and may react aggressively.
4. Beware of wild animals. They also have been displaced
5. Take precautions against health hazards such as standing water or contaminated water. Also, standing water creates an increase of insects such as mosquitoes, fleas, and ticks. Protect your pet against these.