
Be Prepared

With preparation and planning, your family-including your pets – can be protected. The best way to prepare is to create a written plan. Determine at what point you will evacuate and where you will go. Make sure all supplies you will need for your family and your pets are on hand throughout hurricane season and even throughout the year.

Prepare a pet survival kit. Items to include are:

- ? Sturdy leashes, harness and/or carriers to transport pets safely and to ensure your pets don't escape. (Carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand up, turn around and lie down. Your pet may have to stay in the carrier for hours at a time.)
- ? A two week supply of food, water bowls, cat litter and litter box and a manual can opener.
- ? Medications, medical records, and a first aid kit. (make sure your pets vaccinations are current)
- ? Current photos of your pet.
- ? Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, and your veterinarians' name and phone number in case you must board your pet.
- ? Other useful items include newspapers, plastic bags, grooming items, disinfectant and paper towels.

If You Evacuate, Take Your Pets

The single most important thing you can do to protect your pets if you evacuate is to take your pets with you. If it is not safe for you to stay in the disaster area, it's not safe for your pets either.

? Animals left behind in a disaster can easily get injured, lost or killed. Animals left inside your home can escape through broken

windows or other storm damaged areas. Animals turned loose to fend for themselves are likely to become victim to exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food or water or accidents. Leaving dogs tied or chained outside in a disaster is a death sentence.

? Once you leave your home, you have no way of knowing how long you'll be kept out of the area, you may not be able to go back for your pets.

? Leave early, don't wait for a mandatory evacuation order. An unnecessary trip is far better than waiting too long to leave safely with your pet.

Find a Safe Place Ahead of Time

Because evacuation shelters generally do not accept pets, except service animals, you must plan ahead to ensure that your family and your pets will have a safe place to stay. Don't wait until disaster strikes to do your research.

? Ask friends, relatives or others outside of the area if they would shelter you and your animals if necessary.

? Contact hotels and motels outside your area to check policies on accepting pets. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places handy. Call for a reservation as soon as you think you might have to leave your home.

? Contact the Animal Control Division for a list of veterinarians and boarding kennels that would shelter animals in an emergency.

? The local animal shelters have limited resources and are likely to be stretched to the limit during an emergency. If they are able to provide foster care, this should be a last resort.

Don't Forget I.D.

Your pets should be wearing up to date identification at all times. It's a good idea to include a phone number of a friend or relative from outside the area. Remember that if your pet is lost, this is its quickest ticket home.

Other Evacuation Tips

? All mobile home residents should evacuate when any category hurricane is expected.

? Evacuate to the safest location that is as close as possible to home. Long distance evacuation can be a problem when highways are crowded.

? Mandatory evacuation zone for a category 1 or 2 hurricane is the area east of the Intracoastal. For a category 3,4 or 5 it is the area east of Federal highway.

? If you live in an area prone to flooding or along a tidal water body, evacuation is suggested.

If You Don't Evacuate

If your family and pets decide to wait out the storm at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together. Keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers and make sure they are wearing identification. Have any medications and pet food and water inside water tight containers.

As the Disaster Approaches

Warnings of hurricanes may be issued hours and days in advance. Don't wait until the last minute to get ready:

? Make sure your disaster supplies are ready to go.

? Call to confirm emergency shelter arrangements.

? Keep pets in the house so you can leave with them quickly.

After the Storm

Do not allow your pets to roam loose. Familiar landmarks and smells may be gone and your pet will probably be disoriented—pets can easily get lost in such conditions. Walk dogs on a leash and keep cats inside (or in carriers if your house is damaged or they can escape). Try to get them back into their normal routines and be patient with them. Be ready for behavioral problems that may result from stress. See a veterinarian if problems persist or if health problems arise.

Other Considerations

? If you have fish, temporarily use a battery operated aerator in case the power goes out.

? If you own birds, reptiles or “pocket pets”, plan to take them with you too.

? Be sure your pets are current on all vaccinations, this will be required if you decide to board them at a kennel.

? Have your pet spayed or neutered so it does not become impregnated or impregnate other animals if it escapes or is lost.

? For more information on preparing for your horse, contact the Animal Control Division or the Broward County Agriculture and Extension Education Division (954-370-3725).

? Additional evacuation information, as well as additional preparedness guidelines can be obtained from the City of Pompano Beach Fire Department (786-4510).

Important Numbers

Emergency	911
Sheriff / Fire	786-4200
Broward County Emergency Management	831-3900 http://www.broward.org/disaster
City of Pompano Beach Animal Control	786-4027
Broward County Animal Control	359-1313 http://www.broward.org/animal
Humane Society Of Broward County	989-3977
Wildlife Care Center	524-4302

Protect Your Pets from Disaster



City of Pompano Beach
Animal Control Division