

PET SAFETY 102

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR PET DURING A HURRICANE

To keep your pet safe in the event of a hurricane, you have three choices:

1. Stay at home with your pet 2. Evacuate with your pet 3. Leave the pet with a friend, a relative or at a kennel.

Rule no. 1: If you are told to evacuate, leave immediately and take your animals. If it's not safe for you, it's not safe for them.

Here are our recommendations for ensuring a pet's safety in the event your home is located in the path of a hurricane.

BEFORE THE HURRICANE

Just as you stock up on emergency plans and consider evacuation routes for your family, make sure your plans account for your pets' needs.

- Prepare a disaster kit. It should include 3 to 7 days' worth of food and supplies for your pets
- Establish evacuation routes, identifying places to stay that include animals. Inquire if a "no pet" policy would be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of animal-friendly places handy, and call ahead for a reservation as soon as you think you might have to leave your home.
- Get your pet's microchipped and make sure they are wearing ID tags. Put your cell phone number on your pet's tag and the phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area. If your pet becomes lost, the person who finds it likely won't be able to scan for a chip, but they can hopefully read the tag.
- Bring your pets indoors well before the storm strikes.
- Make sure you have a carrier for each pet. In some cases, your pet may feel safer and experience less stress inside his or her carrier.

- Identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together. Put your emergency supplies in that room, including a supply of pet food and water inside watertight containers.
- If there is an open fireplace, vent or pet door in the house, seal it.
- Monitor the storm — if your home is in its projected path, don't wait for a mandatory evacuation order. Evacuating early increases your odds of reaching your destination safely and with minimal stress.

DURING THE HURRICANE

If your family and pets plan to stay at home, take the following precautions.

- Move to the safe area of your home.
- Make sure leashes and carriers are in a secure location, as well as waterproofed food, and can be readily accessed should you need to evacuate your home once the storm approaches or passes.

AFTER THE HURRICANE

- Don't allow your pets to roam loose. Your pet could become disoriented or frightened, especially if there is a lot of damage, and become lost.
- Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Getting them back into a normal routine will help them be less stressed.

References

1. Fritz Institute. Fritz Institute-Harris interactive Katrina survey reveals inadequate immediate relief provided to those most vulnerable. April 26, 2006. www.fritzinstitute.org. Accessed October 24, 2018.
2. Louisiana SPCA. Animal rescue facts. www.la-sPCA.org. Accessed October 24, 2018.