

IF YOU MUST LEAVE PETS BEHIND

While it is NEVER recommended that you leave your pets behind if you evacuate, we realize that there may be extraneous circumstances during a hurricane that might force you to have to leave your pets alone at home.

Should you have to leave your pets, follow these guidelines:

- ① **Secure your home as if you were staying there yourself. Pick up any objects that may become dangerous to your pets. Leave the A/C ON. Lock your doors. LEAVE A HIDDEN KEY. LEAVE A FLASHLIGHT outside your door.**
- ② **NEVER turn your pets loose. They are domesticated animals, and will not get by on instinct. Let them run loose in a secure area of your home, NEVER leashed.**
- ③ **Fill every water bowl, pan, and container full of water. Fill sinks with water and leave the toilet seat up (if not filled with chemical disinfectants). Leave out at least 10 days' supply of dry food. Consider purchasing an automatic food dispenser that will keep dry food clean.**
- ④ **Place an information sticker outside your door or window so that emergency personnel, or anyone else checking on your animals, knows how many and where they are. Include special instructions and alerts on the sticker, with your veterinarian's number, the number for the nearest pet emergency clinic, and a number where you can be reached.**
- ⑤ **If you can't return soon, call a neighbor to check on your animals. Let him/her know where both the flashlight and key are located.**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

PALM BEACH COUNTY:

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL
(Domestic & livestock)
7100 Belvedere Rd.
West Palm Beach, Florida
(561)233-1200 or (561)233-1272
www.pbcgov.com/pubsafety/animal

HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE PALM BEACHES
(PEGGY ADAMS RESCUE LEAGUE)
(Info ONLY; NO Boarding)
3200 North Military Trail
West Palm Beach, Florida
(561)686-3663
www.hspb.org

TRI-COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
21287 Boca Rio Road
Boca Raton, Florida
(561)482-8110
www.tricountyhumane.org

AMERICAN RED CROSS OF THE PALM BEACHES
825 Fern Street
West Palm Beach, Florida
833-7711
www.redcross.org

MARTIN COUNTY:

TREASURE COAST HUMANE SOCIETY
800 S. E. Monterey Road
Stuart, Florida
772-223-8822

SPECIAL TIP

Make a copy of your pets' information, medical records, microchip I.D. number, "proof of ownership" photographs of YOU WITH YOUR PETS, written prescriptions, and veterinarian information, AND MAIL ALL TO A TRUSTED PERSON OUTSIDE OF THE AREA, in case of evacuation or separation.

Village Veterinary's

Hurricane Season Pet Alert



**Preparing Your Pets
For a Hurricane**

Plan Ahead !

Pet Safety Hurricane Checklist

❑ **DISASTER PLAN** – Will your pets be safe in the event of a hurricane? The best thing is to stay with them at home, if possible. If you must evacuate, PLAN AHEAD! All shelters, boarding facilities, and hotels require similar documents and items. Call ahead.

❑ **MEDICAL RECORDS** – Do you have current medical pet records showing compliance with vaccines? You'll need them for hotels, boarding, traveling, and shelters. Current rabies vaccination is mandatory. Current parvovirus, distemper, leptospirosis, and bordatella, are highly recommended. A current, negative fecal test may also be required. Carry your pets' medical records with you.

Vaccines for Dogs: Rabies, Distemper, Parvo, Lepto, and Bordatella.

Vaccines for Cats: Rabies, Distemper, Feline Leukemia.

Vaccines for Livestock: Negative Coggins, Rabies, Tetanus, Eastern/Western Equine Encephalomyelitis

❑ **IDENTIFICATION** – Are your pets wearing current rabies, microchip, and I.D. tags? Do you have recent pictures of you WITH your pets? You will need them to claim your pet from a shelter or hospital. If possible, have pet proof of purchase on hand. Seal records and photos in a plastic, zippered, watertight bag.

❑ **EVACUATION, BOARDING, HOTEL, TRANSPORTATION** – Plan Ahead! If you are in an evacuation zone, have you planned out your evacuation route? Give yourself adequate time! Have a backup plan, just in case. Have you booked a boarding facility, or accommodations with a pet-friendly hotel? If you'll need a boarding facility for your animals, make arrangements as early as possible. Start making calls regarding available boarding facilities at the beginning of the hurricane season, well before there is a threat. Once a hurricane threatens to hit our area, the arrangements should have already been made. Realize that most boarding facilities will take animals of established clients first, and then only on a first-come basis. Most boarding facilities have special requirements. If you anticipate having to stay at a hotel, call ahead for pet-friendly accommodations. Village Veterinary has a current list of such hotels. Not all hotels will take pets, although some will allow it in a state of emergency. They fill up fast. If you will be traveling with your pets by air, call the

airline for requirements. Most airlines require that a veterinarian sign a Domestic Health Certificate prior to flight. Give your veterinarian as much time as possible to complete this. Call ahead for special requirements, based on where you are going. Ensure to have a regulation air travel crate. If you require special transportation to move your pet to a boarding facility, make arrangements as far ahead as possible, since they also become busy. If you do not need to evacuate, your pets will be best with you, secure inside your home. Village Veterinary will assist you with pet sitting information.

❑ **PET CARRIERS / LEASHES** - Do you have pet carriers or airline-regulation kennels of adequate sizes for your pets? Are there water containers attached? Ensure to have an extra pet collar and leash. Use a leash when taking your dog out after a storm due to potential hazards.

❑ **MEDICATIONS, FOODS, AND SUPPLIES** - Do you have your pets' medications? Will your pets need a sedative prescribed by your veterinarian? PURCHASE A GOOD PET FIRST AID KIT. Buy insect repellent and red ant killer, in case of standing water. Have extra towels on hand. You should have a minimum of 2 weeks' worth of non-perishable food in food-grade plastic containers, and 1 gallon of "bottled" water per day for a 60-lb dog. Remember that this is no time to change your animal's diet. Chlorination, or purification tablets are important to have, in case you need them. Don't forget the treats! Include a nylon chew bone. Have extra water for sanitation, baby wipes, and paper towels. A waterless pet shampoo is a plus. Do you have enough poop bags, paper towels, and a spray disinfectant on hand? Purchase extra kitty litter, and have plenty of plastic bags available to dispose of used litter. If traveling, carry toys and familiar bedding for your pets. Use an old pair of socks to double as doggie booties when glass and metal may be present in standing water or after-storm debris. Keep them in place with soft hair ties or "stretchies".

HURRICANE CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1 – MINIMAL	74–95 mph winds
CATEGORY 2 – MODERATE	96–110 mph winds
CATEGORY 3 – EXTENSIVE	111–130 mph winds
CATEGORY 4 – EXTREME	131–155 mph winds
CATEGORY 5 – CATASTROPHIC	155+ mph winds

SPECIAL TIP

Animals react differently under stress. To help them stay calm, BE CALM. BE PATIENT. Offer them toys, treats, speak to them in an even, calm tone. Give them love! They will take their cues from YOU.

BOARDING FACILITIES

TIPS FOR A BETTER BOARDING EXPERIENCE

(In all cases, call the boarding facility ahead of time, for complete and correct information.)

- **REQUIRED** to have all annual vaccines (Rabies, Bordatella, Distemper/Parvovirus, Leptospirosis), fecal test, and flea & tick preventative.
- Bring things that make your animal comfortable (blankets, toys, etc). If the animal has a crate, you might need to bring it, too, along with bedding.
- You **MUST** bring food for your own animals. In most cases, water is provided.

WAYS TO FIND A LOST PET

Should your pet become lost and he/she IS MICROCHIPPED, call your microchip company's retrieval number immediately. HomeAgain: 1-800-HOME AGAIN

- ① Put up "Lost Pet" flyers in your area.
- ② Check the animal shelters continuously.
- ③ Place an advertisement in local newspapers in "Lost & Found".
 - Palm Beach Post: 1-800-392-7023/561-820-4343
 - Sun Sentinel: 1-800-250-2000/561-278-6277
 - Stuart News: 772-287-1550
 - Jupiter Courier: 561 747-6311
- ④ Check newspapers and community bulletin boards for found pets.
- ⑤ Create a flyer, with photo, and ask your veterinarian to fax it to all local veterinary clinics and shelters, including Animal Care and Control, the Humane Society, and Safe Harbor.

SPECIAL TIP

If a storm is approaching that could knock out power, soak washcloths in water, place them in plastic bags, and freeze. TO COOL PETS DOWN, take a frozen washcloth and place it on their necks and shoulders.