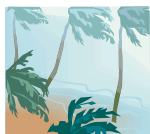




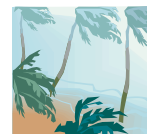
**Kissimmee Animal Hospital**  
403 E. Vine Street  
Kissimmee FL, 34744  
(407) 846-3912  
Fax (407) 846-2967



*Serving Osceola County Since 1974*



## **Hurricane Season Approaches: Emergency Planning for Pet Owners**



The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. It is important that those living in the State of Florida make preparations in advance. Pet owners are responsible for hurricane planning for their pet. If you plan to evacuate, plan for your pet as well. Keep in mind: where will your pets stay? Take your Pet Survival Kit if you go to friends, relatives or a hotel. The Red Cross shelters cannot accept pets, so if you plan to go to a public shelter, remember to make other provisions for your pet. Consider these possibilities if you must leave your pet: home, boarding kennels, veterinarians with boarding facilities, friends.

- Your home – it may be necessary for your pet to remain at home if you have to leave. Survey your home and determine the best location away from windows to place the pet during an emergency such as utility room, bathroom, kitchen or other tiled area which can be cleaned easily. Leave only dry-type foods that are relatively unpalatable to prevent overeating and be sure to use sturdy food containers.
- Bring your pet indoors well ahead of the disaster, and do not leave any pet outside or tied up during a storm or flood.
- Kennels – survey boarding kennels to determine which will take pets during an emergency. Find out who stays on the premises with the animals in the event of a disaster and what provisions would be made if the kennel should have to evacuate from a disaster.
- Veterinarians – check with veterinary clinics to locate those with boarding facilities.
- Friends – ask dependable friends or relatives who live further inland, away from the coast or river areas, for shelter during the storm emergency.
- Motels – call motels to determine if they allow pets and if so, if there are any restrictions on the size and number of pets allowed.

After the emergency or disaster, attend to your pets as soon as possible. They may be frightened and disorientated. Allow your pets outside only when on a leash and above all be sure your pet is wearing a collar and ID tag. Familiar scents and landmarks may have been altered causing your pet to become confused and possibly lost. This is especially true for cats. Downed power lines, animals, and insects brought in with high water could present real dangers to your pet. Take care not to allow your pet to consume food or water which may have become contaminated.

### **What to do NOW:**

1. Buy extra collars, make sure they are properly fitted, and current I.D. tags (your name, address, phone #) and if possible get your pets micro-chipped.
2. Have a leash for each pet to keep on hand in order to maintain control during stressful situations for your pet.
3. Buy a portable plastic crate for each dog and cat and get them used to it by making it comfortable (mats, blankets, etc.) inviting (feed them in it) and fun (toys & treats). The crate should be appropriately sized with enough room in the carrier for food & water dishes, space for the pet to lie down and turn around, and a shoe box sized litter box for cats. Be sure to familiarize your pet with the carrier in advance.
4. Buy non-spill-type water & food bowls that fit into these crates. Non-electric can opener in case of power outage.
5. Take and keep photos of all your pets to assist in locating them if they become lost.
6. Keep appropriate medications on hand.

7. Make sure your pets have had all vaccines within the past 12 months and have all pertinent vaccination records including rabies certificate. Most kennels require current rabies, distemper & bordetella vaccines.
8. Acquire an ample food and water supply (at least two weeks) when getting other disaster supplies.
9. Specific care instructions for medications, diet and other needs.
10. Newspapers, cat litter, scoop, plastic trash bags, cleaner & disinfectants to properly handle waste.
11. Proper identification on all belongings

**GET CASH.** Banks and ATMs won't be in operation without power and few stores will be able to accept credit cards or personal checks.

First start with a plan of action. Sit-down with your family and discuss these matters. Write down what needs to be done and by when (time lines). Make a list of things to buy or acquire, back-up systems, resources that you have (equipment, supplies, tools, etc) and resources that you can share with others.

**Check your disaster supplies kit.** Your family disaster supplies kit should contain the following:

- ☐ **Flashlights** and several sets of batteries for each member of the family.
  - ☐ **Portable radio** and batteries.
  - ☐ **Drinking Water.** A supply of one gallon per person, per day for a minimum of three days.
  - ☐ **Non-perishable Food.** A two-week supply is best.
  - ☐ **Special dietary foods.**
  - ☐ **Non-electric can opener.**
  - ☐ **Prescription medications.** Always keep a two-week supply on hand.
  - ☐ **Infant supplies** that include sterile water, diapers, ready formula, bottles, etc.
  - ☐ **Mosquito repellent.**
  - ☐ **First aid kit** including a first aid book, bandages, antiseptic, tape, compresses, aspirin and nonaspirin pain reliever, antidiarrhea medication and antacid.
  - ☐ **Distress flag** and/or whistle.
  - ☐ **Toilet paper, paper towels** and pre-moistened towelettes.
  - ☐ **Camera** and film.
  - ☐ **Coolers.** One to keep food and another to transport ice.
  - ☐ **Plastic tarp,** roofing paper, nails, tools, etc.
  - ☐ **Plastic trash bags.**
  - ☐ **Clean-up supplies** including a mop, buckets, towels, disinfectant, etc.
  - ☐ **Water purification kit.** Tablets, plain chlorine and iodine.
- **If you evacuate** take the supplies above and also take:
    - ☐ Personal hygiene items such as toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.
    - ☐ Extra clothing, shoes, eyeglasses, etc.
    - ☐ Pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, cots or air mattresses, folding chairs or lawn chairs.
    - ☐ **Turn off electricity, water and gas.**
    - ☐ Lock windows and doors.
    - ☐ Let relatives know where you are going.

