



# Disaster Preparedness for Pets

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# The Family Pet

**PROTECT YOUR  
PET TODAY!**



- 83.3 million dogs and 95.6 million cats are a part of a family (The Humane Society of the United States [HSUS], 2013)
- Most people do not have family disaster plans in place...let alone something to include their pet
- People refused to be rescued without their pets creating a disaster within a disaster (Wesley, 2006)

# Background

- 1992 – Hurricane Andrew killed 100 animals at Miami Metrozoo
- Veterinary Medical Assistance Team formed
- Humane Society created disaster planning and recovery department
- 2005 – Hurricane Katrina displaced over 250,000 pets in New Orleans
- Bans lifted on shelters so families will evacuate with their pets
- Possibly implement a plan to receive federal assistance if family has a disaster plan including their pets

(Wesley, 2006)

# Disaster Plan

- Collar with current information on tags
- Leash and carrier (with pet info attached)
- Familiarize pet with carrier and traveling
  - Practice putting animal and crate in car
  - May need ramp for larger dogs
- In place shelter
  - Room with no window
  - Block vents and remove toxic plants and chemicals
- Evacuation
  - Know where pets are welcome
  - Bring kit with medical information
  - Have local and distant evacuation spots planned



(The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2013)

# Kits

- First aid kit, flashlight
- Food for 3-7 days, can opener, bowls
  - Wet food decreases need for water
- Medical records, photos, medicine (in waterproof container)
- Water
- Blanket, crate, leash, toys, scoopable litter, crate liners, muzzles
- Bleach for purification and disinfection
- Trash bags



(American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals [ASPCA], 2013)



## Staying Safe – Before, During and After

- First sign of disaster bring pets inside
- Leave early – reduce stress on pets
- EVACUATED sticker – window of house
- Normal for pets to display unpredictable behavior
- Keep separated (even your pets) and on leash
- Be aware of surroundings – stagnant water, spills, debris, broken fences, damaged screens
- Seek veterinary help for any changes in animal's behavior

(American Red Cross, 2013)

# Other Animals

- Birds
  - Cages, perch, timed feeder, cover, catch net
- Reptiles
  - Pillow case/sturdy container, heating pad, bowl with water
- Small animals – gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs
  - Lined cage, food
- Horses/livestock
  - Trailer, keep in barn, loose in field

(ASPCA, 2013)



# Pet First Aid

- Rescue breathing, CPR, and vitals assessment
- Snout-to-tail assessment
- Insect bites, stings and snake bites
- First aid kit supplies

("Pet First Aid & CPR Training Pet Tech, cat, dog, pets, first aid class", 2013)



# Additional Information

- Reflective vest/belt
  - Visibility for you and your pet
- No retractable leash
  - Slipknot leash around wrist - in case animal gets spooked, they will still be with you
- Use a pet harness
  - Animals can slip out of collars when scared
- Rotate medicine, food and water every 2-3 months
  - Do not keep in garage – hot and cold weather
- Ask vet or pet store for muzzle help
  - Practice putting on pet and leaving on for short time
- Travel bowls
  - Some vet clinics offer them for free
  - Can come in a collapsible cloth for easy storage



- Here are the supplies for one large greyhound.
- I rotate out a 50 lb bag of dog food so there is always a fresh bag to grab.
- Not pictured are cases of water, food bowl, and my pup's coat for cold weather.

- Here is the bag packed
- I keep an old sleeping bag behind the seat in my truck along with the first aid kit. This allows for faster loading.
- If you are unable to lift your pet, have a ramp ready to go with this kit.



# References

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# Monica Allen

- Animals have always been a part of my life.
- Five years ago I adopted my first greyhound and have been fostering them ever since.
- Currently I foster for Greyhound Pets of America – Delaware Chapter.
- I work with greyhounds fresh off the track. Some spook easily from fireworks or storms, while others want to catch the squirrel.
- The greyhounds do a lot of traveling with me and I wanted to share what I have learned in hopes of making it easier for other families.

