

## PET DISASTER KIT

- ✔ Collar with proper ID and rabies tag/license
- ✔ Recent photos of your pet
- ✔ Veterinary records and vaccination papers (pet shelters require proof of vaccinations) in a waterproof case or plastic bag
- ✔ Pet food and water (don't forget treats); have enough food for at least seven days
- ✔ Can opener for canned food
- ✔ Food dishes
- ✔ Pet medications—monthly heartworm prevention can be given a few days early, if evacuating
- ✔ Pet toys and beds
- ✔ Sturdy leashes for each pet
- ✔ Pet carriers or cages for each pet
- ✔ Special instructions regarding the care of your pet
- ✔ Newspapers, cat litter and plastic bags for sanitary purposes
- ✔ Pet first aid kit—most kits include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea and tick prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution.



Source: DHS

## TIPS FOR LARGE ANIMALS

The leading causes of death of large animals in hurricanes and similar disasters are collapsed barns, dehydration, electrocution, and accidents resulting from fencing collapse. If you own farm animals, you should take precautions to protect them from these hazards.



Owners may believe animals are safer inside barns; however, confinement takes away the animals ability to protect themselves. Livestock should only be boarded in barns that are strong enough to withstand the full storm surge. Food for cattle should be stored in storm-proof tubs and hay/grain in solid protected areas. If you do evacuate make sure all trucks, trailers, and other vehicles are ready to transport your larger animals when evacuations are ordered. If your farm animals cannot be evacuated, plan ahead and work within the community to establish safe shelters for them.

*For a list of kennels and hotels/motels that can shelter your pet, visit:  
<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/animals/disasterprep.html>*

*This information is provided by:  
Santa Rosa County Animal Services  
4451 Pine Forest Road  
Milton, FL 32583  
(850) 983-4680  
[www.santarosa.fl.gov/animals](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/animals)*

*For questions or additional information please contact animal services.*

## Surviving the Storm

Plan  
Prepare  
Prevent



**Hurricane Preparation  
for Your Pets:**  
A quick guide to preparing  
your special family members  
for a storm



The first rule to remember is if you evacuate, take your pets. If it is not safe for you, it is not safe for them. Proper planning before a hurricane could save your life and that of your pet. If you live in an area which is evacuated, you must make preparations for your family and your pets before the threat of a storm or disaster. Pets should not be left in an empty house or to roam free. Animals turned loose to fend for themselves are likely to become victims of starvation, predators, contaminated food or water, or accidents.

## ADVANCED PREPARATIONS:

- 🐾 Keep updated visible identification on your pets collar at all times. An added precaution against loss of a pet is an attached metal tag with your pet's name, your name, address, phone number, and an alternate phone number, if one is available.
- 🐾 Make sure your pet vaccinations are up to date, especially if you have made arrangements to board your pet during a hurricane because they will likely be exposed to other pets that may or may not have their proper vaccinations.
- 🐾 Be prepared to evacuate should it become necessary. Plan ahead and decide well in advance where you will go. Make arrangements ahead of time to board your pets at a structurally sound boarding kennel or check with your veterinary clinic. If you plan on going to a hotel, plan ahead and make sure pets are permitted.
- 🐾 Currently, Santa Rosa County Shelters do not accept pets so please keep this in mind when making preparations.
- 🐾 Be aware of emergency veterinary care locations, as well as where to locate lost pets.
- 🐾 Mark all your pets belongings with an adhesive label and waterproof ink.
- 🐾 Survey your property for the best possible location to shelter your larger animals.

## WHAT TO DO...

### During a disaster:

If you plan to stay home during an evacuation bring your pets inside immediately and prepare an area away from a window. Separate dogs and cats and keep small pets away from cats and dogs. Make sure that if you have a bird to keep it caged and cover it with a thin cloth or sheet to provide security and filtered light. Also, fill bathtubs and as many available containers with water for drinking and cooking.

If you are going to evacuate, load your prepared supplies and those of your pet into your vehicle, go to your predetermined shelter (family, friends, hotel/motel, etc.) and take needed items for you and your pet to be self-sufficient for up to seven days.

If you must evacuate without your pets, leave a dry, unappealing food for them. Do not leave large dogs, birds, cats, or other size dogs alone together. Leave non-spill containers of water for each pet. Birds need an automatic feed dispenser.



### After a disaster:



If after a disaster you leave town, take your pets with you; pets are unlikely to survive on their own. The first couple of days following the disaster be sure to put a leash on your pets when they go outside until they become familiar with their home again. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet may become confused and lost. The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency; normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Watch animals closely when outdoors because snakes and other dangerous animals may be brought into the area with flooding. It's also important to keep a close eye on pets outside due to possible downed power lines that are a hazard. Be alert for rotted substances which your pet may find when released into your yard.



If you evacuated without your pet, it is imperative that you check on them as soon as possible. If you boarded your pet at a kennel facility, reclaim your pet as quickly as possible because chances are, the facilities will be overcrowded and understaffed.