

Basic Information on Hurricane Preparation for Pets

DOGS/CATS

Crate: Keep in mind that most hurricane shelters will **not** allow you to bring your pets. However, if you must seek safety and higher ground with friends or relatives, we recommend that you have an appropriately sized crate to transport and house your pet. Many motels and hotels will allow an animal if it is kept in a crate. Buy a crate now - when hurricanes head our way, many stores sell out quickly.

Food: Bring a small bag of your pet's regular food. Traveling can be stressful for an animal, and it will be important that they maintain their normal diet.

Water: Whether you stay at home or leave, the water supply can easily become contaminated in a hurricane situation. Keep clean water set aside for EVERYONE in your family, including your pets.

Shots: Make sure your pet's shots are up-to-date. In an emergency situation your pets may be exposed to other pets that may not be in the best of health. Your best protection is to ensure your pet is appropriately vaccinated. If possible, get a copy of each pet's vaccination record TODAY and keep it with other important papers. If you have to evacuate, you will NOT be thinking about your pet's vet records!

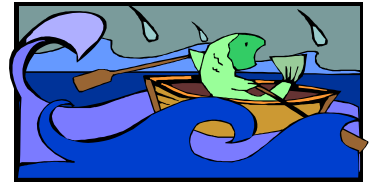
Take Pictures: You should have four views of your pet: head, left side, right side, and back. The photos should be stored in a safe, dry place during a disaster. (Some advocate storing important documents in a weighted down rubber garbage.)

ID Tags/Micro-chips: We engrave ID tags while you wait - make sure your pet's tag is easy to read and up-to-date. If you know in advance where you are going, have a tag made with THAT information on it. Have your pet micro-chipped as soon as possible. It is a permanent form of identification that cannot be lost and shelters nation-wide can scan your pet and contact you if necessary.

Collars and Leashes: Make sure you have a collar and leash for every pet and a *harness* and leash for all cats. If you evacuate, you'll need to be able to control each pet. If the storm hits and your fence gets knocked down, you'll need to be able to walk your pets safely.

AQUARIUMS

Water Change: As soon as you hear that a hurricane is headed your way do a minimum of a 25% water change. That way, if the water supply becomes contaminated the water quality of your tank has a better chance of remaining stable.



Battery Powered Air Pump: This will come in handy if there is an extended power outage. Make sure you have extra batteries on hand, too. If you do not have a battery powered air pump you must circulate the water by hand every few hours. Use a pitcher to dip water out and pour it back into the tank. Be sure to disturb the water surface - make waves!

Preserve the Water Quality: Feed your fish sparingly. This will reduce fish waste and help preserve the quality of the water and allow them to survive longer if you are unable to do water changes due to contaminated water supplies.

Power loss: If you have a clean water supply do a 25% water change every three or four day. If your filter is off due to a power loss, you must clean it before you re-start it after the power is restored. The detritus collected in the filter can turn toxic within 12 hours. If this gets into your tank it could kill your fish.

Ponds: Ponds fare pretty well during a storm. Secure a mesh covering over the pond. This will help keep debris out of the pond and prevent the fish from floating away in the event the pond overflows.

SMALL ANIMALS / BIRDS

Prevent flight in the case of an escape - trim your pet bird's flight feathers - or bring your bird to B&B, we'll do it for you.

Clean Cage: If you find that you must evacuate, make sure the cage is clean before you leave your house.

Cover the Cage: This will help protect your small pet or bird from flying objects if a window breaks. Move all cages away from windows.

Food and Water: Put extra food in the cages and plenty of clean water. It is a good idea to have an extra water bottle for small pets or a vacation waterer for your bird.

Please Note: The information in this handout is meant to provide basic information only. Please see a salesperson for more information.

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