



## Disaster Preparedness: Pet Safety Checklist

Weather crises, such as hurricanes, are events that most people along the gulf coast prepare for as there is usually advanced warning. However, other disasters, such as fires and chemical spills, need to be taken into consideration since they can happen without warning with no time to prepare.

No matter what the emergency, it is critical that you take your pet with you. Pets left behind may be lost, injured or killed.

The following is a checklist of items to have prepared and ready to go.

- ❑ Portable pet carrier for cats, small dogs, other small animals and birds. Clearly label the carrier with pet's name, your name, address and phone number. Get pet(s) accustomed to carriers ahead of time. Keep in easily accessible place.

The following can be packed in an airtight Rubbermaid or other suitable container:

- ❑ Dry towels or blanket to line carrier and use if necessary.
- ❑ Roll of paper towels.
- ❑ Food and water bowls for each animal.
- ❑ 1-2 weeks supply of food and water in airtight containers. Check periodically and replace with fresh as needed. Include your pet's favorite treats and toys.
- ❑ If you use canned food, hand-operated can opener.
- ❑ 1-2 weeks supply of all medications your pet is taking clearly labeled with administrative instructions. Be sure to include flea preventative and Heartworm treatment. Check these supplies periodically, and adjust and replenish as needed.
- ❑ Litter and litter boxes for cats. Empty soda water boxes or disposable aluminum pans are excellent as disposable litter boxes.
- ❑ Health records **including vaccinations** in case of evacuation or need to stay in boarding kennel or other facility.
- ❑ Collar with **current identification tag** and microchip.
- ❑ Recent color photographs of each pet in case they get lost.
- ❑ Check out boarding kennel beforehand and keep the name and number handy.
- ❑ Numbers of pet-friendly hotels and motels.
- ❑ Written instructions on caring for your pet in the event you must leave pet at the boarding kennel.
- ❑ Animal First Aid Kit (Ask your veterinarian what your pet will need).
- ❑ Leashes. Keep extra in emergency kit.

Your pet will be under severe trauma during this time so keep his/her routines as familiar as possible. Keep your pet(s) with you at all times or in a safe boarding kennel. **Do not leave a pet at home alone.** Take along familiar toys. Get pet accustomed to riding in the car in advance to alleviate some of the stress.