

PLANNING FOR PETS



Disasters come in many different forms. Most people think of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, wildfires, or tornados.

But you and your pet may also be affected by gas leaks, train derailments, chemical spills, and even intentional acts of destruction.

The safety of your pets depends on what you do now. Here are some guides to help you prepare your pets for a disaster.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE THE DISASTER

- At the first sign of an approaching disaster check all your supplies. See the checklist on the back of this pamphlet. Put them in one central location. That way, if you need to leave quickly you won't have to search for supplies.
- Bring your pets indoors and keep them in a small, comfortable area where you can easily reach them .
- Check your evacuation route and confirm your shelter arrangements. Remember, most human shelters don't take pets. Make your accommodation plans far in advance and have your route and places to stay arranged.
- If you can, move livestock to higher ground or a safer area. Do not leave in an enclosed building.
- Remove any item from barnyards or pastures that could become airborne in high winds.

IF YOU EVACUATE...



- Take all your pets
- Make sure pets are safely contained
- All pets must wear identification
- Take your emergency supplies—including water
- Livestock that hasn't been evacuated should be left loose in pastures, not left in buildings. Post your emergency contact information—wrapped in plastic—at each entrance.
- Allow plenty of time to trailer livestock and horses out of evacuation zones.

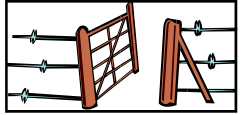
IF YOU ARE OUTSIDE THE HURRICANE EVACUATION ZONE AND DECIDE TO RIDE OUT THE EMERGENCY AT HOME... (SHELTER IN PLACE)



- Keep your pets indoors – preferably in their carriers and on leashes.
- Keep them in an interior, safe room - away from windows.
- **Make sure they wear current identification!**

AFTER THE EMERGENCY:

Keep your pets in a safe area. Check your home and fence for damage. Loose fences may not properly confine a frightened, confused pet. Damaged windows could injure or allow escape.



Check your pastures for debris that could injure livestock. Make sure your fencing is intact and all animals are accounted for.



WHAT IF I'M NOT HOME?

Pre-planning is the key. Make arrangements with a neighbor or family member in case something happens when you're not home. Give them a list and the location of your disaster supplies. Have a set location to meet when it is safe. Make sure they have a key to your home and your veterinarians name and phone number. Your pets should be familiar with them.

Post emergency contact information on doors and entrances.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS?



Remember, disruption of regular routines is stressful on pets as well as people. You may notice behavior changes, loss of appetite, or other signs of stress. If problems persist or become worrisome, contact your veterinarian.

TRAINING




- Plan ahead. Teach your dog to walk quietly on a leash. Reinforce the training frequently.
- Cats should be familiar with their carriers.
- Horses must be comfortable being loaded onto a trailer. Practice the procedure often.
- Practice 'fire drills' at home and stable

DISASTER ANIMAL MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services
 Veterinary Public Health Division, Task Force Chair
 City of Houston Department of Health & Human Services
 City of Houston Office of Emergency Management
 City of Houston Zoological Garden
 Harris County Office of Homeland Security &
 Emergency Management
 Harris County Sheriff's Department—Livestock Division
 Harris County Veterinary Medical Association
 Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
 Texas Animal Health Commission
 Texas Cooperative Extension—Texas A&M University



DISASTER CHECKLIST

- ☐ **IDENTIFICATION** – Your pet should always wear identification, but it is especially important during disasters. Check tags and make sure the information is current. Does your veterinarian have your current phone number and address? Now is a good time to microchip your pet. 
- ☐ **EQUIPMENT** – A sturdy leash, harness and muzzle for larger dogs and a well-ventilated, plastic carrier for small dogs and cats. Don't forget a carrier for your bird or hamster. Is the carrier in good repair? Make sure all items have your name and emergency phone number written on them in permanent ink. 
- ☐ **SUPPLIES** – Food/water bowls, cat litter, litter box (that fits into the carrier) and a three-day supply of pet food and water. Towels, blanket, newspapers, trash bags and sanitizer will also come in handy. It's usually a good idea to bring along a few toys or comfort items to relieve boredom. Have a first-aid kit with your pets medications ready. 
- ☐ **INFORMATION** – A water-tight container for medical records, medications, and current photographs of your pets. Also include the name and phone number of your veterinarian, and the name and phone number of a relative or alternate care-taker in case you are injured and unable to care for your pets. Make sure to add an emergency phone number of someone who does not live in your area. Remember, if you're affected by the disaster, other local people may be affected too.

Is Your Pet Ready.....



.....For DISASTER?

How to Prepare Your Pets In Case of Disaster

Brought to you by
 The Disaster Animal Management Task Force of
 Houston/Harris County