

Taking Care of Pets During a Hurricane

Make sure your hurricane disaster plan includes the family pet. In the event of a catastrophe, they are unlikely to survive on their own. Please take a moment to read these helpful tips on creating a disaster plan for your pet to ensure every family member is protected.

Your pets need you.



TRAVELING WITH A PET

- Plan in advance where you will go and how to get there.
- Make arrangements in advance to have a friend or neighbor pick up your pet in the event you are not at home when a disaster strikes.
- Research and identify pet-friendly shelters in advance. Your county's Emergency Management webpage will provide you with a list of shelters, and in most cases it will identify those shelters that accept pets.
- Talk to your vet, the humane society or the local emergency management agency for information regarding community evacuation plans that include pets.
- Pack a grab-bag that includes the pet shelter requirements like identification collar and rabies tag.
- Map out your primary route and a backup route in case roads are blocked or impassable.

MAKE A GRAB-BAG

- Medication and medical records (including proof of rabies vaccination) in a waterproof container. Pet shelters may require proof of vaccines, proper identification collar and a rabies tag.
- Pet first aid kit, leashes, harnesses, crates and carriers for transporting pets. Carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand and turn around.
- If you have pet insurance, pack the insurance company contact information and policy number.
- Food and water for at least three days and a manual can opener.
- Cat litter, litter box, and newspapers or trash bags for clean-up.
- Name and phone number of your veterinarian.
- A muzzle, if your pet requires one.
- Recent photo of you and your pet in case you are separated.

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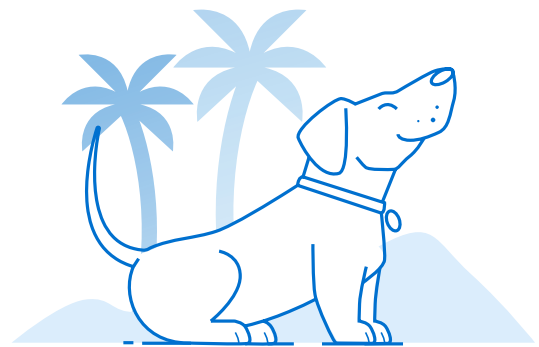
ELIMINATE STRESS

- Have your vet microchip your pet.
- Be prepared to leave early. Do not wait for an official evacuation as you might be ordered to leave your pet.
- Set your pet's crate out early so they can get used to the idea of being crated.
- Make sure your pet is wearing up-to-date identification. Include the phone number of a friend or relative outside your area in case your pet gets lost and you cannot be reached.
- Mark the crate or carrier with identification information.
- Keep your pet on a leash or in a carrier at all times while traveling.
- Exercise your pet prior to leaving so they won't have pent up energy.
- Allow your pet to explore the car with the motor off to become familiar with the scents prior to a storm.
- Reward your pet once you get to your destination.

AFTER THE DISASTER

- Once you return to your home, do not allow your pets to roam loose right away. While you assess the damage, keep dogs on a leash and other animals in their carriers.
- Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone, and your pet may become disoriented. Pets can easily get lost in such situations, so give them some time to get used to their surroundings.
- After a disaster, animals can become aggressive or defensive - monitor their behavior.

Visit [SecurityFirstFlorida.com](https://www.SecurityFirstFlorida.com) for more hurricane resources and tips.



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It's always better to be prepared.