

## **ARE YOU PET-PREPARED FOR A HURRICANE? PLAN AHEAD - NOW!**

**If you are ordered to evacuate, conditions are not only unsafe for you but also for your pets as well.**

Tips from the Houston Kennel Club

### **Develop a pet emergency kit in a water-proof container stored in a permanent location. Include:**

- Current clear, color **photos** (frontal, left and right sides) of each pet (in case it gets lost)
- **Proof of current vaccinations.** Proof of current vaccinations may be required by shelters.
- **Licenses, health records, and ownership papers, including a list of individual microchip / tattoo numbers.**
- **Develop a phone and address list** of veterinarians, and food, shelter and housing sources for your pets.
- Shampoo, nail clippers, a brush, paper towels, bath towels, toys and comfort items, newspapers (for temporary exercise areas), a pooper scooper, plastic bags, cleanser and pet-friendly disinfectant will all be needed.
- Work with your vet to develop a **first aid kit for pets**, including special medications, dosage and care instructions. Update the kit periodically to keep the medications, ointments, and lotions up to date.
- **Food and Water** - Plan on food and water for 14 days. Double the amount of water you think you will need. Stock the kit with non-breakable **food and water dishes** as well as a **manual can opener**, if needed.

### **PLAN FOR EVACUATION NEEDS:**

- **Make sure you have an adequate number of properly-sized pet carriers plus a leash and collar for each pet.**
- Microchip, tattoo, or **identify each pet in some manner** to ease its return should it get lost. Place an ID tag with an out-of-state contact name, address AND PHONE NUMBER along with your local information on each collar and pet carrier.
- **Plan your evacuation strategy and route.** Friends and relatives in a safe area should be your first choice but you should also develop a list of pet-friendly hotels / motels along possible evacuation routes. Pet-friendly hotels / motels can be found through [www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com).
- **Update recovery information**, if necessary, if you have registered your pets with pet recovery agencies.
- **Gathering and confining any pets, such as cats, not already safely confined** as soon as a hurricane warning is declared or a flood is eminent **will save you time later.** Remember your pets can sense your emotional state.
- **Plan for extremely slow travel time.** When packing the car / van, remember to **provide protection from the sun as well as good air circulation** around all pet carriers. Lack of air circulation and exposure to high temperatures can kill your pet if you do not. Check on your pet often. If you have more pets than will fit in your car or van at one time, plan ahead and **START EARLY. You may need to make more than one trip to move them to safety or may need to get help from a friend or relative.**

### **PLAN FOR YOUR RETURN:**

- As you travel and after returning home, cover an area under and around pet carriers with plastic sheeting thick enough to withstand toenails until a clean pet area can be prepared. Protect it from contamination by high water or mud before you use it. 8'X8', 8'X10' or 10'X10' sizes work well.
- Empty any containers that contain flood water. Clean and disinfect all containers with chlorine bleach or other disinfectant before they are used again. Discard all wet or damp food and bedding. Spoiled foods need to be stored in durable plastic bags (e.g. 4 mil plastic bags) or containers until trash pickup resumes. Bleach sprinkled over spoiled food can help reduce odors.
- Check fences, remove debris, and thoroughly clean, and disinfect all areas before allowing pets back into them.
- Stay with your pets or walk them on leash until they become re-oriented. Familiar scents and landmarks may have been altered and pets may become confused and stressed.

**For more detailed information and tips, please see our website at \_\_\_\_\_ and attend one of our Hurricane Preparedness Seminars at our dog show July 20 – 23. Check our website for times.**