



Florida Kidney Disaster Coalition

ALL-HAZARDS EDUCATIONAL SERIES:

PET PREPAREDNESS

If you evacuate your home, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND!** Pets cannot survive by themselves. They may be killed, starve, or run away.

American Red Cross shelters do not accept pets. Some local communities have pet-friendly shelters but you **MUST** be pre-registered, sometimes months in advance, to be able to go to a pet shelter. **Call your local emergency management office or humane society to find out if your community has a pet shelter and how to register.**

Make a PET SURVIVAL KIT. Assemble a pet survival kit in a container that can be easily carried with you in case you need to evacuate. **Even if you go to a pet shelter, they will not have supplies for you or your pet.** Your pet survival kit should contain the following items:

- Medications and veterinary medical records (stored in a waterproof container or plastic baggie), including your veterinarian's name and phone number, and locations of nearby animal hospitals in case you cannot reach your veterinarian.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses, and/or carriers to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape.
- Food, drinking water, bowls, and a can opener.
- Cat litter & litter pan or doggie "pee pads."
- Your pet's favorite toys, small pet beds or blankets.

Check that your pet's identification tags are up to date and securely fastened to a collar. Make sure you have a current photo of your pet for identification purposes.

During a disaster, bring your pets inside immediately. Animals have instincts about severe weather changes and will often isolate themselves if they are afraid. Bringing them inside early can stop them from running away. Never leave a pet outside or tied up during a storm.

In the first few days after the disaster, leash your pets when they go outside. Always maintain close contact. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet may become confused and lost. Also, snakes and other dangerous animals may be brought into the area with flood areas. Downed power lines are a hazard.

The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Watch animals closely. Leash dogs and place them in a fenced yard with access to shelter and water.

For more information visit <http://www.floridadisaster.org/petplan.htm>