

## ***Start getting ready now***

### ID your pet

Make sure that cats and dogs are wearing collars and identification tags that are up to date. You'll increase your chances of being reunited with pets who get lost by having them microchipped; make sure the microchip registration is in your name. But remember: The average citizen who finds your pet won't be able to scan for a chip, but they will probably be able to read a basic tag!

Put your cell phone number on your pet's tag. It may also be a good idea to include the phone number of a friend or relative outside your immediate area—in case you have had to evacuate.

### Find a safe place to stay ahead of time

Never assume that you will be allowed to bring your pet to an emergency shelter. Before a disaster hits, call your local office of emergency management to see if you will be allowed to evacuate with your pets and verify that there will be shelters in your area that take people and their pets.

Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to find out if they accept pets. Ask about any restrictions on number, size and species. Inquire if a "no pet" policy would be waived in an emergency. Keep a list of animal-friendly places handy, and call ahead for a reservation as soon as you think you might have to leave your home.

For help identifying pet-friendly lodgings, check out these websites:

*Bringfido.com*

*Dogfriendly.com*

*Doginmysuitcase.com*

*Pet-friendly-hotels.net*

*Pets-allowed-hotels.com*

*Petswelcome.com*

## **Pet Emergency Check List**

- Pet First-Aid Kit
- Food (2 week supply)
- Water (2 week supply)
- Bowls
- Extra Collar & Leash
- Medical Records
- Medications (2 week supply)
- Crate/ Carrier
- Blanket
- Recent Photos
- Toys
- Disposable Litter Trays
- Litter (2wk supply)
- Paper towels
- Disposable
- Garbage Bags



### **Hanahan Veterinary Clinic**

**1283 Yeaman Hall Rd**

**Hanahan, SC 29410**

**Office: 843-744-8927**

**Fax: 843-747-4494**

**[Frontdesk@hanahanvet.com](mailto:Frontdesk@hanahanvet.com)**

**[www.hanahanvet.com](http://www.hanahanvet.com)**

# **Disaster Plan** **for** **Your Pets**



**HOW TO KEEP PETS  
SAFE IN NATURAL  
DISASTERS AND  
EVERYDAY  
EMERGENCIES**

Make sure your family (including pets) is ready for any kind of disaster by putting together a disaster-preparedness kit.

### A disaster kit includes:

- Food and water for at least five days for each pet, bowls and a manual can opener if you are packing canned pet food. People need at least one gallon of water per person per day. While your pet may not need that much, keep an extra gallon on hand to use if your pet has been exposed to chemicals or flood waters and needs to be rinsed.
- Medications and medical records stored in a waterproof container and a first-aid kit. A pet first-aid book is also a good idea.
- Cat litter box, litter, litter scoop and garbage bags to collect all your pets' waste.
- Sturdy leashes, harnesses and carriers to transport pets safely and to ensure that your pets can't escape. Make sure that your cat or dog is wearing a collar and identification that is up to date and visible at all times. Carriers should be large enough to allow your pet to stand comfortably, turn around and lie down. (*Your pet may have to stay in the carrier for hours at a time.*) Be sure to have a secure cage with no loose objects inside it to accommodate smaller pets—who may also need blankets or towels for bedding and warmth as well as special items, depending on their species.
- Current photos of you with your pets and descriptions of your pets to help others identify them in case you and your pets become separated—and to prove that they are yours once you're reunited.
- Written information about your pets' feeding schedules, medical conditions and behavior issues along with the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to board your pets or place them in foster care.

### Other useful items include:

- Newspapers
- Paper towels
- Plastic trash bags
- Grooming items
- Household bleach

### Plan for your pet in case you're not home

In case you're away during a disaster or evacuation order, make arrangements well in advance for someone you trust to take your pets and meet you at a specified location. Be sure the person is comfortable with your pets and your pets are familiar with them. Give your emergency caretaker a key to your home and show them where your pets are likely to be (*especially if they hide when they're nervous*) and where your disaster supplies are kept.

If you have a pet-sitter, they may be able to help. Discuss the possibility well in advance.

### If you evacuate, take your pet

**Rule number one: If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets.** You have no way of knowing how long you'll be kept out of the area, and you may not be able—or allowed—to go back for your pets. Pets left behind in a disaster can easily be injured, lost or killed.

**Rule number two: Evacuate early. Don't wait for a mandatory evacuation order.** Some people who have waited to be evacuated by emergency officials have been told to leave their pets behind. The smell of smoke or the sound of high winds or thunder may make your pet more fearful and difficult to load into a crate or carrier. Evacuating before conditions become severe will keep everyone safer and make the process less stressful.

### If you stay home, do it safely!

If your family and pets must wait out a storm or other disaster at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together.

- Close off or eliminate unsafe nooks and crannies where frightened cats may try to hide.
- Move dangerous items such as tools or toxic products that have been stored in the area.
- Bring your pets indoors as soon as local authorities say trouble is on the way. Keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers, and make sure they are wearing identification.
- If you have a room you can designate as a "safe room," put your emergency supplies in that room in advance, including your pet's crate and supplies. Have any medications and a supply of pet food and water inside watertight containers, along with your other emergency supplies. If there is an open fireplace, vent, pet door or similar opening in the house, close it off with plastic sheeting and strong tape.

### After the disaster

Your home may be a very different place after the emergency is over, and it may be hard for your pets to adjust.

- Don't allow your pets to roam loose. Familiar landmarks and smells might be gone, and your pet will probably be disoriented. Pets can easily get lost in such situations.
- While you assess the damage, keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers inside the house. If your house is damaged, your pets could escape.
- Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Try to get them back into their normal routines as soon as possible. Be ready for behavioral problems caused by the stress of the situation. If these problems persist, or if your pet seems to be having any health problems, talk to your veterinarian.

*If your community has been flooded, check your home and yard for wild animals who may have sought refuge there. Wildlife can pose a threat to you and your pet.*