



**Advance Planning
is Essential –
It Could Save Your
Pet's Life and Make
Your Life Easier in
an Emergency.**

Remember...



Each county offers differing services during evacuation periods. Check with your Emergency Management Office, Animal Control Agency, Humane Society or local veterinarian for specific instructions.



**South Carolina Association
of Veterinarians**

1-800-441-SCAV

www.scaav.org

(or contact your local veterinarian)

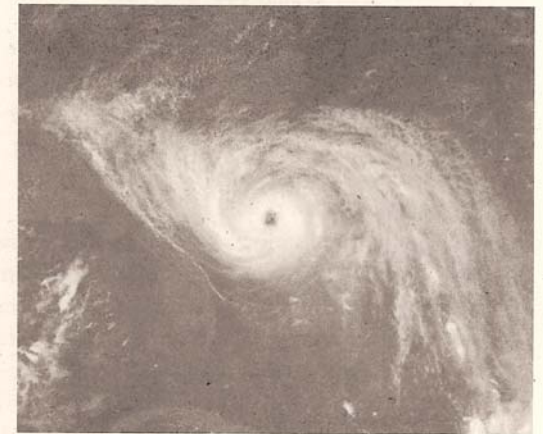


**South Carolina Animal Care and
Control Association**

127 Humane Lane
Columbia, SC 29209
(803) 776-7387

Clemson University

Livestock and Poultry
Health Division
www.clemson.edu/lph



When Disaster Strikes

***Action Guidelines
for People with
Household Pets***

Presented by:
SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF
VETERINARIANS, *and*
SOUTH CAROLINA ANIMAL CARE AND
CONTROL ASSOCIATION



Before an Emergency

- In the event of a disaster and/or evacuation, the most important thing you can do to protect your pet(s) is to evacuate them too. (*Plans are underway for animal shelters "collocated" to human shelters, but even these will be for the very few who cannot evacuate.*)
- Make some phone calls to determine your options should it ever become necessary to leave your home.
- Ask dependable friends or relatives who live away from affected areas if you and your pet(s) can stay with them during an emergency.
- Check with several motels away from affected areas if you plan to leave your house and take your pet. You may wish to ask if they allow pets during an evacuation emergency, and if so, if there are any additional fees, restrictions on size, species and number of pets allowed. Many hotels/motels have special allowances for evacuees. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places including phone numbers, with other disaster information and supplies. Call ahead for reservations. Check out www.clemson.edu/lph for more information about statewide pet-friendly hotels and motels.
- Survey boarding kennels and veterinary offices in areas where you may potentially stay if you are evacuated. Find out if they have room to board your pet(s), their vaccine requirements, and who stays on the premises with the animals in the event of an emergency and what provisions would be made if the kennel should have to evacuate.
- Acquire a pet carrier (portable kennel) or crate for each house pet if you plan to travel. These carriers should be large enough for the pet to stand up and turn around. To make training easier, initially separate kennel tops and bottoms to make a pet's bed. Also, food and water may be placed in the carrier to entice the pet to go in and out. This helps adjust them to the kennel.



- Be sure your pets' vaccinations are up to date and that you have copies of these records from your veterinarian. This is especially important if you plan to board your pet, since most boarding facilities will require proof of current vaccines.
- If your pet is on a special diet or medications (including motion sickness pill or sedatives) plan ahead by consulting your veterinarian. Remember, most animal control shelters and humane society shelters will need to prepare for lost and stray pet disaster victims and CANNOT accommodate your pet(s).

As the Time Arrives to Evacuate

Assemble a pet supplies kit including:

1. Ample quantities of pet food and kitty litter. Use non-spill water and food bowls. Do not use moist foods – they spoil too rapidly. Water should be in sanitized, non-breakable containers.
2. Plenty of newspapers, paper towels, plastic bags, cleanser and disinfectants to properly handle pet wastes.
3. Only easily transportable bedding and toys.
4. Steel or fiberglass crate, properly sized, leashes and obedience aids to transport pets safely and ensure that your animals can't escape.
5. Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavioral problems, and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pets.
6. Medications (and medical records) stored in a waterproof container and a first aid kit. Include special medications such as motion sickness pills or sedatives, if needed.
7. Current photos of your pets in case they get lost and/or a copy of the microchip ID number or tattoo.

Bring all pets into the house so that you won't have to search for them if you have to leave in a hurry.

Contact your destination point ahead of time to confirm that you will be arriving. Confirm reservations at a pet-friendly hotel.



If Disaster Strikes While You are Out

There are precautions you can take to increase your pet's chances of survival, BUT they are not a substitute for evacuating with your pets.

- Notify a friend close by or a neighbor that your pets are at home and leave all pertinent information as to the pet's medical history, vaccine status, temperament, and how you can be reached so that this information may be relayed to authorities. Leave a house key with the friend/neighbor so that the pet(s) may be relocated if necessary.
- Leave visible signs on the inside of a window stating that pet(s) are inside the house.
- **MAKE SURE ALL PETS HAVE AN ID TAG OR HAVE YOUR VETERINARIAN IMPLANT A MICROCHIP.** Pets should wear securely fastened, up-to-date identification. Attach the phone number and address of your temporary shelter, if you know it, or of a friend or relative outside the disaster area. You can buy temporary tags or put adhesive tape on the back of your pet's ID tag or collar adding information with an indelible pen.
- Bring your pets indoors well ahead of any storm. **DO NOT** leave any pet tied up outside during a hurricane.
- Consider a location for your pet which will be away from possible flood waters.
- Leave only dry type food which will not spoil easily. Do not leave vitamins or mineral supplements. Water should be left either in bathtubs or in non-spill containers.
- Never leave animals of different species together.
- Difficult or dangerous animals should be left in special crates or cages to reduce the possibility of them getting loose or to help if emergency personnel need to handle them.
- Remember, the most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, or even bite or scratch.
- When you return home, give your pet(s) time to settle back into their routines. Consult your veterinarian if any behavior problems arise. You, as a pet owner, are ultimately responsible for your pet(s), even in an emergency. **BE PREPARED!**