Preparing for Your Pets Makes Sense. Get Ready Now.

If you are like millions of animal owners nation wide, your pet is an important member of your household. The likelihood that you and your animals will survive an emergency such as a fire or flood, tornado or terrorist attack depends largely on emergency planning done today. Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an animal emergency supply kit and developing a pet care buddy system, are the same for any emergency. Whether you decide to stay put in an emergency or evacuate to a safer location, you will need to make plans in advance for your pets. Keep in mind that what's best for you is typically what's best for your animals.

If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if possible. However, if you are going to a public shelter, it is important to understand that animals may not be allowed inside. Plan in advance for shelter alternatives that will work for both you and your pets.

Make a back-up emergency plan in case you can't care for your animals yourself. Develop a buddy system with neighbors, friends and relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for at least three days, maybe longer.

Preparing for the unexpected makes sense. **Get Ready Now.**



This information was developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in consultation with:

American Kennel Club, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, American Veterinary Medical Association, and The Humane Society of the U.S.







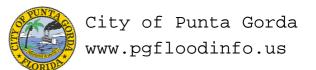














Prepare Get a Pet Emergency Supply Kit.

Just as you do with your family's emergency supply kit, think first about the basics for survival, particularly food and water. Consider two kits. In one, put everything you and your pets will need to stay where you are. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you and your pets have to get away. Plus, be sure to review your kits regularly to ensure that their contents, especially foods and medicines, are fresh.

Food. Keep at least three days of food in an airtight, waterproof container.

Water. Store at least three days of water specifically for your pets in addition to water you need for yourself and your family.

Medicines and medical records. Keep an extra supply of medicines your pet takes on a regular basis in a waterproof container.

First aid kit. Talk to your veterinarian about what is most appropriate for your pet's emergency medical needs. Most kits should include cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors; antibiotic ointment; flea and tick prevention; latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol and saline solution. Include a pet first aid reference book.

Collar with ID tag, harness or leash. Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times. Include a backup leash, collar and ID tag in your pet's emergency supply kit. In addition, place copies of your pet's registration information, adoption papers, vaccination documents and medical records in a clean plastic bag or waterproof container and also add them to your kit. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent identification such as microchipping, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.

Crate or other pet carrier. If you need to evacuate in an emergency situation take your pets and animals with you provided that it is practical to do so. In many cases, your ability to do so will be aided by having a sturdy, safe, comfortable crate or carrier ready for transporting your pet. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down.

Sanitation. Include pet litter and litter box if appropriate, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach

to provide for your pet's sanitation needs. You can use bleach as a disinfectant (dilute nine parts water to one part bleach), or in an emergency you can also use it to purify water. Use 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented or color safe bleaches, or those with added cleaners.

A picture of you and your pet together. If you become separated from your pet during an emergency, a picture of you and your pet together will help you document ownership and allow others to assist you in identifying your pet. Include detailed information about species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics.

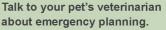
Familiar items. Put favorite toys, treats or bedding in your kit. Familiar items can help reduce stress for your pet.

Plan
What You Will Do in an Emergency.

Be prepared to assess the situation. Use whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and ensure your pet's safety during an emergency. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and the information you are learning here to determine if there is immediate danger. In any emergency, local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet for instructions. If you're specifically told to evacuate, shelter-in-place or seek medical treatment, do so immediately.

Create a plan to get away. Plan how you will assemble your pets and anticipate where you will go. If you must evacuate, take your pets with you if practical. If you go to a public shelter, keep in mind your animals may not be allowed inside. Secure appropriate lodging in advance depending on the number and type of animals in your care. Consider family or friends willing to take in you and your pets in an emergency. Other options may include: a hotel or motel that takes pets or a boarding facility, such as a kennel or veterinary hospital that is near an evacuation facility or your family's meeting place. Find out before an emergency happens if any of these facilities in your area might be viable options for you and your pets.

Develop a buddy system. Plan with neighbors, friends or relatives to make sure that someone is available to care for or evacuate your pets if you are unable to do so. Talk with your pet care buddy about your evacuation plans and show them where you keep your pet's emergency supply kit. Also designate specific locations, one in your immediate neighborhood and another farther away, where you will meet in an emergency.



Discuss the types of things that you should include in your pet's emergency first aid kit. Get the names of vets or veterinary hospitals in other cities where you might need to seek temporary shelter. You should also consider talking with your veterinarian about permanent

identification such as microchipping, and enrolling your pet in a recovery database. If your pet is microchipped, keeping your emergency contact information up to date and listed with a reliable recovery database is essential to your being reunited with your pet.

Gather contact information for emergency animal treatment. Make a list of contact information and addresses of area animal control agencies including the Humane Society or SPCA, and emergency veterinary hospitals. Keep one copy of these phone numbers with you and one in your pet's emergency supply kit. Obtain "Pets Inside" stickers and place them on your doors or windows, including information on the number and types of pets in your home to alert firefighters and rescue workers. Consider putting a phone number on the sticker where you could be reached in an emergency. And, if time permits, remember to write the words "Evacuated with Pets" across the stickers, should you flee with your pets.

Stay Informed
Know About Types of Emergencies.

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling an emergency supply kit for yourself, your family and your pets, is the same regardless of the type of emergency. However, it's important to stay informed about what might happen and know what types of emergencies are likely to affect your region as well as emergency plans that have been established by your state and local government. For more information about how to prepare, visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY.

Be prepared to adapt this information to your personal circumstances and make every effort to follow instructions received from authorities on the scene. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected. Those who take the time to prepare themselves and their pets will likely encounter less difficulty, stress and worry. Take the time now to get yourself and your pet ready.

Preparing for Your Pets Makes Sense. Get Ready Now.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS Charlotte County

Charlotte County Animal Control 941-833-5690 www.charlottecountyfl.com/animal



Animal Welfare League 941-625-6720 www.awlshelter.org

Charlotte County Emergency Management 941-833-4000 Www.charlottecountyfl.com/emergency

American Red Cross 941-629-4345 Www.redcross-charlotte.org

Suncoast Humane Society 941-474-7884 www.humane.org

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, LISTEN TO LOCAL RADIO AND TELEVISION FOR CURRENT INFORMATION ABOUT EVACUATION AND SHELTERING

PREPARE EARLY BECAUSE CHANGES CAN HAPPEN RAPIDLY

MAKE SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF YOUR EVACUATION ZONE PRIOR TO AN EMERGENCY

PREPARE A FAMLY AND FRIEND "PHONE TREE"
SO YOUR LCOATION CAN ALWAYS BE
DETERMINED

IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO EVACUATE PLEASE BE FAMILIAR WITH ALL RECOMMENDED SAFETY SUPPLIES AND MEASURES TO ASSURE YOUR ABILITY TO SUSTAIN AND SURVIVE AN EMERGENCY



PET SHELTER RULES

Report to your designated shelter as soon as the shelter has been opened.

Assure you have identification for yourself, pets and family members

Provide a crate large enough to house your pet and to include water/food/litter (if feline).

Show current medical records when asked.

Pets are to be leashed at any time they are out of their carriers.

Owners are responsible for all daily care of their pet(s); pets are to be fed/exercised twice daily.

Owners must dispose of any waste immediately.

Cage doors must be latched and secured.

Animals that are diseased, have parasites or are unruly will not be allowed in public sheltering.

Any animal abandoned in the shelter will be relocated to Charlotte County Animal Control. Disposition is at the discretion of CCAC.

Owner is liable for damages or in the event of any injury caused to any person or other animal.

Pets are not permitted in "resident" areas. There are separate "living areas" for pets and for people.

Currently, pet-friendly shelters house cats and dogs only. No other species of animal may be kept at these shelters.

You will be asked to sign a release at the time of entry to the shelter. Failure to sign or follow the above rules will result in removal of the animals.

LEAVING YOUR PET BEHIND IN A DISASTER DECREASES ITS CHANCE OF SURVIVAL DRAMATICALLY



FOR YOU AND YOUR PETS



ARE YOU READY?

PROPER PLANNING CAN AVOID THE NEED FOR PUBLIC SHELTERING

- Have a disaster plan that includes leaving the area
- Contact motels/hotels that are pet-friendly
- Ask your veterinarian about boarding facilities
- Have an "emergency kit" ready BEFORE the event
- Check various pet publications and websites for alternative housing other than public sheltering
- Have current photos of your pets AND you with your pets

THE BEST PLAN IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY IS
TO LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY



PLAN AHEAD

An emergency can happen at ANYTIME!

Crate your pets prior to travel. Stress is reduced, and your pet will feel safer.

Make sure your pets are properly vaccinated and have a current rabies tag. PET-FRIENDLY SHELTERS DO NOT ACCEPT PETS WITHOUT CURRENT MEDICAL RECORDS.

When told to evacuate, do so immediately. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

Be prepared to care for yourself and animals for at least 7 days. Power is often interrupted and supplies are scarce.

Make sure your animals are micro-chipped and have current identification tags.

HAVE A FAMILY EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN!

Emergency Management Department

26571 Airport Road Punta Gorda, FL 33982

Phone: 941-833-4000 Fax: 941-833-4081



Email: emergency.management@charlottefl.com www.charlottecountyfl.com/emergency





STAY INFORMED THROUGH LOCAL RADIO, TELEVISION, AND CHARLOTTE ALERT UPDATES

DO YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS?

- ⇒ DISASTER PLAN?
- ⇒ Water?
- ⇒ Crate and bedding large enough for the animal to move and have litter/food/water?
- ⇒ Current photo of pet?
- ⇒ Extra pet medications?
- ⇒ Collar, leash, muzzle?
- ⇒ Copy of current vaccination record?
- ⇒ ID tags, rabies tag, microchip?
- ⇒ Pet "comfort" items (toys, blankets, treats)?
- ⇒ Food, bowls, water, manual can openers?
- ⇒ Out of area contact name and phone number?
- ⇒ Paper towels, newspaper, disinfectant, plastic bags?







SHELTER "MUST HAVES"

Water
Food
Litter for cats
Leash and collar
Current photo
Crate and bedding (large enough to house pet and keep water, litter etc.)
Current medical records
Cleaning supplies



WHAT A PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER CAN DO:

- Provide you and your pet(s) a safer refuge than your home in the event of an emergency.
- Keep you updated as to the state of the emergency.
- ◆ Shelter your pet in a clean, supervised area away from the general human population.

WHAT A PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER CANNOT DO:

- Allow you to remain with your animal continuously.
- Board or kennel an animal without an owner or representative present at the shelter.
- Provide daily care or veterinary services to your pet(s).
- Once admitted, allow you to leave the shelter without your animal or during sustained winds of 45 mph or higher.
- Transport you or your animals to or from the shelter.
- Give prescribed medication to your pet(s).
- Provide basic care to your animal. You are responsible for the care of your pet(s).

PUBLIC SHELTERING SHOULD BE YOUR LAST RESORT! PLEASE PREPARE A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN TO PREVENT YOUR NEED TO SHELTER YOUR FAMILY AND PETS!