



Remember Your Pets during Hurricane/Flood Season

It's hurricane and flood season. That means it's time to talk with your family about what you would do and where you would go if a bad storm comes. Maybe you've stocked up on bottled water and extra packaged food, just in case. And your battery-powered/hand-crank radio is standing by so you can get local emergency information if the power goes out.

But what about your pet? Animals can't take care of themselves. During major disasters, animals often become separated from their owners. You can avoid that heartbreak.

- Prepare a pet disaster supply kit. Include food, water and bowls; a sturdy leash and collar with identification tags; a few days' worth of medication; current photos of you with your pet; blankets or towels for bedding and warmth; cat litter/pan; your vet's name and phone number; treats. Store items in a sturdy container that can be carried easily.
- Make sure all dogs and cats are wearing collars and up-to-date identification tags. Consider permanent identification for your pet such as a microchip, brand or tattoo.
- Purchase a pet carrier and label it with emergency contact information.
- Don't leave your pet behind. Make a plan for your pet. If you have to evacuate, where will you go that accepts pets? Ask friends or relatives outside your area whether they could shelter your and your pet in an emergency. Find a hotel or motel outside your area that accepts pets.

For more about making an emergency plan for your pet, go to www.vaemergency.gov/readyvirginia/getakit/pets .

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