

Preparing your Pets for Hurricane Season

Sustainable Living

www.pinellascountyextension.org

Just as you prepare for your home and your family for hurricane season, you need to prepare for your pets. All animals, from dogs and cats to birds and horses, require careful consideration in the event of a storm. Use the information provided to develop an emergency plan for your pet.

Before hurricane season starts on June 1, be sure your pets are up to date on all vaccinations. This is especially important when boarding an animal or taking them to a kennel. When taking horses and livestock to a shelter, be sure to bring proof of a negative annual Coggins test. Maintain paperwork of rabies and other vaccines for household pets. You need to keep current rabies tags on animal collars.

Whether you evacuate or go to a shelter, don't forget to provide for your pets. Kitty litter, pet food, water, medications and toys are must-haves on your pet supply list.

Keep a recent photo of your pet handy in case you become separated. This will help to create posters and report the disappearance to authorities.

If you evacuate, take your pet with you. If you cannot take your pet to a shelter, ask a friend or family member, outside the evacuation zone, to keep your pet. Always check the pet policy at the shelter or hotel since pre-registration is usually required. In Pinellas County, residents of mobile homes receive priority.

If you are unable to transport or take care of your pet, the Disaster Animal Response Team is a group of volunteers that

Service animals are permitted inside all hotels / motels and public shelters, even if the location is not designated as "pet-friendly."



aid transportation teams to take pets to safe locations during a declared emergency. The service is directed at special needs citizens, like the elderly, that might not otherwise evacuate because of their pets. To volunteer with this service or if you have any questions/ concerns contact Pinellas County Animal Services at (727) 582-2600.

After the storm, there is a lot of confusion. If you and your pet were separated during the storm, take comfort that all stray animals are collected and staged at temporary collection sites. Check these locations, starting with the one closest to your home or where you last saw your pet. You may also call Pinellas County Animal Services at (727) 582-2600.

After your pet returns home, take caution when letting your dog outside after the storm has passed. Familiar scents and sites have been changed and your pet could get confused and/or lost. Additionally, your pet is susceptible to all the same dangers that you are, such as downed power lines and other debris.

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Pet Shelters in Pinellas County

Oak Grove Middle School

1370 S. Belcher Road
Clearwater

Thurgood Marshall Middle School

3901 22nd Ave. S.
St. Petersburg

Dunedin Highland Middle School

70 Patricia Ave.
Dunedin

If you plan to use a shelter, you must pre-register by using the registration form is found online at

www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/petpreparedness.htm or call (727)582-2150

Pet-Friendly Hotels/Motels

Many hotels may have special emergency policies and will accept pets during an evacuation. The links below will assist you to locate a pet-friendly hotel that you can include in your evacuation plan. For additional information, call 727-464-7200.

- **www.visitstpeteclearwater.com**
- **www.petswelcome.com**
- **www.LetsGoPets.com**
- **www.petfriendlyhotels.com**
- **www.1clickpethotels.com**
- **www.travelpets.com**

Horses and Livestock

Although Pinellas County is very urban, there are resident horse and livestock populations. Horses and livestock can be brought to

Walsingham Park **12615 102nd Ave. N.** **Largo**

Animals will be enclosed in a perimeter fence with native vegetation and have access to water. Bring proof of recent Coggins test to the site.

Additional Resources

- **<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/PDFS/CHAP02/D02-10.PDF>**
- **<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/PDFS/CHAP02/D02-11.PDF>**
- **www.pinellascounty.org/emergency**

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