



## **HURRICANE TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR PETS SAFE!**

If you live in areas where you can be affected by a Mother Nature disaster please read below.

**1) If you need to evacuate, PLEASE TAKE YOUR ANIMALS WITH YOU!**

**HAVE A PLAN, MEMORIZE IT AND STICK TO IT.**

**DO A SIMULATED EMERGENCY DRILL WITH YOUR FAMILY AND PETS. PICK A LEADER, FOLLOW THE LEADER AND DO NOT ARGUE WITH THE LEADER.**

**KNOW SEVERAL PLACES OF EXIT.**

**DO NOT ENCLOSE YOURSELF AND YOUR PETS TO THE POINT THAT YOU CANNOT GET OUT.**

**2) In the event that you cannot take the animal where you are going, please make arrangements to board your animal in a safe and reputable boarding facility or vet office INLAND.**

**3) If you are going to a shelter with your animal please make sure you call you veterinarian before hand so you can get a copy of your pets vet records and proof of vaccinations.**

**Most shelters will NOT take your pet, if the pet doesn't have at least a rabies shot.**

**Also, at shelters that accept pets, they are many other pets besides yours, so it is IMPERATIVE that your pet(s) is up to date on shots,**

**This way she// he will be protected from diseases.**

**Don't wait until the last minute to give your pets their vaccinations as vaccinations can take up to 2 weeks to take up to 2 weeks to be effective.**

**4) If you are packing for you, please park for your pets as well, you don't need to take the cat tree or the dog house, but please pack a few familiar things for your pet(s) that has the smell of his house. Specially if you go to a shelter.**

**Taking a few toys to entertain the pet is a must, perhaps a familiar blanket will be good too. Rescue Remedy to relieve stress will be a good idea to have in hand.**

**You can pick up Rescue Remedy at any health food store, is a natural stress reliever with no side effects, it can be use as need itl and it works great (DO NOT get the Rescue Remedy pills, those can be toxic)**

**Please don't just take your pet in a carrier specially if is a cat, cats do not like change as they are creatures of habit, going to a shelter can be very stressful for the cat, having family scents such as a piece of dirty clothing with your smell or a blanket will somewhat make the cat feel a bit more relax.**

**Besides a carrier you are going to need a cage/crate so your cat can be more comfortable while at the shelter.**

**Make sure the crate/cage is big enough where the cat can comfortably stand and litter box, food and water dishes can also fit in.**

**It will be a good idea checking out crates and cages now and not to leave it for the last minute.**

**5) Getting your pets microchip is highly advisable, but if the pet is not microchipped yet please put ID TAGS on your pets NOW. Although ID tags are not always the best as collars break and there go the ID tags.**

**Even if you pet is microchipped having ID tags on your pets as well is always a good idea.**

**ID tags and microchips can prevent your animals from getting kill in case they ever get lost and end up in a shelter!**

**Or in case of a Mother Nature Disaster if they get lost, finding their owner will be somewhat better.**

**If your pet is a cat please use a breakaway collar.**

**6) If your pet takes medications please make sure you have enough to get you through the storm and at least a 3 week supply for the aftermath.**

**If you haven't yet, this will be a good time to ask your vet for extra medications, antibiotics are always good to have them handy in case your pet gets sick.**

**Cats specially (as we mentioned above cats do not like change) any sudden change can cause a lot of stress for them and stress alone can bring up illnesses such as URI's and UTI's (usually UTI's are not stress related but it can happen) to name a few.**

**UTI'S can be fatal specially in male cats, if a UTI is not treated right away it can be life threatening, so having antibiotics handy is a good idea.**

**If you get antibiotics please ask your vet to prescribe you the pill form, powder antibiotics are mixed with water and require refrigeration, once mixed they are only good for 14 days.**

**In case of a storm if you loose power there will be no refrigeration, so pills are always best.**

**7) Buy at least food and water supply for your pet to last you for at least 2 weeks.**

**Bottle water is best as tap water may be contaminated after a storm (listen to authorities for warning of contaminated water).**

**Contaminated water causes disease in people as well as pets.**

**If you cannot afford bottle water for your pets then you can purified the water by following these simple steps:**

**Hold water at a rolling boil for 1 minute to kill bacteria.**

**If you can't boil water, add 1/8 teaspoon (approximately 0.75 ml) of newly purchased, unscented liquid household bleach per gallon of water.**

**Stir the water well, and let it stand for 30 minutes before you use it. You can use water-purifying tablets instead of boiling water or using bleach.**

**After the storm, disinfect your pets toys that have come in contact with water.**

**Use a solution of 1 cup of bleach in 5 gallons of water to disinfect the toys. Let toys air dry after cleaning.**

**Some toys, such as stuffed animals and cannot be disinfected; they should be discarded.**

**8) If you are riding out the storm at your home.**

**Place all your animals in one room (if possible) and place carriers, collars & leashes in the same room so you will have them handy when you need them.**

**If your pets are cats,**

**Learn about the places your cats like to hide, so you will know the places where they may be hiding if things get ugly.**

**If things do get ugly, DO NOT PANIC,**

**Stay as calm as you can be.**

**If you panic your animals will panic too.**

**Remember that pets can sense human emotions!**

**A lobster net is a good tool to have in case you cannot get your cat, net him/her.**

**Even the most tamed kitties can get pretty mean under stress.**

**So again have a plan and tools handy, tools such as a net, towels and heavy duty gloves, in case you need to get your cat out from a tight corner.**

**9) Please have rope and an ax (in case you need to break an opening to get to safety), a flashlight, a SMALL bag with medications, your id and your keys all in one place, so if you need to get out and lose power you will know where everything is.**

**Remember, Pets sense Mother Nature disasters days before any radar can pick them up, so they may be a bit stressed already without anybody noticing.**

**Keeping calm is key!**

**9) If you have no choice but to leave your pets alone (NOT ADVISABLE).**

**DO NOT CHAIN YOUR PET TO ANYTHING.**

**DO NOT TRANQUILIZE YOUR PET, PETS NEED TO BE ALERT TO RELAY ON THEIR INSTINCTS.**

**DO NOT CONFINE YOU PETS TO A ROOM.**

**DO NOT CONFINE YOUR PETS TO A CRATE.**

**PLAN FOR YOUR PET**

**GIVE THEM EASY ACCESS TO HIGH PLACES, IN CASE OF FLOODING.**

**Leave plenty of dry food and water and put a dish of water under the dish of dry food so aunts will not get in the food.**

**Put as many litter boxes as you can all over your house.**

**Wee Wee pads for dogs or newspaper.**

**If you have an answering machine DO call your animals and let them hear your voice while you are away.**

**Have a land line telephone, NO the ones that you need to plug in.**

**Do NOT leave lamps on, if you want to leave a light on for your pet, please leave a ceiling fixture on.**

**If things get bad, lamps can tip over, if the area is flooded your pets can be electrocuted, same scenario with fans DO NOT leave any fans on.**

**Unplug all appliances, yes including your refrigerator, if you have a gas stove, please shut off the main line.**

**Do not leave wet food for you pets because it will spoil and your pet will get sick.**

**If you board up your house, please leave an exit for your pets, perhaps a screened cracked window chances are that your house has insurance, so if your roof blows away you are covered but your pets won't be.**

**If there is a flood and the water rises up to your roof (like it did with Katrina), having an open window or 2 it will give your pet a chance to break free.**

**10) Good luck and be safe with your 4 legged little ones.**

**Celene Albano**

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