



## PETS AND HURRICANES

How to prepare if you have pets

### **BEFORE A HURRICANE THREATENS**

- Be sure that your pets are up-to-date on their vaccinations and have proof of the vaccinations on hand. Many shelters may require proof of vaccines. Make sure you have copies stored in a waterproof container with other supplies so you don't forget to take them.
- Keep a collar with ID on your pet and have a leash on hand to control your pet.
- Make sure you have a current photograph of your pet.

◦ Plan your evacuation strategy and don't forget your pet! Specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics and friends and relatives out of harm's way are ALL potential refuges for your pet during a disaster.

◦ If you plan to shelter your pet - work it into your evacuation route planning.

### **PET DISASTER SUPPLY KIT**

- Proper identification
- Current Photo
- Immunization records
- Ample supply of food and water
- A carrier or cage
- Medications
- Muzzle, collar and leash
- Keep a properly-sized pet carrier for each pet - carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand and turn around.

### **DURING THE DISASTER**

#### **NEVER LEAVE A PET BEHIND DURING AN EVACUATION**

◦ Pets brought to a animal shelter are required to have: A proper identification collar and rabies tag, proper identification on all belongings, a carrier or cage, a leash, an ample supply of food, water and food bowls, any necessary medications, specific care instructions and newspapers or trash bags for clean-up.

◦ Pet shelters will be filled on first come, first served basis. Call ahead and determine availability.

◦ If you do not need to evacuate, bring pets indoors well in advance of a storm - reassure them & remain calm.

### **AFTER THE DISASTER**

◦ Walk your pets on a leash until they become re-oriented to their home - often familiar scents and landmarks may be altered, and pets could easily be confused and become lost. Also, downed power lines and debris can pose a threat for animals after a disaster.

◦ If pets cannot be found after a disaster, contact your local animal control officer to find out where lost animals can be recovered. Bring along a picture of your pet if possible.

◦ After a disaster animals, can become aggressive or defensive - monitor their behavior.

