Disaster Preparedness for Pets

Are You Ready?

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September 28, 2019

Agenda

- Why Plan Ahead?
- You and Your Pets
- Types of emergencies and disasters
  - Personal vs Local vs Regional
  - Advanced Warning vs Sudden and Unexpected
- Before: Assessment & Preparation
- During: Shelter-in-place or Evacuate?
- After: Evaluate and replenish supplies
- Resources

Why Plan Ahead?

Animal Control Structure

- Municipal
  - Required to provide an agent/agency
- County
  - When local resources are exhausted
- State
  - When county resources are exhausted
- Federal
  - Supports the lower three branches
Why Plan Ahead?
Response Hierarchy: Basic Terminology
- OEM - All govt. branches
- CART / CERT - County
- SART - State
- FEMA

Government's Order of Priority
- People (including safety of First Responders)
- Property
- Animals (YOUR PETS!)

Why Plan Ahead?
- 2019: Dorian
- 2018: Florence and Michael
- 2017: Harvey, Irma and Maria
- 2016: Matthew
- 2012: Sandy
- 2011: Irene
You and Your Pet(s)

How many of you have pets?

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You and Your Pet(s)

Where are they?

Crated? Inside?

Trailer? Outside?

Panicked dogs that were left caged by an owner who fled rising floodwaters are rescued by the volunteer rescuer Ryan Nichols of Longview, Texas, in Leland, North Carolina, on September 16, 2018. Jonathan Drake / Reuters

You and Your Pet(s)
How often do you care for them?
- Exercise?
- Food/Water?
- Attention?
- Medicine?
- Groom?
- Walk?
- Clean Litter/Change Pee Pad/Muck

What types of emergencies do you need to prepare for?
- How much warning do you have?
- How many people will be impacted?

Natural
- Hurricane
- Flood
- Wildfire
- Earthquake
- Blizzard

Technological
- Bridge collapse
- Oil spill
- Chemical explosion

Human-Made
- Car accident
- Fire
- Terrorism
- Epidemic

Carla Ramm checks on her cat Jackjack after they were loaded onto a boat during their rescue from rising floodwaters in Leland, North Carolina, on September 16, 2018.
Jonathan Drake / Reuters
What unexpected events could prevent you from coming home?
- Motor vehicle accident
- Travel delay
- Weather
- Fire
- Train derailment
- Flood/Hurricane
- Other?

Who would notice you “missing”?
- Kids?
- Spouse?
- Neighbor?
- Friend?
- Mailman?

How long would it take?
- Hours?
- Days?
- Longer?

How long could your pets possibly go without you?
- Constant water source?
- Self feeder?
- Doggie door?
- Multiple litter boxes/pee pads?
- Out in the pasture?
Who would care for them in your absence?

What if you are alone and unconscious?

- What information is readily available to alert someone that your pet(s) need to be cared for?

**Wallet Card**

**PET ALERT**
**IN CASE OF ACCIDENT OR EMERGENCY**

- My name: ____________________________
- My age: ____________________________
- My sex: ____________________________
- My breed: ____________________________
- My pet name: ________________________

If possible, print this card on both sides and keep it in your wallet.

What to include:

- How to reach next of kin or someone who can take care of your pet(s)
- Name and phone number of your local animal shelter
- Address of your local animal hospital

**Before Disaster Strikes:**
**Assessment & Preparation**

- Create an Evacuation Go-Kit
- Make a plan for you and your pet(s)
- Keep local kennel and pet friendly hotel information handy
- Know your local emergency numbers
- Know your local evacuation routes
- Current photo of you with your pet(s)
- Test your plan

**Encourage others to do the same!!!!!!!**
Preparing a “Go Kit”... For Yourself

Do you have what you need to get out of harm’s way?

Do you have a go-bag for yourself?
https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Go-Bag

Preparing a “Go Kit”... For EACH Pet

Do you have a go-bag for your pet(s)?
Before Disaster Strikes: Preparation
Do you have a go-kit for your pets?
Cat, Dog & Horse Evacuation Checklists

Keep supplies fresh!

A man moves his horses from rising water in Lumberton, North Carolina, on September 16, 2018. Gerry Broome / AP

WATCH Your Pets! Their behavior may have changed.
Leash pets when outdoors for a few days. The terrain and scents may have changed.
Secure fencing and enclosures before allowing animals out unattended.
Watch for new dangers, like misplaced wildlife.
During A Disaster: Shelter-In-Place or Evacuate?

Shelter-In-Place
- Go Kit × # Occupants
- Comforts of home
  - Electricity?
  - Running Water?
  - Heat?
  - Pets’ home turf and comfort
  - More Storage/Supplies
- Self-Powered Radio
- Community Alerts
- Evacuation Becomes Mandatory
- Muster Point?

Evacuation
- Where are:
  - Pet-Friendly Hotels
  - Pet-Friendly Friends and Family
  - Familiar Kennel / Pet-Sitter
  - Local temporary shelter(s)?
- Does YOUR town accept pets at the shelter?
- What routes will you take out of the area?
- Will you have access to your vet?
- Update and Post Window Card
- Notify Family, Friends, Neighbors
Window Card
How do first responders know whether you have evacuated WITH or WITHOUT your pets?

In the event you are not home when disaster strikes, the window card alerts first responders that you may have animals inside.

Pet Disaster Planning Guide
www.co.somerset.nj.us/cart

After An Emergency Event: Evaluate and Replenish

Ask yourself:
- How well-prepared were you?
  - For yourself?
  - For your pets?
  - Did you have sufficient supplies?
- What would you have done differently?
- What will make you better prepared next time?

Replenish/Replace supplies and Refresh Go Kits

Julia Aylen wades through waist deep water carrying her pet dogs as she is rescued from her flooded home during Hurricane Dorian in Freeport, Bahamas, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019. Practically parking over the Bahamas for a day and a half, Dorian pounded at the islands Tuesday in a watery onslaught that devastated thousands of homes, trapped people in attics and crippled hospitals.

TIM AYLEN, AP


A dog walks amid debris in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian in an area called The Mudd, in Marsh Harbor, Abaco Island, Bahamas, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019. Dorian was the most powerful hurricane in the northwestern Bahamas’ recorded history.

FERNANDO LLANO, AP

Additional NJ Animal Resources

- www.co.somerset.nj.us/cart
- https://www.animalemergency.nj.gov/agriculture/animalemergency/cart/
- www.ready.gov/animals
- www.facebook.com/NJEASE
- www.twitter.com/NJEASE_AnEvac
What is CART? How Can You Get Involved?

CART
A County Animal Response Team (CART) is a group of volunteers, government agencies, and businesses with resources and personnel to respond to animal issues in disasters. CART plans, collaborates, and trains with other responders to provide a coordinated disaster response.

Join a CART
Your county’s CART needs volunteers like you! Please contact the person in your county if you are willing to learn, train and exercise for emergency preparedness activities and properly take care of animals during a disaster.

Training
Being a trained CART member allows you to become a recognized responder. Required FEMA online courses: [https://training.fema.gov/emicourses/]

- IS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System I-100
- IS-700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) An Introduction
- IS-10 Animals in Disaster - Module A: Awareness and Preparedness
- IS-11 Animals in Disaster - Module B: Community Planning
- IS-111 Livestock in Disaster
Questions?
Thank you!