

veterinarian in case you have to foster or board your pet.

6. Medications (and medical records) stored in a waterproof container as well as a first aid kit. Include special medications such as motion sickness pills or sedatives, if needed.
7. Copies of your pet's microchip ID number, tattoos, or other identifying records, along with current photos of you with your pet.

Other Precautions

There are other steps you can take to increase your pets' safety in a disaster, but they are not a substitute for evacuating with your pets.

- Do not leave pets tied up outside. In a disaster such as a flood, hurricane, or fire they would have no means of escape.
- Bring outdoor pets indoors ahead of severe weather if at all possible. If not, consider a location for your pets which will be away from possible flood waters.
- If you must leave your pets behind, leave out only dry-type food which will not spoil easily. Water should be left either in bathtubs or in non-spill containers in a large enough quantity to cover your absence – at least 3 days.
- Never leave different animals together that are unfamiliar with one another or are not already used to spending time together.
- If you have animals considered dangerous (such as some reptile species) be sure to leave them in secure crates or cages to reduce the possibility of their getting loose as well as to help if emergency personnel try to locate them.
- Signs that say "Pets are Inside" can be placed on your door or another easily-visible spot.
- If the disaster strikes while you are out, employ the support system that you previously arranged with your friend or neighbor. Alert them that your pets are at home and request their help, such as to relocate them to a safe area if needed.

Disasters Are Stressful

- Remember that disaster situations can bring out undesirable behaviors in everyone. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, try to escape, or even bite or scratch.
- When you return home, inspect your property for any damaged fencing or dangerous debris before letting your pets back into the yard. Give your pets – and yourself – time to settle back into your normal routines. Consult your veterinarian if any signs of health or behavioral problems arise.



South Carolina Association of Veterinarians

800.441.SCAV (7228)

www.scav.org



South Carolina Animal Care & Control Association

803.776.7387

www.scacca.org



Clemson University Livestock Poultry Health

803-788-2260

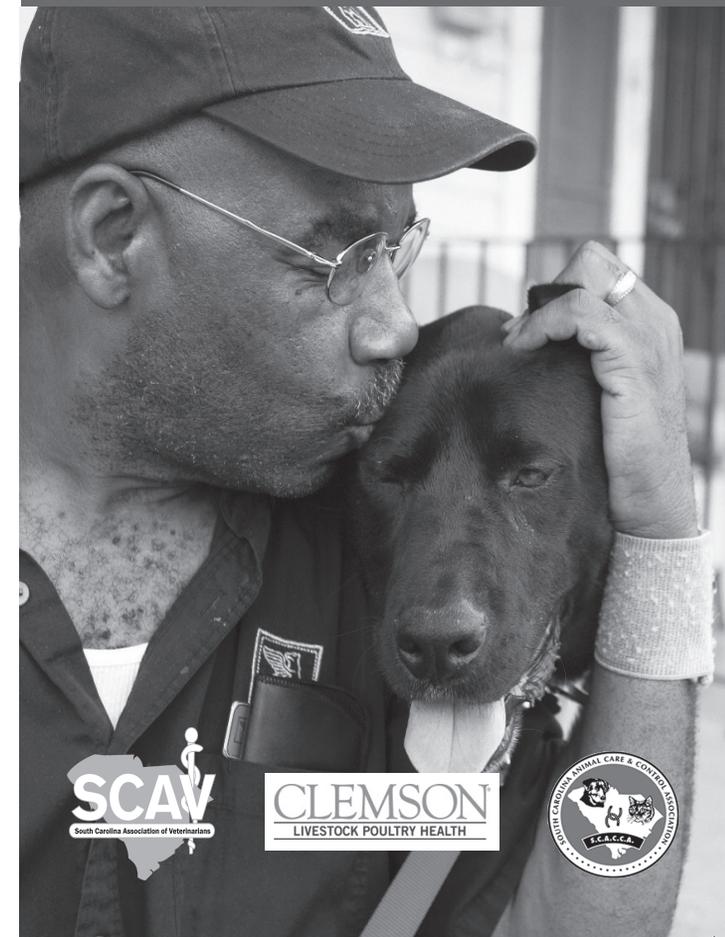
www.clemson.edu/lph

When Disaster Strikes

Action Guidelines for People with Pets

Presented by:

South Carolina Association of Veterinarians,
South Carolina Animal Care & Control Association,
& Clemson University Livestock Poultry Health





Planning Ahead

If you have pets, you are responsible for them, even in an emergency. This brochure provides guidance to assist you with preparing for the safety of your pets.

- Develop a plan for your pets in case of a disaster and make sure everyone in the family understands it. Share the plan – and exchange house keys – with a dependable friend or neighbor so that you can back each other up should a disaster occur when you're away from your home and your pets. Be sure to leave all pertinent emergency information for them in a pre-designated spot.
- In the event of a disaster and/or evacuation, the most important thing you can do to protect your pets is to evacuate with them. Review options for safe shelter ahead of time to help you prepare should it ever become necessary to evacuate with your pets.
- Ask friends or relatives who live across the state or in neighboring states if you and your pets can stay with them during an emergency.
- It is possible that some hotels/motels may have special allowances and relaxed rules about pets during an evacuation event.
- Keep information handy so that you can contact websites and phone numbers to learn about “pet-friendly” hotel options away from potentially affected areas. (One example is bringfido.com, 877-411-3436.) Ask if there are additional fees, restrictions on size, species and number of pets allowed. Keep this information with your other disaster materials and supplies.
- Survey boarding kennels and veterinary offices in areas where you may potentially stay if you are evacuated to learn about the requirements (such as vaccinations and health checks) needed to board your pets.
- You may be able to locate an emergency animal shelter associated with a human shelter that is opened for the disaster event, but do not depend on this option as it may not be available in all areas. Contact your county

emergency management division office to ask if they have pre-designated any sites for emergency pet sheltering. Shelters should be considered your last resort as resources there may be limited.

- Human shelters will accept service animals. “Emotional Support Animals” are not service animals and are considered pets.
- Keep in mind that many facilities will not have the proper resources to provide shelter to exotic animal species (including birds) or animals considered dangerous (such as some reptiles). If you are going to evacuate with these types of animals you should plan to take along all that is necessary to maintain them in their required habitats (such as levels of heat and humidity).
- Also remember that most animal control shelters and humane society shelters will need to prepare for lost and stray pet disaster victims and cannot accommodate your pets.
- Buy a pet carrier (portable kennel) or crate for each pet. A carrier will be required if you and your pet need assistance with transportation or sheltering. It should be large enough to allow the pet to stand up and turn around. To help a pet adjust to the kennel ahead of time, considering leaving it set up at all times for the pet to use as a bed or hideaway. You can also place food and water in the carrier to entice your pet to go in and out.
- Make sure all pets wear some form of securely fastened, up-to-date identification in case they get lost or separated from you. Secure ID tags to their collars or have your veterinarian implant a microchip for a permanent ID. If needed, you can buy temporary tags or put adhesive tape on the back of your pet's ID tag or collar and use a permanent marker to write additional information (such as phone number and address of your usual boarding kennel, or name and number of friend or relative outside the area).
- See that your pets' vaccinations are up to date and keep copies of these records from your veterinarian's office. Most boarding facilities and shelters will require proof of vaccines,

especially a certificate of rabies vaccination.

- If your pet needs refills of a special diet or medications (including motion sickness pills or sedatives) plan ahead by consulting your veterinarian. Include these medications in your pet supplies kit described below.

Visit the Clemson Livestock Poultry Health webpage for some additional information for animal owners in emergencies: www.clemson.edu/public/lph/emergency-prep/index.html.

Preparing for Evacuation

If a disaster seems likely, fill your car's gas tank and visit an ATM to acquire some cash.

Bring all pets into the house so you won't have to search for them if you have to leave quickly. Call ahead for your reservations at hotels/motels accepting pets. Contact your destination point ahead of time to notify them of your expected arrival time.

Assemble a pet supplies kit including:

1. At least a 3-day supply of pet food and water. Use non-spill water and food bowls. Do not use moist foods – they spoil too rapidly. Water should be in sanitized, unbreakable containers.
2. Litter box, kitty litter, and plenty of cleaner/disinfectant, newspapers, paper towels, plastic bags, and disposable gloves to properly handle pet waste.
3. Only easily transportable bedding and toys that are familiar to your pet.
4. Properly-sized, sturdy (not cardboard) crate, leashes and harnesses to transport your pets safely and to handle them safely once you arrive at your destination.
5. Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavioral problems, and the name and number of your



Be prepared!

Advanced planning is essential – it could save the life of your pet and make your life easier in an emergency situation.

Remember: During disasters, resources may not always be quickly available in all areas.

If you need assistance, check with your Emergency Management Division, local veterinarian, Animal Care and Control Agency, or local humane society for guidance.