

BOARDING

- It won't help to board pets anywhere within the area threatened by a hurricane — they won't be any safer than they would be at home. Choose boarding facilities well out of the threatened area and make arrangements in advance to get your pets to that location
- Budget for boarding costs of \$20 or more per animal per night, depending on the animal's size and special needs
- Boarding facilities require proof of pet vaccinations. Be ready to provide the proper verifications
- Be sure to provide the boarding facility with your contact information, including where you plan to stay if you won't be staying home during the hurricane
- Make arrangements with a trusted friend or relative to serve as your backup to pick up or drop off animals for you, just in case you can't do it yourself while you are preparing for or recovering from a hurricane

HOTELS

- If you plan to keep pets with you in a hotel, motel or campground, make sure to confirm ahead of time that the facility will accept your pets. Some will have pet size and weight restrictions
- Find out in advance if your lodgings have special requirements about where pets may be walked outdoors
- Be prepared to keep your pet in a carrier or on a leash if required, or to have someone stay with your pet at all times. Some accommodations may not allow you to leave your pet alone in your room or cabin
- Be sure you're well-equipped to travel a long distance — and possibly for several hours on the road — with your pet. You will have to go far enough away from the storm area to ensure your safety, and travel may be very slow along evacuation routes
- Study your evacuation map ahead of time to determine where you will be able to stop to feed, water and exercise your pet

STAYING AT HOME

- The safest thing to do is evacuate before a hurricane ever arrives — but if for some reason you can't evacuate (or choose not to evacuate), make plans to keep your pets indoors with you until the emergency is over
- Be sure to have enough food, water and other supplies on hand to care for your pet indoors for several days
- Decide how you will handle your pet's bathroom needs during the storm. You may want to consider paper-training your pets so you and they will be more comfortable if a storm forces you to stay indoors for an extended period of time
- Don't let pets go outdoors until you're certain it's safe. Be sure power lines, dangerous tree limbs, wildlife and other hazards have been addressed before any family member or pet goes outdoors alone

WHAT ABOUT PETS LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE

While the first priority in any emergency situation should be ensuring the safety of yourself, your family, neighbors and friends, it's important to remember the needs of nonhuman significant others. Keep these checklists handy to make sure you haven't overlooked preparations to ensure their health and safety — not to mention your own peace of mind.

FAMILY PETS

- Gather up pedigree and health records (including vaccination records) and lists of special dietary or other needs for each one of your family's pets. Keep all this information together in an envelope or box, so you can grab it and go at a moment's notice if the need arises
- Include contact information for your family veterinarian: name, address, telephone and cell phone numbers. You might need to reach your vet quickly in an emergency
- Decide ahead of time whether you will leave your pets home, board them at your veterinarian's facility or elsewhere, or take them with you if you decide to evacuate
- Keep at least a one-month supply of any medications your pets may need, including flea and tick treatments, special shampoos, dietary supplements, etc. Label them clearly with your pet's name and instructions for safe use of each product or medicine
- Be sure to have enough pet carriers, leashes, muzzles and any other restraining equipment you might need for your pets
- You should have one clean, ready-to-use carrier of the proper size for each pet to allow your animal sufficient room to move around
- Leashes, collars and muzzles should be kept in good condition and ready to use at a moment's notice
- Clearly mark each leash, carrier and other items with your pet's name, your name and your contact information in case one of your pets becomes lost during an emergency
- Let your pet practice hurricane safety by allowing time for them to become accustomed to remaining inside their carriers or on their leashes

- Routinely maintain good discipline and a healthy regimen of veterinary care and grooming with your pets so they will always be fit, healthy, clean and well-behaved. Doing so will make your pets much easier to handle if an emergency occurs and you have to act quickly

LIVESTOCK

- Plan well in advance of hurricane season to know where you will keep your livestock during a hurricane and how you will get them to that location when the time arrives
- If you plan to move your livestock, make arrangements to do it as soon as you learn of an approaching storm. Some large vehicles, including trailers, may be difficult or impossible to drive or tow safely during high winds or other bad weather conditions
- Plan your primary and secondary travel routes ahead of time. Keep maps in your vehicles at all times so anyone who may be driving will know where to go even if the primary route is closed for safety reasons
- Identify the nearest high ground where your livestock can go to escape rising flood waters, and determine how you will keep your livestock fed there in case they need to stay for awhile. Remember, you may not be able to reach them because of high water or other hurricane-related emergency conditions
- Keep feed, hay, tack, medicine and other livestock supplies stored in locations that will withstand rising water and high wind
- Keep horse trailers, trucks, tractors and similar equipment fueled and ready to use at a moment's notice, just in case you have to move your livestock quickly
- Check to be sure housing, food and supplies for smaller animals, such as chickens and rabbits, are hurricane-ready and able to withstand high winds and rising water
- If you intend to take small livestock with you when you evacuate, have enough livestock carriers on hand (not to mention adequate and easily portable supplies of food, water and medicines)
- Keep a written inventory of all your livestock holdings, including breeding and expense records, with your important financial

papers. If you lose livestock, you may need this kind of paperwork for insurance purposes

- Be sure livestock branding, tagging or other identification programs are up-to-date in case some of your animals become lost during storms
- Keep fencing, gates, corrals and other enclosures in good repair throughout the year so you won't have to spend time improving them when a storm approaches

WILDLIFE

- Be familiar with the kind of wildlife normally seen in your area so you'll have an idea of what to expect from their behavior during a hurricane
- Like people, animals will seek higher ground when flood waters rise; they will also want a safe place to shelter from rain and high winds. Consider whether the local wildlife might consider your home as the safest place for them to be
- Take a close look at your property to determine if there are gaps around roofing, flooring, chimneys, plumbing or other locations where unwanted animals might find a way in. Take steps to safely seal those entryways
- Teach your children to respect wildlife and to be careful if they see unfamiliar animals around the house or yard during bad weather. Wild animals may be unpredictable even in the best of times. They'll be more unpredictable during storms, and are likely to be frightened, hungry or injured
- Never attempt to catch — or even touch — a wild animal. If one does enter your home, try your best to safely encourage it to leave, such as by shooing with a broom or opening a window or door (weather permitting, of course)
- If you can't get the animal out of your home, try to limit its mobility by "trapping" it inside a single room or under a sturdy box or bucket

Animal Control facilities will NOT accept pets for boarding during hurricane emergencies. Also, emergency shelters will welcome you and your family, but pets are NOT allowed in shelters. You must make other plans well in advance to ensure the safety of your pets.