

# If You Need to... Evacuate

**If** you need to evacuate (leave your home for safer ground) TAKE YOUR PET WITH YOU. Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is not the best action. Pets cannot go with you to a Red Cross emergency shelter (unless they are service animals, like dogs for the visually impaired). Since your pet cannot go to the shelter, you need to plan ahead.

**Contact** hotels or motels outside your immediate area and ask about their policies on accepting pets during an emergency. Keep a list of "pet friendly" places in your emergency kit so you'll know where to go. If you get advance notice that you will need to evacuate, call and make a reservation at a "pet friendly" place right away! You can also ask friends or relatives outside the area if they could keep your pets in an emergency.

**Prepare** a list of boarding facilities and veterinarians who could shelter your animals in an emergency. Keep the list in your emergency kit.

If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if they are kept together, but in an emergency that might not be possible.

If you are under a disaster warning, keep your pets inside with you so you don't have to look for them if you have to evacuate. Make sure they are wearing collars and identification tags.



## Prepare a Disaster Supply Kit\* For your Family



*Remember you cannot take care of your pets if you and your family are not prepared! FEMA ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)) and DEMA ([www.state.de.us/dema](http://www.state.de.us/dema)) offer many preparedness suggestions.*

### Recommendations:

- A supply of water (one gallon per person per day). Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date and replace every six months.
- A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food and a non-electric can opener.
- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- A first aid kit and prescription medications.
- An extra pair of glasses.
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- Credit cards and cash.
- An extra set of car keys.
- A list of family physicians and phone numbers
- A list of important family information; the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers.
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.

\* Source: DEMA web page



## Disaster Preparedness for Pet Owners



### *Preparing the WHOLE family!*

Planning ahead is the key to keeping yourself and your family safe during a disaster.



*Learn more and join today!*

# Disaster Preparedness for Pets...

## BEFORE A DISASTER...

Talk to your veterinarian about boarding facilities. Do they have a plan?



Coordinate with your local Humane Society ahead of time.

### Checklist:

- ✓ Your pets' vaccinations should be current and documentation available.
- ✓ Talk with your family or friends; are they a resource?
- ✓ Are there pet-friendly hotels in a 30, 60, 90 mile radius?
- ✓ Are there Boarding or Sheltering facilities available?



- ✓ Do you have current photographs of you and your pets together?
- ✓ Do your pets have identification collars?
- ✓ Do you have a properly sized pet carrier for

each animal? Carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand and turn around comfortably. Work with your pet so the first time they go into the carrier is NOT during an emergency.



- Find out what training is available in your area.
- Talk with your veterinarian; does he or she offer any training or tips for your pets in a disaster?
- Contact Delaware Humane Society or Humane Society of United States or visit their WEB site to see what training is available.

### Resources:

- Humane Society USA: <http://www.hsus.org/>
- Delaware Humane Society: <http://www.dehumane.org/>
- Delaware SPCA: <http://www.delspca.org/history.html>
- Kent County SPCA: <http://www.kentcountyspca.com>
- American Society for the Cruelty to Animals: <http://www.aspca.org/site/PageServer>
- Shortcut to: FEMA WEB site: [http://www.fema.gov/preparedness/animals\\_and\\_disasters.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/preparedness/animals_and_disasters.shtm)
- American kennel Club: [http://www.akc.org/enewsletter/taking\\_command/2005/november/prepare.cfm](http://www.akc.org/enewsletter/taking_command/2005/november/prepare.cfm)
- Noah's Wish: <http://www.noahswish.org/>
- Best Friends: <http://bestfriends.org/>

DEMA offers "Animals in Disaster" as a module in Community Emergency Response Training. For information about attending this course or this module visit: <http://www.state.de.us/dema/default.shtml>.

Click on **Citizen Corps** then **CERT**.

## DEVELOP A DISASTER KIT FOR YOUR ANIMALS...

### Recommendations:

- Proper identification including immunization records (store in a sealable plastic bag)
- One week supply of food and water (this should be food they are accustomed to, if possible)
- A carrier or cage (large enough to stand and move; be sure they are use to it).
- Medications
- Muzzle, collar and leash
- Manual can opener
- Bowls and water pails
- Cleanup supplies, i.e. plastic bags and disinfectant, pooper scooper
- Flea/tick spray
- Extra grooming supplies
- Blankets, towels, etc.
- Remember: keep your pets' vaccinations up to date and keep a license tag and identification tag on her/him at all times
- Remember to store an up-to-date photograph of you and your pet together in your kit
- Any special needs items unique to your pets
- Consider storing your kit in an ice cooler chest, which can be used for perishables and medications in the event of a disaster.



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# Preparing the WHOLE family for a disaster!