

## HAVE A PET? PLAN NOW FOR AN EMERGENCY!

Emergencies come in many forms: fires, tornados, floods, hazardous material spills and, of course, hurricanes. The best thing you can do for yourself, your family and your pets is to **BE PREPARED**.

During any storm, pets should be safely inside with plenty of food and water. Many animals become anxious and fearful when lightning and thunder strike. Pets can also sense your stress level. Provide familiar toys, blankets and reassurance in a calming voice. Crate-trained dogs view their crates as a safe haven. Make sure your dog's crate is easily accessible.

- Hurricanes require special action and advanced planning.**
  - In the event of an evacuation, **DO NOT** leave your pets behind. Evacuate your pets with your family. Local boarding kennels will be closed and evacuated.
  - Know WHERE you, your family and pets will go in advance of any evacuation order.**
  - Have an Evacuation Plan for your family, including your pets, in place **BEFORE** you need it.
- If you have your own transportation, plan to:**
  - Stay with family or friends in a safe location outside the evacuation area.
  - If this is not possible, select a destination town or city safely outside the evacuation area. Identify and contact pet-friendly hotels/motels there to learn about pet policies, e.g. number of pets allowed, is a deposit required, etc. Since hotels/motels will fill up quickly during an evacuation, make a reservation ASAP.
  - American Red Cross emergency shelters are **NOT** approved to accept pets.
- If you have NO transportation or are unable to drive yourself, and will need shelter, CEMA will help. Plan to:**
  - Get to the Civic Center. Arrange for a family member, friend, church group, etc. to give you a ride.
  - If this is not an option, take public transportation (CAT) to the Civic Center. In the event of an evacuation order, you will be allowed to bring your pet on the bus, **IF and ONLY IF** your pet will not endanger the safety of others. Aggressive or otherwise un-socialized pets will not be accepted. All animals **MUST** be wearing a collar with a current rabies tag, and pet and owner identification.
  - Smaller animals must be in carriers. Your name and emergency contact information and your pet's name **MUST** be securely affixed to the carrier.
  - Dogs too large to be transported in carriers must be restrained on a leash and under owner control at all times. Use of a muzzle is recommended.
  - CEMA will provide transportation from the Civic Center to a pet-friendly community shelter.

**REMEMBER** – No matter how gentle and friendly your pet is at home, there will be many strange animals around, **AND** this will be a new and stressful experience for you, your pet and your entire family.



- Every family should have an evacuation kit (Go-Kit) with critical documents and supplies for the entire family. For each pet, the Go-Kit should include:**
  - A photo of your pet, and a photo of you with your pet
  - Veterinary/vaccination records
  - All ID numbers (tag/microchip, tattoo)
  - List of identifying features/marks
  - Emergency contact info for you, your vet, etc.
- Your evacuation pet supplies should include:**
  - Enough water to reach your destination.
  - Food for at least 7 days. Bring your pet's usual food: changing food can create digestive problems. Include a can-opener if appropriate.
  - Medications – an adequate supply of all current meds
  - Portable, non-breakable food and water bowls (Use permanent marker to label.)
  - A favorite toy or blanket; a brush or comb
  - Extra leashes/harnesses
  - A supply of plastic bags for dog waste collection
  - Newspapers to shred for cat litter
  - Moistened towelettes or Baby Wipes
  - Old towels to clean up accidents
  - A pet first-aid kit

**IMPORTANT:** If you evacuate to the CEMA-arranged community shelter, you **MUST** have a carrier or crate: your pet will be housed in its carrier during the stay. (The carrier must be large enough for your dog to stand up and turn around.) For larger animals, a collapsible crate is preferable as it will be easier to transport.

For a detailed list of emergency and evacuation preparedness suggestions, visit [www.HumaneSocietySAV.org](http://www.HumaneSocietySAV.org)

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The animals and staffs of both the Humane Society for Greater Savannah and Chatham County Animal Control will be among the first to evacuate. Both shelters will be closed. **Do NOT** plan to drop off or abandon any pets at either of these shelters. Evacuate **WITH** your pets.

