

PETS AND ANIMAL PREPAREDNESS

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS DURING COVID-19

- 1. Leaving a pet behind when you evacuate should not be an option; often pets are lost, injured or worst.**
- 2. NEVER leave a pet chained outdoors during an emergency.**
- 3. Identify shelters that allow pets and/ or pet friendly hotels along your evacuation route**
- 4. Consider leaving your pet with a trusted neighbor, relative or friend if you cannot find suitable boarding options.**
- 5. Locate a veterinarian or animal hospital in the area you evacuate, in case your pet needs medical care.**
- 6. Microchip your pet and keep your contact information up-to-date; additionally, be sure to include an emergency contact.**
- 7. Pack your pet's medical records along with the rest of the family's important documents.**

Ready.gov suggests the following tips for larger animals (i.e. horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, etc.):

- Ensure all animals have some form of identification.
- Evacuate animals whenever possible. Map out primary and secondary routes in advance.
- Make available vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal. Also make available experienced handlers and drivers.
- Ensure destinations have food, water, veterinary care and handling equipment.
- If evacuation is not possible, animal owners must decide whether to move large animals to shelter or turn them outside.
- Take extra time to observe livestock, looking for early signs of disease and injury.

In addition to packing an emergency kit for your family, pack the following items suggested by The Department of Homeland Security for your "Pet Kit":

- ✓ **Food** (at least a three day supply in an airtight, waterproof container)
- ✓ **Water** (at least three days of water specifically for your pets)
- ✓ **Medicines**
- ✓ **Medical records, proof of vaccinations, registration and adoption documents** (talk to your veterinarian about microchipping)
- ✓ **First aid kit** (cotton bandage rolls, bandage tape and scissors, antibiotic ointment, flea and tick prevention, latex gloves, isopropyl alcohol, saline solution and a pet first aid reference book)
- ✓ **Collar or harness with ID tag, rabies tag and a leash**
- ✓ **Crate or pet carrier** (a sturdy, safe crate or carrier large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down)
- ✓ **Sanitation needs** (litter box and litter, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and household chlorine bleach)
- ✓ **A picture of you and your pet together to prove ownership** (add species, breed, age, sex, color and distinguishing characteristics)
- ✓ **Familiar items** (treats, toys and bedding can help reduce stress for your pet)

Sources: The ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), AKC (American Kennel Club), American Veterinary Medical Association, and Ready.gov

