

PREPARE YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN NOW

A written disaster/emergency plan will help you and your pets survive. Identify your evacuation zone and level to determine if and when you would have to evacuate. If you are located in a storm surge flood plain, the decision to evacuate will depend on the category of the storm. Always prepare for one category higher than the one being forecast as a hurricane often increases in strength just before making landfall. If the storm suddenly upgrades, you will not have time to change your plans, as winds will have already reached speeds that will make travel unsafe.

PUBLIC SHELTERS THAT PERMIT ANIMALS

Astatula Elementary 13925 Florida Ave. Astatula, FL 34705	Treadway Elementary 10619 Treadway Rd. Leesburg, FL 34788
---	---

Leesburg Elementary 2229 South St. Leesburg, FL	Umatilla Elementary 401 Lake St. Umatilla, FL 32784
---	---

Lost Lake Elementary 1901 John Lake Rd. Clermont, FL 34711	Villages Elementary 695 Rolling Acres Rd. Lady Lake, FL 32159
--	---

Round Lake Elementary
31333 Round Lake Rd.
Mt. Dora, FL 32757

NOTE: Owners must show proof of rabies vaccination. All animals admitted to these public shelters must be housed in their own crate. Cats should have a large enough crate to accommodate a litter box, food and water dishes. Also, pet owners are responsible for providing their pet's food, water and food dish (an extra gallon or two of water is a good idea). Pets should also have an identification tags on their collar. All animals will be housed in a room separate from the area accommodating the public. Owners will be allowed to visit and walk their pet. Call Lake County Animal Control for more information: 352-343-9688.

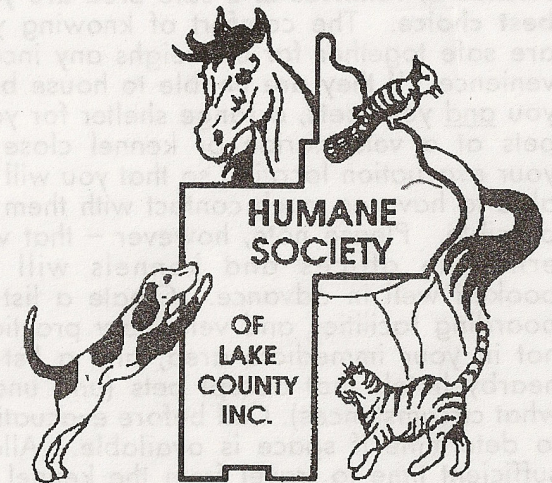
WHY PET OWNERS MUST PLAN

Most public shelters **WILL NOT ACCEPT PETS!** There are no exceptions to this rule; the only animals allowed in a public shelter are guide dogs and certified assistance dogs for the disabled.

If you live in a mobile home or in an area prone to flooding, you **will be** required to evacuate no matter how many animals you have at home. If you wait until the last minute to evacuate, space may not be available for you and our pet at the "pet friendly" shelters and you may have no choice but to go to a public shelter that does not allow pets. And, if no prior arrangements have been made for your pets, you will be forced to leave them behind.

If this unfortunate situation should arise, please prepare your children and other family members that their pets may not survive or may be irretrievably lost. There is no way to know how long it will be before you are permitted to return to your home after the hurricane has passed. Frightened animals quickly slip out open doors, broken windows or other damaged areas of your home opened by the storm. Released pets are more likely to die from exposure, starvation, predators, contaminated food and water or on the road where they can endanger others. Even normally friendly animals of different species should not be allowed together unattended since the stress of the storm may cause distinct behavior changes.

HURRICANE SEASON AND PET SAFETY



A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Prepared by
**The Humane Society
of Lake County**

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW...

Because you live in Florida, you must plan for hurricanes – and that planning should include your pets. Any disaster that threatens humans is a threat to animals. Remember, if you must evacuate, conditions are not only unsafe for you but unsafe for other living creatures as well.

YOUR GOAL SHOULD BE TO EVACUATE TO A SAFE LOCATION CLOSE TO HOME.

Long-distance evacuation is not recommended, as highways will be crowded. **Friends or relatives in a safe area are your best choice.** The comfort of knowing you are safe together far outweighs any inconvenience. If they are unable to house both you and your pets, arrange shelter for your pets at a veterinarian or kennel close to your evacuation location so that you will be able to have as much contact with them as possible. Please note, however – that veterinarian offices and kennels will be booked well in advance. Create a list of boarding facilities and veterinary practices not in your immediate area, and a list of nearby hotels that accept pets (and under what circumstances). Call before evacuating to determine if space is available. Allow sufficient time to travel from the kennel or clinic to your evacuation location after making certain that your animals are secure.

If you have exotic pets, contact local pet stores or zoological gardens, in a safe area, for assistance in sheltering your pet. Again, be prepared to supply appropriate housing for the pet (not glass) and other supplies necessary to sustain the pet for at least two weeks.

PREPARATION LIST

Obtain a pet carrier or crate in which your pet can stand and turn around in. Train your pets to become familiar with their carriers ahead of time. A blanket, favorite toy or chew bone may help your pet feel more secure. Then the carrier will be a secure and comforting refuge if the animal is required to live in it for days – even weeks – after the hurricane. **Multiple pets should be kept in separate carriers!**

Proper collar, leash, rabies license tag, personal I.D. tag (with local and emergency numbers written on it). Cats should be outfitted with safety “breakaway” collars.

Make sure all pets have current immunizations and take these records with you if you evacuate.

Make sure that you have current photographs of your pets.

PET SURVIVAL KIT (whether you plan to evacuate or stay at home)

At least two weeks supply of pet food and sealed, bottled water. A manual can opener is a necessity!

Two months supply of heartworm preventative and other medications.

Water and food bowls.

Additional litter for cats.

Newspapers and plastic trash bags for handling waste

IF YOU STAY AT HOME

It is just as important to plan for your pets even if you don't have to evacuate. Carriers, collars with proper identification and leashes should be maintained for your pets at all times.

Your pets will be most comfortable and secure in their carriers in a safe area of your home until the storm has passed. If they are not secured during the storm and your house is damaged, your pets may escape and become disoriented, since normal landmarks and scent trails can be destroyed. If your pets become lost, proper ID will ensure their return to you. And remember to keep animals in separate crates, as they may become agitated during the storm.

Place your pet food and medications in water tight containers in a cool, dry, dark place. Store adequate water for your pets. Your water source may be cut off or even contaminated. (To purify water, add two drops of household bleach per quart of water, mix, seal tightly, let stand for 30 minutes before drinking).

If you bring plants into the home before a storm, be careful not to allow pets access to them since many ornamental plants are poisonous.

Be extremely careful in using candles or oil lamps particularly around pets. Never leave them unattended.

Do not tranquilize your pets except under the advice of your veterinarian.

IF YOU MUST EVACUATE

LEAVE EARLY!!! An unnecessary trip is far better than waiting too long to leave safely!

Remember to take all necessary supplies for your pets.

AFTER THE STORM

Use caution in allowing your pet outdoors after the storm has passed. Walk your pets on a leash until they become re-oriented to their home. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered and your pet could easily become confused and lost. Downed power lines and reptiles brought in with high water could present real dangers to your pet. Take precautions not to allow your pet to consume food or water that may have become contaminated.