

high, dry and of sturdy construction, including protected windows and doors.

Throughout the evacuation and the storm your pets will need reassurance from you. Remain calm, keep as close to their normal routine as possible and speak to them in a calm reassuring voice.

IF YOU CAN STAY AT HOME

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

Your pet 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 pet may escape and become disoriented, since normal landmarks and scent trails could be obliterated. **If your pets become lost, proper ID will ensure their return to you.**

Place pet food and medications in watertight containers. Store in a cool, dry place. Stock enough bottled water to last at least three days. If you bring plants into your home be careful to keep your pets away from them, as many are poisonous to animals.

AFTER THE STORM

Walk your pets on a leash until they become re-oriented to their home. They need to reestablish their territory by remarking scent. **CAUTION:** downed power lines and construction debris pose real danger to you and your pets. Do not allow pets to consume food or water which may be contaminated. Be extremely careful when using candles or oil lamps. Never leave candles or oil lamps unattended around pets.

If you have a generator, run in a well ventilated area away from pets and do not overload extension cords.

Knowing what to do and when to do it is key to remaining calm and clear headed during a storm. Review and update

your plan regularly with your family. Know what your neighbors are planning to do.

Remember what the Cheshire cat said to Alice, "If you don't know where you are going, it doesn't much matter what road you take."

**Baldwin County Humane Society
306 Magnolia Avenue
Fairhope, Alabama 36532**

Ph: 251-928-4585

Fax: 251-990-7171

hsociety@bellsouth.net

www.baldwinhumane.org

YOU AND YOUR

PETS,

**ARE YOU PREPARED FOR
DISASTER?**



Prepared by:

The Baldwin County Humane Society

**306 Magnolia Avenue
Fairhope, Alabama 36532
251-928-4585**

BE PREPARED!!

A major failing of local residents has been the apparent inability to learn and retain the important lessons previous hurricanes should have taught them. Katrina brought home in graphic detail the folly of not being prepared.

The only way to reduce the devastation of a hurricane, or any disaster, is to be prepared. The more you prepare, the better your chances of reducing suffering and risk for yourself, your family, your animals and your community. While 38% of U.S. households have children, **43% have pets**. The Gulf Coast has become one of the most populated areas of the United States. Florida is the third most populous state with 80% of its population within 10 miles of the coast. The Gulf Coast of Alabama, while not as populated, presents significant logistical problems for its residents. If you live in Baldwin County you must plan for hurricanes and other storm related problems. Your plan **should include your animals. Any disaster that threatens humans threatens animals as well.**

When any Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico Storm becomes a named tropical storm all Baldwin County residents should take it seriously, watch it closely and begin to act on their pre-written disaster plan.

WHY MUST PET OWNERS PLAN?

PUBLIC SHELTERS WILL NOT ACCEPT YOUR PET!

If you wait until the last minute to evacuate, you may have no choice but to go to a public shelter. If such a situation should force you to leave pets behind, please prepare your children, other family members and yourself for the fact that pets may not survive or may be irretrievably lost before you are able or permitted to return home. There is no way to know how long it will be before you are permitted back after the storm. Frightened animals easily slip out of open doors, broken windows or

other damaged areas of homes opened by storms. Pets left locked in a home may drown from the storm surge.

Released pets are likely to die from exposure, starvation, dehydration, predators, contaminated food and water or on the road where they can endanger others. Normally friendly animals of different species should not be allowed together unattended as the stress of the storm may cause defensive or aggressive behavior.

REMEMBER, if you must evacuate, then conditions are also unsafe for animals that depend on you for their care!!

IF YOU MUST EVACUATE!

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

All animals should have a **PERMANENT ID** and secure carriers (or collapsible cages for large dogs) as well as collars, leashes, and rabies tags. Carriers should be large enough for the animal to stand comfortably and turn around. Train your pets to become familiar with their carriers ahead of time. Then the carrier will be a secure and comforting refuge if your pet is required to live in it for days – even weeks – after the storm.

Before the hurricane season begins on June 1 of each year, make sure all your pets have current immunizations and take these records with you if you must evacuate.

Photograph each of your pets prior to June 1 every year and include these pictures with your medical records.

Organize a survival kit for your pet(s). This kit should include ample food (up to two weeks supply); water/food bowls, medications, specific care instructions, plastic baggies and trash bags for handling waste, and treats, toys and other comfort items. Muzzels for dogs easily agitated, manual can

openers, knives, spoons and forks are important. Mark all items with your name. A first aid kit is a must for both pets and family.

Although shelters do not currently accept pets, many motel chains do as matter of routine and most will accept pets during a disaster. Information on these motels can be found at www.AAA.com, www.travelingdogs.com & www.petfriendly.com. Comfort Inn, Best Western and Motel 6, among many others accept pets. Always remember to call ahead and make reservations. Local boarding kennels and veterinary clinics may not have space at the last minute and some do not accept animals during a storm.

Stay current on local storm forecasts and evacuation alerts. A number of internet sites will have up-to-date information on storm tracks, intensity and projected landfall. Check by storm name.

Check on your neighbors. Senior citizens may need assistance to evacuate. Many seniors will not evacuate without their companion pets. Give them whatever help is necessary.

Take first aid and CPR courses and keep manuals handy. The same basic principals apply to animals. Ask your Vet for an emergency care pamphlet for animals.

If you plan to shelter your pets at a kennel or clinic, do not assume there is space for your pet. Make preplans with the facility and then call before evacuating to determine if space is available. Allow sufficient time to travel from the kennel to your evacuation destination after making sure that your animals are secure.

If you have exotic pets, contact local pet stores or zoological gardens located in a safe area and determine if they assist you in sheltering your pet. Be prepared to supply appropriate housing for your pet (not glass) and other supplies necessary to sustain the pet for at least 2-3 weeks.

The facility you choose should be operated by knowledgeable and capable staff. The location should be