

# PET SAFETY

Disaster shelters cannot accept pets because of health and safety regulations. Service animals for people with disabilities are an exception. A pet-friendly shelter is now available to county residents living in an evacuation zone or in a mobile home.

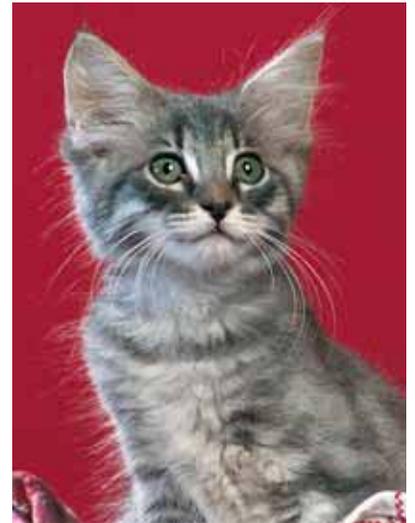
**Pre-registration with Animal Care and Control, is required, 233-1266 or [www.pbcgov.com/pubsafety/animal](http://www.pbcgov.com/pubsafety/animal).**

## Plan:

- Arrange for a neighbor to check on your pets and take care of them if a disaster occurs while you are not at home.
- Plan ahead for a friend or relative outside the affected area to shelter your animals, if necessary.
- Keep your pet's ID and rabies license tags up to date. Call 561-233-1271 to update records.
- Make sure your pet has a collar with a contact name and phone number.

## Make a disaster Go-Bag for each of your pets, include the following:

- Sturdy leashes and/or carriers to transport pets. Most animal shelters require owners to provide a pet carrier large enough for animals to stand and turn around.
- Current photos of your pets in case they get lost. Pictures with the pet and owner are more valuable when trying to provide proof of ownership.
- Food and potable water, **for at least one week**. Bowls, cat litter and pan, plastic bags, manual can opener, medicines and pet toys. These items may not be immediately available in animal shelters.
- Information on feeding schedules, medical conditions, behavior problems, current immunization records, photographs of the pet with the owner and the name and number of your veterinarian in case you have to board your pets.



## Response:

- Be prepared, make arrangements for your pet to be housed at a pet boarding facility or call motels/hotels in advance for reservations. Most hotels take pets during a hurricane evacuation. A deposit is usually required.
- Outside your home and in the car, keep dogs securely leashed at all times.

Transport cats in carriers. The most trustworthy pets may panic, hide, and try to escape or even bite or scratch.

- Animals react differently under stress. Pets do much better when they are with their owners during a stressful event such as a hurricane.

## Pet-Friendly Shelter Requirements:

- The pet friendly shelter is for pets and people living in mandatory evacuation zones or in mobile homes.
- Pet owners are required to bring a kennel or carrier, food for two to three days, bedding, bowls, toys, and any special medications for their pet(s).
- Birds must have a health certificate and a carrier cage with cover.
- No livestock or reptiles will be accepted.
- All dogs and cats must have a current rabies vaccination and license tag, microchip, and provide date of last application of flea and tick preventative medication.
- No aggressive animals or animals classified as dangerous or potentially dangerous will be accepted.



**When you return home, give your pets time to settle back into their routines.**

**Consult your veterinarian if any behavioral or medical problems persist.**