

TIPS

1. Create a “Buddy System”

You may not be home when disaster strikes. Create a buddy system with trusted friends and family to evacuate your pets in case you cannot get home to do so. Establish a meeting place and emergency contacts in case you lose phone service. Provide this trusted friend a key to your home.

2. Pet-Friendly Lodging

Ask relatives and friends NOW if they can accommodate you and your pets if you must evacuate. Look up Pet-Friendly hotels/motels NOW and keep their phone numbers in your wallet or purse. Evacuation shelters should be your last resort.

3. Know Your Local Agencies

Get to know your local emergency response agencies and animal care & control organizations. Ask them about disaster planning for pets. Post their phone numbers in your home and keep them in your evacuation kit.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

911 (Fire, Police, EMS, Emergency Management)

Veterinarian _____

Emergency Vet Hospital _____

Pet Poison Control (888) 426-4435 _____

Animal Control _____

Animal Shelter _____

Humane Society/SPCA _____

Buddies _____

Pet Sitter _____

Other _____

PREPARING FOR DISASTER: HELPING PEOPLE HELP ANIMALS

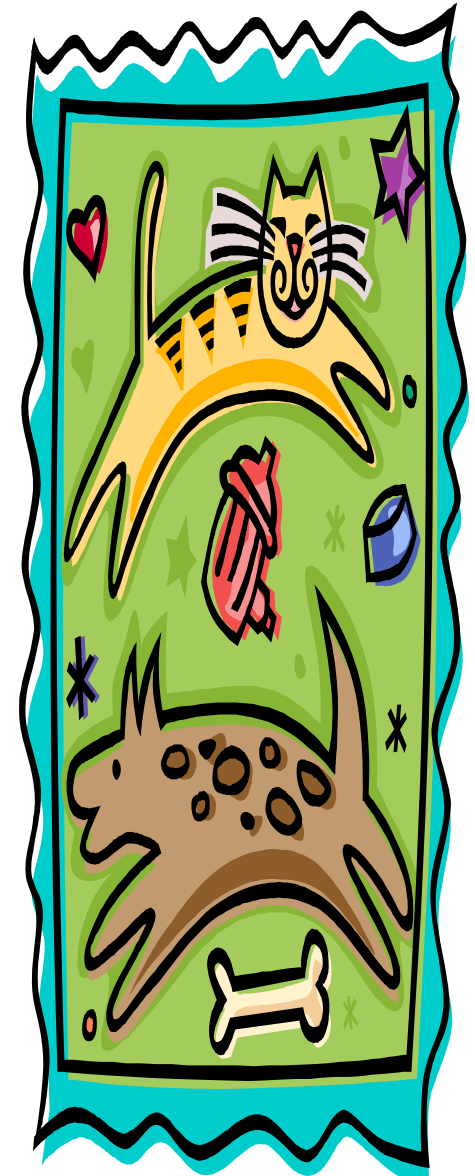


TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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IF YOU EVACUATE, BRING YOUR PETS WITH YOU!

If it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. Plan for the worst case scenario. If you think you may be gone for only a day, assume you will not be allowed to return for up to a week. If you think there will be minor damage or disruption of services, such as power, assume that there will be major damage and indefinite loss of local lifelines. Whatever the situation, your pets are not safe left alone. A pet may become trapped or escape and be exposed to life threatening hazards.

When warned of an impending or potential disaster, start preparing your family and pets for evacuation as soon as possible. It will be less stressful on all of you if you are not rushed when evacuation becomes necessary or mandatory.

If emergency officials recommend that you stay in your home, it is crucial that you keep your pets with you indoors. Keep your supplies close at hand too. Your pets may become stressed during the in-house confinement, so you may consider crating them for safety and security. This will also make it easier if evacuation becomes necessary.

Never evacuate and leave your pets behind in a crate, they will be rendered helpless until you return or someone else reaches them.

PET EVACUATION KIT

Your evacuation kit should be kept as easily accessible and close to an exit as possible. It should be clearly marked and water resistant. Be sure to show your family members and your buddies where this kit is kept.

BRING THE BASICS:

- ◆ **Food** – Store a 3 day supply of food in an airtight container. Replace every two months
- ◆ **Water** – Keep a 3 day supply of water in a cool dark place. Replace every two months
- ◆ **Medication and Vitamins** – Be sure to keep an extra supply in your kit. Replace when expired
- ◆ **Cages, Carriers, Leashes & Collars** – Be sure to pack an extra leash and harness for your pet with identification and emergency contact information attached. Harnesses are recommended over collars for safety and security. Cages and carriers may also make your evacuation easier and safer, and they are most likely required where you seek shelter.
- ◆ **Photographs and Important Records** – Store photos of you and your pet together, pet vaccination records, and pet registry and license information in a zip lock bag and keep this bag in your evacuation kit.

- ◆ **Identification** – Pets should always wear identification. A collar with tags, band, microchip and tattoos are all forms of identification that can help increase the chances of your pet's return home should you become separated.

- ◆ **Cleaning Supplies** – Store a liter of chlorine bleach, dish soap, paper towels, and garbage bags in your kit. Plain chlorine bleach can be used as a disinfectant (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) and as a water purifier (16 drops bleach to 1 gallon of water). Do not use scented bleach or bleach with other detergent additives.

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES:

Pet First Aid Kit – Consult your veterinarian for a list of supplies

Dishes and Bottles – For food and water

Bedding and Cage Liner – Paper, shavings, blankets

Comfort Items – Favorite Toys

Dogs – Muzzle, even the nicest dogs can bite when stressed and scared

Cats – Extra harness and leash, scoopable litter and small litter box

Reptiles – Soaking dish, pillow case or Evac-Sack, heat source (lamp or hot water bottle)

Small Animals – Salt lick, hiding place (tube or box), pillow case or cage covering

Birds – Cuttle bone, catch net, cage cover

