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Hurricane Preparation for Pets

Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30, but planning for pet safety in the event of any emergency is important all year long.

Generally, pet owners have three options in the event of a hurricane:

- Keep your pet with you at a secure, storm-prepared location (evacuation shelters generally do not accept pets).
- Take your pet with you to a friend's or family member's house or to a hotel in a safe zone. This should be pre-arranged to avoid surprise and confusion.
- Leave your pet with a friend in a safe zone or boarded at a veterinary clinic or kennel.

Steps to Keep Your Pet Prepared

- Maintain up-to-date vaccinations and proper identification.
- Purchase tags and have your pet implanted with a microchip as this is the most effective way to identify pets.
- Maintain access to a current electronic or paper copy of your pet's medical records and photograph at all times.

Prepare the following supplies:

- Portable carrier (large enough for the pet to stand up and turn around in)
- Extra leash, collar, and identification tag
- Pet food – at least a two-week supply of dry food in water-tight container or canned food (include a manual can opener)
- Water – at least a two-week supply of clean water – large dogs need one gallon per day
- Up-to-date health and immunization records
- Medications (flea and tick preventative, two-month supply of heartworm preventative medication, and any prescription medication)
- Litter/newspapers for clean-up
- Toys and treats
- Towels
- First aid supplies
- Recent photo of you with your pet

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