

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Preparing for animals before a disaster strikes

All pet owners should have a kit for their pets, which should include:

- Supply of food for 7 days in an airtight, water proof container
- Drinking water
- Bowls for food and water
- Vaccination records and physical description for each pet
- For dogs include – leash, collar, and a sturdy carrier
- For cats include – litter and litter box and sturdy carrier

We recommend that you:

- Keep your animals with you; if you must leave an animal outside, do not leave him chained up.
- Place the pet emergency supplies by the door so it is ready to go if you need to evacuate quickly.
- Talk with a trusted neighbor who can care for your pets if you are away.

Owners of livestock animals should remember:

- Livestock, especially goats should not be tied during storms as it prevents them from seeking shelter from high water and blowing debris.
- Ensure that poultry have access to high areas in which to perch, if they are in a flood-prone area, as well as to food and clean water.
- Remove all barbed wire, and consider rerouting permanent fencing so that animals may move to high ground in a flood and to low-lying areas during high winds.
- Obtain enough large containers to water your animals for at least a week as water supplies are often contaminated during a disaster.
- Secure or remove anything that could become blowing debris. If you have boats, feed troughs, or other large

containers, fill them with water before the hurricane. This prevents them from blowing around and also gives you an additional supply of water.

- The leading cause of death of large animals in hurricanes are collapsed barns, dehydration, electrocution, and accidents resulting from fencing failure. If you own farm animals you should take precautions to protect them from these hazards.