



Hurricane Season is Here!

Information To Help You Prepare Your Pet For A Hurricane



**If it is not safe for YOU to stay in your home during a storm, then IT IS NOT SAFE FOR YOUR PET!
Always take your pets with you!**

The Humane Society of Greater Miami Adopt-A-Pet urges you to plan for you AND your pet today.

**(305) 696-0800 • humanesocietymiami.org
Be Safe. Be Smart. Act Now.**

June 1st through November 30th is hurricane season and the Humane Society of Greater Miami urges you to prepare now for you and your pet! It is important for you to plan ahead to avoid last minute surprises and confusion when a storm is approaching. If you live in an evacuation zone, you will be required to leave, no matter how many pets you own.

Miami-Dade County has established two pet-friendly hurricane shelters. Space is limited; you MUST register in advance by calling the County hotline 3-1-1 (when a storm is approaching, registrations will cease). For a registration packet, please call 786-331-5354. You must provide proof of residency within an evacuation zone, and present medical and current vaccination records for each pet.

Pet Friendly Shelters:

Miami-Dade's pet-friendly shelters accept dogs, cats, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice/rats, rabbits (under 10 pounds, such as California or Dutch breeds), ferrets and birds.

- In southwestern Miami-Dade, the Sunshine Pavilion on the grounds of the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition, 10901 SW 24th St., Miami, accepts pets.
- In northern Miami-Dade, registered residents and their pets can evacuate to Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High, 1410 NE 215th St., Aventura.

Before the storm:

According to the National Hurricane Center, there are a few things you should do **before** a disaster:

- Know if you live in an evacuation area and plan accordingly (register your pet in advance at a pet friendly shelter and know all requirements for admittance – shelters require up to date vaccines and certain supplies for your pet)
- Prepare a disaster supply kit for your pet in case you need to leave home quickly. **Kits should include first aid supplies, batteries, extra medications, water, food, bowls, towels, litter pans and accessories for such, extra leash, toys and treats.** If you already have a kit prepared, make sure all items are fresh and are in good working order
- Make sure your pet is current with all vaccines and have copies of health records handy
- Have a current photograph of your pet
- Keep a current identification and license tag on your pet at all times, whether he lives indoors or outdoors. The best protection is an ID tag AND a microchip. Tags can become lost and the microchip is a fool proof backup!
- Get a portable crate/carrier

If you live in an evacuation area

- If your home is in an evacuation area, be prepared to leave on a moments notice. Talk to friends and family to see if you and your pet would be welcome to stay with them in case of a disaster.
- If you plan on going to a pet friendly shelter (Miami Dade now has 2 – see above) you **must** register ahead of time and there will be certain requirements, like up to date vaccinations, that will need to be fulfilled in order to be accepted into a shelter.

- If you plan on going to a pet friendly hotel select several hotels (outside of the commonly-evacuated areas) and call to confirm their pet policies. Once you are certain that your pet will be welcome there, keep the phone numbers on hand in preparation for an emergency. Once a storm is approaching, hotels fill up quickly, so be sure to call and make a reservation as soon as you think you may have to evacuate..
- For a list of pet friendly hotels, visit www.officialpethotels.com.

The Humane Society of Greater Miami offers pet microchipping and vaccinations at a low cost. Call 305-696-0800 for more information.

During the storm:

What to do **during** a disaster:

If your family and pets must wait out a storm or other disaster at home, identify a safe area of your home where you can all stay together. Be sure to close your windows and doors, stay inside, and follow the instructions from your local emergency management office.

- Bring your pets indoors as soon as local authorities say there is an imminent problem. Keep pets under your direct control; if you have to evacuate, you will not have to spend time trying to find them. Keep dogs on leashes and cats in carriers, and make sure they are wearing identification.
- If you have a room you can designate as a "safe room," put your emergency supplies in that room in advance, including your pet's crate and supplies. Have any medications and a supply of pet food and water inside watertight containers, along with your other emergency supplies. If there is an open fireplace, vent, pet door, or similar opening in the house, close it off with plastic sheeting and strong tape.
- Listen to the radio periodically, and don't come out until you know it's safe.

Checklist of supplies to have ready for your pet in an emergency

- Properly-fitted collar bearing pet's current license and identification tag
- Leash
- Portable crate/carrier for your pet
- Food and water bowls
- A 5 day supply of pet food in a watertight container (a manual can opener may be necessary if the food is canned)
- A 5 day supply of clean water
- Up-to-date health records including a recent photo of you with your pet
- Your pet's medications – at least a one month supply
- Cat litter pan with cat litter and/or newspapers, litter scooper, and plastic bags for feces disposal
- Toys and healthy treats
- Towels
- First aid supplies (first aid guide, bandages, gauze, adhesive tape, scissors, tweezers, antibiotic ointment, etc.)

Remember, if you are ordered to evacuate, **do not leave your pet behind!**
It is possible to evacuate with your pet if you plan ahead.