

## Pets

Pets are not allowed inside public hurricane shelters due to public health and safety reasons. Your pet is your responsibility and advanced planning is essential. It could save your pet's life and provide some comfort to you and your family during the storm.

If you evacuate and take your pet with you, make sure that pets are permitted at your planned destination. Some hotels and motels do not accept pets, so check this when making your reservations. You may choose to board your pet at a local kennel or veterinary clinic.



When transporting your pet, use a pet carrier (portable kennel). These are available at many local department stores and pet shops. Your pet should be able to stand up and turn around inside the carrier. Make sure that you have an ample supply of food and water for your pet as well as any medications.

Be sure your pet's vaccinations are up-to-date. This is especially important for those of you who plan to board your pet. Most boarding kennels will require proof of current rabies and distemper vaccinations before accepting your pet.

Be sure that your pet wears a properly fitted collar with a current license and rabies tag at all times.

If you plan to evacuate and leave your pet at home...

- Prepare an area for your pet to use inside the house away from windows. Consider an easily cleaned utility room, garage, bathroom or tiled area.
- Do not leave your pet outside or tied up during a storm.
- Leave only dry foods that are relatively unappealing to prevent overeating. Use sturdy food containers.
- Do not leave any pet vitamins or mineral supplements. Overeating of these treats may cause salt poisoning.
- Leave water for pets in a sturdy, no spill container or bathtub.
- Birds must eat daily to survive. If you must leave them behind, use special food dispensers.
- Never leave a cat alone in the same room with a dog. Even if they are normally friendly, the storm may scare them and trouble may ensue.
- Provide pet access to high places, such as counter tops, in case your home floods.
- Leave difficult or dangerous animals in special crates or cages.



After the storm, be careful in allowing your pet(s) outdoors. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered. Your pet may become confused and lost. Snakes and downed power lines are two of the dangers your pet may encounter.