Disaster Preparedness

How you can protect your pets in case of disaster
Disaster Preparedness for Pets - Overview

- Have a disaster kit in advance
- If you evacuate, take the pets with you
- Don’t forget ID
- Find a safe place ahead of time
- What to do if you decide to stay

- What to do as the disaster approaches
- What to do in case you aren’t home
- What to do after the disaster
- Other evacuation tips
Disaster Supply Checklist

• Stock up on non perishables in advance and perishables at the last minute

• Medications and medical records/first aid kit in a waterproof container

• Leashes, carriers and cages to prevent escape

• Food/water for at least 3 days. Bedding, bowls, water bottles and litter/litter box.
Carrier Setup
Disaster Supply Checklist

- Current photos and descriptions of pets to identify in case of separation
- Feeding/medication schedules, medical conditions, behavior issues and vet info.
- Pet beds and toys to reduce stress.
- Paper towels, plastic bags and bleach
Card Example

Ferret Name: Kavik   DOB: 06/15/2000   Color: Silver Mitt   Weight: 3.2lbs
Identifying Marks: None
Medical History: Rabies Vaccination: 02/26/2003 (12360)   ADV: Negative 11/02
Distemper Vaccination: 12/13/2002 (FE12)
Medical conditions/medications: None
Comments: Kavik is a late altered male ferret.
Cagemates: Lily, Buster and Diana
Vet: Petcare Veterinary Hospital, 5201 Virginia Beach Blvd, VB, VA (757) 473-0111
Owner: Lisa Leidig, 2312 Starfish Road, # 301, VB, VA (757) 481-3954
If you evacuate, take the pets

- If not safe for you, not safe for them
- Don’t turn animals loose or tie/chain them up
- Assume that you will not be able to return in a few hours – take the pets.
- Leave early if you plan to leave.
Don’t forget ID!

- Pets should have up to date identification (tags/collars, microchips)
- Identification if possible should include a phone number of someone outside of the immediate area as a contact.
Find a safe place ahead of time

- Contact hotels/motels to check pet policies
- Ask if no-pet rules can be waived
- Check with friends, relatives or others
- Have a list of boarding facilities/vets
- Ask the local shelters if they provide foster care/shelter for pets.
If you don’t evacuate

• Have a safe area in the home for all
• Keep pets in carriers and make sure they have identification
• Have medications and the disaster kit on hand
• Have emergency power/air conditioning on hand and gasoline to run generators
Portable air conditioner
As the disaster approaches

• Don’t wait until the last moment to get ready
• Call to confirm emergency shelter arrangements
• Bring pets inside and confine
• Make sure disaster supplies are ready to go
In case you are not home

• Have arrangements in place with a trusted neighbor/friend
After the disaster

- Don’t allow pets to run loose
- Keep pets in carriers or confined
- Be patient with pets – get back to a normal routine as quickly as possible
Other evacuation tips

- All mobile home residents should evacuate
- Evacuate to the safest location closest to home
- Identify evacuation routes and have alternates
- PRACTICE your evacuation and packing!
Disaster preparation test

• Can you gather all pets and put into carriers in time? Do you have carriers for all pets?
• Are all pets wearing identification?
• If a pet escapes the carrier, do you have a photo to identify?
• Do you know where to go with pets in the event of an emergency evacuation?
Disaster preparation test

• Do you know of pet friendly motels/hotels nearby?

• Do you know where your local emergency animal shelter is located?

• Do you have your veterinarian’s telephone number in case your pet becomes ill?
Who will care for my pet?

- Each state has laws in place recognizing pet trusts as legal
- Have not only a will but a codicil in place in the event of your death/incapacitation stating who will care for your pets.
What is a codicil?

- A codicil is an amendment to your will which can add or alter the terms of your will.
- Advantages - codicils are not as expensive as creating a will and if contested, the original will is still valid.
Why have a Codicil/Will?

- Specifically states who will care for your pets.
- Can award monetary amounts for their care
- Can specifically state the level of care the pets must receive
- Can make the monetary gift conditional on caring for the pets
What to include in the codicil

• List each pet and medical conditions as well as the veterinarian you use.
• Designate a trustee or caregiver
• Make sure they know in advance
• Be specific when you set up the document
• List specific requests
• Have a back up plan
What to include in the codicil

• Spell out what happens in the event the pet(s) become terminally ill/die
• Keep a copy of the document
Lynnhaven Fishing Pier/Beach
Our Substation
Flooding
The pier during the storm
Starfish/Cape Henry
After the Hurricane
Pier after the Storm
Pier after the storm
Conclusion

• In the event of a disaster, preparing in advance and having a plan can mean the difference between having everything that you need – and not.

• There is no such thing as over preparation!

• Practice your evacuation
Isabel