



## **Emergency Preparedness Guidelines for Pets**

**Information provided by the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team (PA-SART)**

In an emergency, your pets will be even more dependent on you for their safety and well-being. Your family's disaster plans must include your furry family members too. Learn what to do to keep your beloved pets safe. Here are five helpful hints to help you prepare and protect your pets.

### **1. Take Steps to Protect Your Pets**

Remember that when you leave home because of an emergency, you need to take your pets with you. You need to find a safe place to take your pets.

- Do this research ahead of time, before a disaster strikes.
- Prepare a list of emergency phone numbers, and keep it handy.
- If your pet has any special needs, such as a special diet or, is an exotic pet (including reptiles, birds, fish), consider their requirements in your disaster planning, before you need to evacuate these animals.
- Ask a dependable friend or relative who lives some distance away if you and/or your pets can stay with them during an emergency.
- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets during times of emergencies, and any restrictions they may have.
- Make arrangements with trustworthy neighbors for pet care if a disaster strikes and you cannot get home in time to evacuate.
- Find boarding kennels within and outside your area. Know where they are, who stays on the premises with the animals in the event of a disaster, and what provisions would be made if the kennel should have to evacuate during a disaster.



### **IN THIS ISSUE**

- Pet Preparedness
- Hurricane Season Begins June 1<sup>st</sup>
- ReadyPA Tip Sheet: Pet Preparedness



Be sure to check out [ReadyPA](http://www.ready.pa.gov/BePrepared/PlanSpecialNeeds/Pages/Pets-and-Livestock.aspx) for further Pet Preparedness information at  
<http://www.ready.pa.gov/BePrepared/PlanSpecialNeeds/Pages/Pets-and-Livestock.aspx>



[www.pasart.us](http://www.pasart.us)

## **Emergency Preparedness Guidelines for Pets (continued)**

- Listen for public service announcements during a disaster that may instruct you to take your pets to a temporary emergency animal shelter. For these places, you must do the following:
  - **Get a portable pet carrier for each pet.** These carriers should be large enough for the pet to stand up and turn around in. Get your pet used to the carrier ahead of time. Snakes may be kept in plastic containers, and birds need their cages.
  - **Have identification for each pet.** Be sure your pet ALWAYS wears a well-fitted collar with proper identification, is micro-chipped or tattooed. ID tags and pet carriers should include your phone number(s) as well as the number of a contact outside the affected region.

### **2. Plan Ahead Be Prepared**

- Keep a leash handy (if appropriate) and get your pet used to it.
- Be sure your pet's vaccinations are current. Keep the documentation together in a re-sealable plastic bag in your pet's disaster travel kit, along with name/phone of their veterinarian. Most boarding facilities and emergency animal shelters will require proof of current rabies and annual vaccinations or titers.

### **3. Prepare a disaster travel kit in case you must leave the area with your pet.**

This kit should include:

- Copies of Pet License, microchip, tattoo and/or ID, photos of pet (from all angles and with owner(s)), and plastic bag with proof of vaccination (see above)
- Proper size metal or plastic pet carrier
- Leashes and obedience aids
- Non-spill water and food bowls
- Pet foods, including special diets
- Motion sickness pills prescribed by your veterinarian, if needed
- Water in sanitized non-breakable containers
- Special medications, with instructions
- Special needs items for exotic pets, such as a heat source
- Newspapers, paper towels, handy-wipes, can openers
- flashlight, and blankets



### **4. Additional Information**

- Buy ample quantities of pet food and cat litter when you buy your own disaster supplies.
- Keep a supply of newspapers, plastic bags, cleaners, and disinfectants on hand to properly handle pet waste.
- Know your pets' favorite hiding places. Once the disaster strikes, you won't have time to look for them.
- Practice evacuation with your pets until you can evacuate in a few minutes. Make sure your pet disaster kit is easily accessible. Include your trustworthy neighbor in this plan.
- Obedience train your dog. Being well-behaved may save its life during a disaster and make it a welcome guest in an emergency animal shelter or pet-friendly motel.
- Familiarize your pet with riding in a vehicle. This will make evacuating with your pet much easier.

## Emergency Preparedness Guidelines for Pets (continued)

- Have current photographs of your pet, from all sides, especially those taken with you. These will help in identifying your pet. Consider sending these photos to out-of-state friends and relatives.
- Natural disasters, such as flash floods, hurricanes, or forest fires, and man-made problems such as gas explosions, leaking tank cars, and terrorist incidents can arrive with little, if any, warning. The type of disaster will determine whether to shelter in place or evacuate the area. Your county/local emergency management coordinator will have the most current updates and recommendations at the time of the disaster. This number can be found in the blue pages of your telephone book. By developing a disaster action plan for yourselves and your pets, you can improve the chances that all of you can make it through a disaster safely. If you are ever instructed to evacuate, please remember your pets.
- Include a favorite toy. Your pet will "feel" better with if they are able to play.
- Include an article of clothing with your scent on it. Your pet might need to be placed in a temporary shelter if you are unable to take them with you. If they can "smell your scent" they will probably do better when you are not with them.



### 5. What to Do When an All-Clear Sounds

- Once the all-clear has sounded and you and your pets return to your home, be careful about allowing your pets outdoors unattended and off-leash. The disaster may have altered familiar scents and landmarks and your pet could easily get confused and become lost.
- In addition, sharp objects, downed electric lines, fallen trees and other debris, or contaminated water could present real danger to your pet. Raccoons, skunks or other wild animals may have entered the area and could present danger to your pets.
- If any animals are lost during the disaster, contact veterinarians, humane societies, pet shelters, and other facilities that might house animals. Be prepared to identify and document ownership when claiming lost livestock. The United States Department of Agriculture Missing Pet Network at [www.missingpet.net](http://www.missingpet.net) may be of assistance.
- If you own horses, livestock, or poultry, you need to develop emergency evacuation plans for them also.

The information provided in this feature is provided by the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team (PA-SART). Appreciation is also extended to the New Jersey Animal Emergency Working Group for permission to utilize information from their pamphlet 'Plain Talk on Protecting Your Pets'.

For further information, check out [www.Ready.PA.gov](http://www.Ready.PA.gov) or [www.Ready.gov/animals](http://www.Ready.gov/animals)

PET DISASTER KIT CHECKLIST

DOCUMENTS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Photocopies of veterinary records	<input type="checkbox"/> Photocopies of registration information for kennel, boarding facility or adoption agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Rabies certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Microchip information (number and name of the facility)
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical summary	<input type="checkbox"/> Name and address of your family members and other people you may be staying with
<input type="checkbox"/> Medications for specific conditions	<input type="checkbox"/> Any descriptions (in brief, one sentence per page) of your family members and other people you may be staying with
<input type="checkbox"/> Most recent health care records	<input type="checkbox"/> Your contact information (name, address, phone numbers)
<input type="checkbox"/> Recent photographs for identification purposes (at least one per animal)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Kennel or boarding facility information (if applicable)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Name and address of your family members and other people you may be staying with	

**WATER, FOOD, MEDICATIONS**

<input type="checkbox"/> 2 week supply of food for each animal	<input type="checkbox"/> Medication instructions for each animal
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 week supply of water for each animal	<input type="checkbox"/> One month supply of flea and tick preventatives (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra food and water dishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Instructions for medications
<input type="checkbox"/> Leash, collar with ID, and other supplies	<input type="checkbox"/> Most recent health care records
<input type="checkbox"/> Toys	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate sized pet carrier (for travel, boarding, kenneling, short-term sheltering)
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra bedding and first aid kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning supplies (paper towels, disinfectant, dish soap)

**OTHER SUPPLIES**

<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee with R	<input type="checkbox"/> Antiseptic spray (for bites, scratches, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries (two sets)	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency spool (for power outages)
<input type="checkbox"/> Pet first aid book and first aid kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet first aid book and first aid kit

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

You can also download a Pet Disaster Kit Checklist from the Center for Disease Control by going to: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/resources/disaster-prep-pet-emergency-checklist.pdf>

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<input type="checkbox"/> Medical summary	<input type="checkbox"/> Name and address of your family members and other people you may be staying with
<input type="checkbox"/> Two described (in brief, one sentence per page) of your family members and other people you may be staying with	<input type="checkbox"/> Your contact information (name, address, phone numbers)
<input type="checkbox"/> Prescription for medications	<input type="checkbox"/> Recent photographs for each animal
<input type="checkbox"/> Most recent health care records	<input type="checkbox"/> Kennel or boarding facility information (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Recent photographs for identification purposes (at least one per animal)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Name and address of your family members and other people you may be staying with	

**WATER, FOOD, MEDICATIONS**

<input type="checkbox"/> 2 week supply of food for each animal	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-spill food and water containers (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 week supply of water for each animal	<input type="checkbox"/> Kennel or boarding facility information (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra food and water dishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning instructions for each animal
<input type="checkbox"/> Leash, collar with ID, and other supplies	<input type="checkbox"/> A .50 to 1.0 oz. (14.2 to 29.5 ml) rubber rubber bulb syringe
<input type="checkbox"/> Toys	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning supplies (paper towels, disinfectant, dish soap)
<input type="checkbox"/> Extra bedding and first aid kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries (two sets)

**OTHER SUPPLIES**

<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee with R	<input type="checkbox"/> Antiseptic spray (for bites, scratches, etc.)
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## Hurricane Season Begins June 1<sup>st</sup>



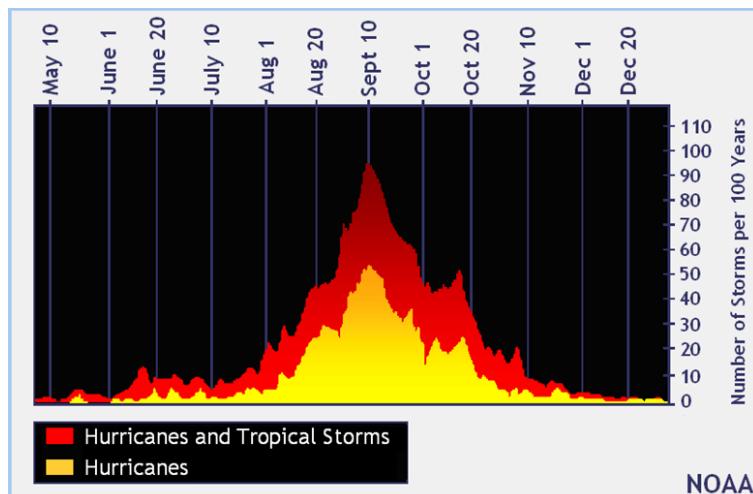
It's officially hurricane season! The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through November 30<sup>th</sup>. These next six months are the most typical times for hurricanes to form, and we need to pay close attention to the National Hurricane Center forecasts.

Names like Agnes, Lee, and Irene trigger vivid memories for many of roaring rivers and swollen streams of brown water leaving behind paths of destruction and mud. For Pennsylvania, our typical impacts from tropical systems come in the form of flooding from heavy tropical rain. However, we do experience strong tropical winds and tornado threats from land falling tropical systems before they eventually race away or slowly fizzle over the commonwealth.

Regardless of the hurricane hazard, there are ways you can prepare for all hazards. Always start with doing a risk analysis for your home and family, then develop and practice your plan. So, let's prepare for hurricanes. FEMA recommends the following SIX things to know before a disaster, which can help you develop your plan and preserve your property.

1. Know where your gas shutoff valve is located and learn how to shut off the gas before a flood or emergency. (Unsure? A call to your gas company can get you on your way.)
2. Know where your electrical shutoff is located and learn how to properly shut off power before a flood or emergency.
3. Make an emergency communications plan. Basics: Where to Go, What to Do, and How to Reconnect.
4. Make sure you have insurance. Check what it covers to ensure it meets your risk.
5. Plan for your pets. Identify pet friendly shelters.
6. Plan your evacuation routes. While we don't live along the coast, it's still good to develop several routes for safety should you need to leave your home.

Disasters don't plan ahead, but you can. Be sure to consider these important tips today before we have to deal with them tomorrow. Download the full FEMA [Hurricane Preparedness Guide here](#) (<https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1494007144395-b0e215ae1ba6ac1b556f084e190e5862/FEMA%202017%20Hurricane%20HTP%20FINAL.pdf>)



Hurricanes can form any month; however, they typically form after enough heat gathers in the tropical waters of the Atlantic basin, peaking in September.

For a clean copy of this graphic, click here: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/climo/images/peakofseason.gif>.

## PEMA is Social!

*Find us, visit us, like us, tweet us, retweet us!*



Twitter

<https://twitter.com/ReadyPA>

<https://twitter.com/PEMAdirector>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BeReadyPA>

## PEMA Can Also be Found on the Web!

*Be Informed, Be Prepared, and Be Involved!*



[www.Ready.PA.gov](http://www.Ready.PA.gov)



[www.pema.pa.gov](http://www.pema.pa.gov)

### Preparedness Events in June

#### National CPR/AED Awareness Month

<http://www.healthsafety.com/articles/june-cpr-aed-awareness-month>

#### Extreme Heat Awareness

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat>

or

<https://www.ready.gov/heat>

### Additional Resources

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency: [www.pema.pa.gov](http://www.pema.pa.gov)

ReadyPA: [www.Ready.PA.gov](http://www.Ready.PA.gov)

SERVPA: [www.Serv.PA.gov](http://www.Serv.PA.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Office of the State Fire Commissioner: [www.osfc.pa.gov](http://www.osfc.pa.gov)

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services: [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)

Pennsylvania Department of Health: [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov)

PA State Animal Response Team: [www.pasart.us](http://www.pasart.us)

PA Department of Transportation: [www.penndot.gov](http://www.penndot.gov)

PA511Connect: [www.511pa.com](http://www.511pa.com)

Pennsylvania State Police: [www.psp.pa.gov](http://www.psp.pa.gov)

# Are you ReadyPA?

ACTION SHEET

## What is in your Pet Preparedness Kit

A significant number of families have pets and they need to be ready for a disaster too. Below are items to have ready to go in your pet emergency kit.

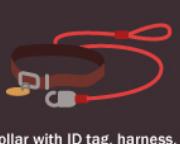
### What Goes in Your Pet Emergency Kit:



Food and water (3 days)  
bowls, manual can opener



Medicines, medical records,  
and first aid kit



Collar with ID tag, harness,  
or leash (include backups)



Crate or pet carrier



Plastic bags/litter for  
cleaning up after your pet



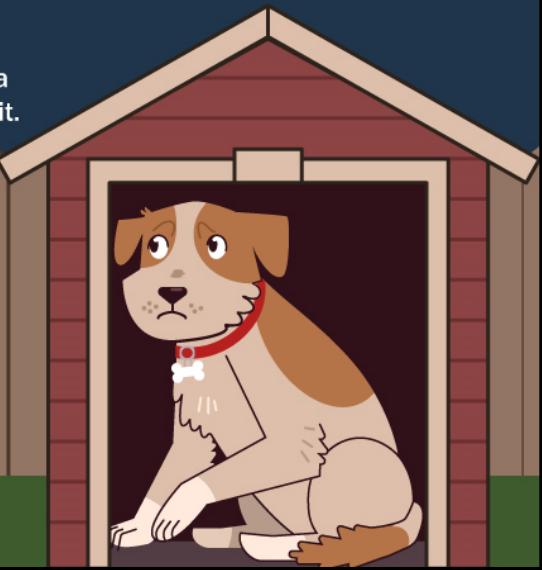
A picture of you and your  
pet together



Important documents:  
registration & vaccination



Familiar items: favorite toys,  
treats, and bedding



## PET EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Be prepared. Protect your pets.

### 1. GET A RESCUE ALERT STICKER.



These stickers are placed  
on a front-facing window,  
and will alert rescue workers  
of the presence of pets inside  
your home.

### 2. PUT TOGETHER AN EMERGENCY PET SUPPLY KIT



### 3. HAVE A LIST OF PET FRIENDLY HOTELS AND SHELTERS

Many emergency shelters during a disaster  
will not allow pets. Have a list of pet-friendly  
hotels along your evacuation route, or the  
contact information for a pet shelter you can  
drop your pet off at.



### 4. KEEP IDENTIFICATION ON YOUR PET AND AN EXTRA COPY IN THE EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT.



Micro chipping your pet is extremely  
beneficial to reuniting you with them in the  
event you are separated.

Place veterinarian, kennel, vaccination  
records, etc in waterproof bags.

In case you can't get home due to an  
emergency or illness, make sure your pets are  
taken care of. Cut out the card below and carry  
it in your wallet, purse, backpack, or leave it in  
your car to inform first responders or others  
about your pets at home that need cared for.

### Pet Emergency Card

I have an animal at home!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_



pennsylvania  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



List: Pet Names, Specie, Age, Medical Condition:

Pet #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet #5: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_