



DISASTER PLANNING FOR DOMESTIC PETS



The safety of your family pets depends on you, especially in an emergency. During severe weather or other emergency situations, if it is unsafe for you to stay in your home, it is also unsafe for your pets. Don't leave your pet behind and don't use your pet as an excuse not to evacuate.

The best plan is to identify a safe location that allows pets. Keep in mind that boarding kennels may be without electricity or potable water and have limited personnel and supplies for days to weeks following a disaster.

Don't put yourself, your family and your pet at risk!

You are responsible for planning for your pet. Just as you should prepare an emergency kit for yourself, you should also prepare one for your pet. If an evacuation is called for, take your pet-emergency kit with you wherever you go. The safety and successful evacuation of your family and pets depends on a good plan and being prepared with the proper supplies.

All of Sarasota County's evacuation centers are pet-friendly, but you must be prepared before you go. Bring a crate for your pet if you plan to stay in a Sarasota County evacuation center. If your pet is not accustomed to being confined, acclimate it to the crate before an emergency to help alleviate stress.

Sarasota County evacuation centers accept only domestic dogs and cats.

What to bring for your pets to an evacuation center:

- ☐ One week's supply of food (with can opener if necessary) and medication.
- ☐ Enough water for each pet for three days.
- ☐ Food and water bowls.
- ☐ Current vaccination records.
- ☐ Proper ID collar and rabies tag/license and leash.
- ☐ Carrier or cage (large enough for your pet to move around in).
- ☐ Cat litter, box (small enough to fit in cat carrier) and scooper.
- ☐ Plastic bags (for handling waste).
- ☐ Disinfectant and cleaning materials.
- ☐ Current photo of you with your pet (in case you're separated).
- ☐ A comfort item such as a favorite toy, blanket or treats.