

Small Animal First Aid Kit

First aid kits may contain the following items. Consult your veterinarian when assembling a kit for your pet.

- Antidiarrheal liquid or tablets
- Antibiotic ointment (wounds)
- Antibiotic eye ointment
- Bandage scissors
- Bandage tape
- Betadine
- Latex gloves
- Tourniquet
- Tweezers
- Isopropyl alcohol
- Eye rinse (sterile)
- Measuring spoons
- Cotton bandage rolls
- Cotton-tipped swabs
- Elastic bandage rolls
- Gauze pads and rolls
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Ice cream sticks (for splints)
- Liquid dish soap (mild wound cleanser)
- Nonadherent bandage pads
- Saline solution (rinsing wounds)
- Styptic powder (clotting agent)
- Syringe or eyedropper
- Thermometer (digital)
- Towel and washcloth



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HURRICANE GUIDELINES FOR PETS



**Lee
County
Animal
Services**



*Be prepared to protect your pets
when disaster strikes ...*



Tips for preparing your pet in case of a hurricane or disaster

Where to go

Many people have a disaster plan for themselves but forget to plan ahead for their pets. Waiting may mean it will be too late to protect them.



When you are buying plywood and stocking up on supplies also take time to ensure that you have everything your pets will need.

Your pets' best protection is to go with you if a hurricane is approaching. If they are left behind it may be quite sometime before rescuers or owners are allowed back into the area. Leaving your pets behind should be a last resort.

If you must evacuate, most human shelters do not accept pets other than service animals. Lee County has one Mandatory Evacuation Pet Shelter (M.E.P.S.) located at South Fort Myers High School. The shelter will be available for only those residents with dogs and cats living in mandatory evacuation areas. This should only be a last resort if you cannot execute your own hurricane plan. More information about the M.E.P.S. is available at www.LeeLostPets.com or by calling (239) 533-7387.

Planning ahead is the best idea. Check with friends and relatives outside the hurricane area to see if they can provide a place for you and your pets to stay. Also contact hotels and motels outside the area for pet-friendly lodging. Don't wait, as they will fill up quickly. Lee County Animal Services' web site, www.leelostpets.com, has a link to pet-friendly lodging throughout the state.

Hurricane items

Make sure pets are up-to-date on all vaccinations. This is extremely important due to the increased risk of

disease during a disaster. If you evacuate and board your pets, they will be required to have current vaccinations.

A microchip ID provides permanent identification and is the only way to guarantee your pet can be identified and returned to you if its tags are lost.

The following are items pet owners should have on hand before a hurricane strikes:

- Portable, impact resistant carriers for each pet. Even pets that get along may behave differently when under stress. Help your pet adjust to a carrier as part of routine training to reduce the stress of being confined. Place additional ID on the carrier.
- First aid kit
- Your pets' regular medications
- Health and vaccination records
- Food/water bowls
- Pet food (at least a one week supply) and a can opener
- Water in plastic bottles (at least a one week supply)
- Litter and litter boxes for cats
- Instructions on your pets' feeding schedules, diet, medications, and special needs
- Leashes and collars with current county licenses for pets that require a license (dogs, cats and ferrets). A waterproof ID tag with your name, address, and phone number will provide additional protection.
- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies
- Current color photos of your pets
- Familiar bedding and toys for comfort

Leaving Your Pets Behind



Leaving your pets at home alone will place them at greater risk. If you have no choice, however, the safest location for them is a room away from windows that will still provide ventilation. There should be access to high areas they can reach in case of flooding.

Do not confine dogs and cats in the same space. Keep small animals and birds safely caged. Leave them with enough food for at least a week, several gallons of water that will not easily be knocked over, and a dripping faucet if possible (such as the bathtub).

Place a notice on your front door advising what pets are in the house and where they are located. Provide a telephone number where you or a contact can be reached and the name and number of your veterinarian.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I leave my animals or board my pet at Lee County Animal Services?

No, Lee County Animal Services provides space for stray and lost animals. The number of animals entering the shelter increases dramatically during hurricanes and space is extremely limited.

Will Animal Services be open for regular services during the storm?

Yes, every effort is made to keep regular hours of operation during the storm, and if possible extended hours may be provided to allow owners to reclaim pets. Call 533-7387 for details.

How long are animals held after a storm?

Every effort will be made to hold animals as long as practical following the storm. Space is limited so owners are encouraged to reclaim their pets promptly. While Animal Services will make every effort to provide extended holding periods, there are no guarantees that space will be available to do so. Call 533-7387 for details.

Can I surrender my animal to Animal Services for possible adoption?

Animal Services accepts owner-surrendered pets on a space available basis only. However, during the storm there will be a lack of available space and the priority for space will go to stray and lost animals. The shelter must have enough space to hold strays.

Can I board my pets elsewhere in Lee County such as a kennel or veterinarian's office?

It may be possible, but only limited space may be available and certain requirements are established by each private facility. You must contact these private businesses yourself to see if space is available. (Please note most of these facilities are not built to be hurricane shelters.)



What are my options for my pet?

If possible, plan to evacuate to any area where the hurricane is not predicted to hit. Check if friends, relatives, boarding kennels, and hotels are able to house you and your pets. Lee County Animal Services' website, www.LeeLostPets.com, has a link

to pet-friendly lodging across the state. Just click on the link for **Hurricane Guidelines**. If you live on a barrier island or in a house or mobile home that is not structurally sound, check if you and your pets can stay with friends or relatives who live in a sturdier house.

What do I need if I evacuate with my pet?

Lee County Animal Services' website, www.LeeLostPets.com, has a list of supplies needed if you evacuate with your pets. Click on the link for **Hurricane Guidelines**. Remember, in addition to supplies such as carriers, food, etc., you will need your pet's medical records when traveling.

Is there a shelter that will accept pets?

The Lee County **Mandatory Evacuation Pet Shelter (M.E.P.S.)**, for dogs and cats only, will be located at South Fort Myers High School, 12040 Plantation Rd. However, residents must make their own emergency plans that include arrangements for evacuation and sheltering of family and pets. The shelter will be available only to residents under evacuation orders that are unable to seek alternative shelter. Monitor TV and radio stations to find out when the shelter will open.

Pet owners should be aware that there are risks whenever multiple pets are housed in close quarters. The most serious is the spread of disease. Vaccinations have to be administered in advance of exposure to provide protection. Check with your veterinarian about which vaccines are recommended for your pet and when they should be given to best protect your pet. Unfortunately even with the best precautions and care, pets in M.E.P.S. may be exposed to parasites, bacteria, viruses and other communicable conditions. The increased stress of mass housing and disaster conditions may

further compromise your pet's immune system and reduce the ability to fight off the exposure.

M.E.P.S. will be operated similar to people shelters and as such, registrations will not be taken. Pet owners are required to stay at the shelter but will be housed in separate areas. One family member will be assigned the task of tending to the pet at pre-assigned times. Pets must be removed when the shelter is officially closed. Additionally, pet owners must bring all of their own supplies.

What are the main dangers after a storm?

Make sure all pets are leashed when they go outside. Familiar territory and scents may be altered and pets may become confused. There may be exposure to hazards such as downed power lines, wild animals and floodwaters.

What should I do if I find a lost animal?

If you find a lost animal contact Lee County Animal Services at 533-7387 at once. Many well-intentioned residents hold onto lost pets they find and actually prevent owners from finding their pets. If you do not wish to leave the lost pet at the shelter you should bring it in to the shelter to be scanned for a Microchip ID that would identify the owner. You should also fill out a "Found Report" in case the owner comes to the shelter looking for the pet.

