

**ANIMAL PLANNING  
WORKING GROUP**

The Animal Planning Working Group was formed as a collaborative effort of the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine and the LSU AgCenter, the Louisiana Shelter Task Force, the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, and the United States Department of Agriculture. The Group was formed for the purpose of providing cooperation and coordination of efforts to anticipate and provide for the evacuation, sheltering and care of animals in emergencies and disasters, and relieve the consequences of such emergencies and disasters.



**Have a disaster plan in place so that this doesn't happen to you, your family, or your pets.**



**Help Your Pet Survive a Natural Disaster or Emergency**



**LOUISIANA ANIMAL  
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Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry,  
Office of Animal Health Services  
(225) 925-3980

*During State or National Emergencies*  
Animal Health Services Desk at the  
Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness  
(225) 925-7403

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**DISASTER  
PREPAREDNESS  
FOR PET OWNERS**

**Are You and Your Pet Prepared for an Emergency or Natural Disaster?**



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# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY



The population of Louisiana includes large numbers of people who live in areas that are vulnerable to emergencies and disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, severe storms, and hazardous materials incidents. Pet owners and working animals owners are concerned with the possibility that their animals could be killed or injured in emergencies and disasters. Many owners are so concerned that they would be reluctant to evacuate without their animals, thus putting their own lives in jeopardy.

Pets are not allowed inside emergency shelters for humans due to public health and safety reasons. In order to ensure your pet's safety, you must plan for its care and shelter in advance.

## DON'T WAIT FOR A DISASTER! PLAN AHEAD

- Find a place in your home suitable to keep your pet during an emergency. Look for a small room away from windows with a tile floor, like a utility room or bathroom.
- Decide on a location to take your pet if it becomes necessary to leave your home during an emergency. Contact boarding kennels, veterinary clinics, friends or relatives, and motels that take pets. You can contact the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association at (800) 524-2996 or (225) 928-5862 to find the names and locations of veterinary clinics that will house pets during emergencies for a fee.



- Be sure your pet has a collar with a current license tag, rabies tag and identification tag containing your name, animal's name, address and phone number.
- Take a picture of your pet. Make note of its markings.
- Have a leash and a pet carrier or portable kennel on hand for each pet. Familiarize your pet with the carrier.
- Acquire non-spill water and food bowls and stock up on pet food.
- Stock up on items to handle pet wastes, such as newspapers, plastic bags, and cleansers.
- Have extra copies of your pet's immunization and medical records.

## WHEN DISASTER STRIKES!

- Listen to the emergency broadcast station on your radio to located pet care providers offering services during the disaster.
- If you take your pet with you, bring along the items you acquired before the disaster (e.g., food, medical records, pet carrier, leash, etc.).
- If you have to leave your home and must leave your pet, bring the pet indoors, leave only dry pet food, do not leave treats or supplements, leave water in a sturdy container (e.g., fill the bathtub and leave the toilet seats up), never leave a cat with a dog, even if the two are normally friendly, and place difficult or dangerous animals in sturdy crates or cages.



## AFTER THE DISASTER

- Be careful allowing your pet outdoors. Severe weather can alter scents and landmarks, and your pet could become confused and lost. Also, dangers could be present outdoors, such as downed power lines and wild animals.
- If your pet is lost during a disaster, contact local veterinary clinics, kennels, animal control facilities, and humane societies. Also call the national lost pet hotline at 1-900-535-1515 (this is a charge call).
- If you find a pet, contact the local humane society, any emergency numbers for reporting lost pets that have been set up during the disaster, and the national found pet hotline at 1-800-755-8111.

*This brochure prepared by the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness, and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry.*

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