



GREATvine



A newsletter for Greyhounds and the people who love them

Volume 11, Issue 3

June 2006



Special Hurricane Edition by Kelly Faircloth

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The storms of 2004 and 2005 have changed the way that our nation views hurricane season, especially residents of Florida and the entire Gulf coast. Gone are the days we can comfortably assume that our state will be spared... Charlie, Frances, Jeanne, Ivan, Katrina and Wilma taught us that.

Hurricane Katrina taught us something else as well. Companion animals, long viewed as a low priority by emergency planners, **MUST** be considered when developing plans for our families and communities. Many people who perished during Hurricane Katrina didn't leave because they refused to leave their pets behind, and emergency shelters and public transport to those shelters have historically not allowed animals, forcing those who must evacuate to make a terrible choice.

We won't soon forget the images on our television sets of dogs trapped on rooftops, cats clinging to window sills, and the despair of those who were told they must head for safety and they must abandon their pets. The lessons of Katrina taught us all so much about the unpredictability of hurricanes, the importance of having plans set in place well in advance of an approaching storm, and the necessity of making sure that we include our pets when making our emergency plans.



A frightened dog slowly approaches a rescue worker in New Orleans after being left behind when the city was evacuated because of Hurricane Katrina. Win Henderson, Photographer / Reprinted with permission from FEMA

Several members of GREAT have taken advantage of classes offered by the Humane Society of the United States, United Animal Nations, FEMA and local community training to teach us how to plan for disasters. Some of our members have been involved in response teams, heading to areas stricken by disasters to help rescue, care for and find places for displaced animals until they can be reunited with family members or placed in new homes. We encourage everyone to learn as much as they can, and this edition of the GREATvine is devoted to helping our members make plans in the event of an approaching hurricane, wildfire, hazardous spill or any other incident that involves the health and safety of their families, pets and homes. While this information is written for GREAT members, we encourage you to share the information with family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. Together, we can take steps to keep our communities safe for all of us, including our pets.

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Developing a Disaster Plan

When we begin to think about preparing a personal disaster plan, it seems like it should be relatively simple... just buy flashlights, extra batteries, some canned food and bottled water, and of course, don't forget the duct tape. But when you begin to consider all of the possible scenarios, especially in light of the past two years, you begin to realize that there's a lot more to it than that. According to the "Are You Ready?" publication available on FEMA's website, there are several steps to designing a family disaster plan:

- ◆ Learn about the potential hazards that can affect your family, your pets and your home
- ◆ Develop an emergency plan
- ◆ Assemble a disaster kit
- ◆ Learn where to seek shelter
- ◆ Learn about community warning systems and evacuation routes
- ◆ Practice and maintain your plan

Although the first thing anyone in Florida thinks about when discussing disaster plans is hurricanes, there are other disasters that can occur - wildfires, severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hazardous substance incidents, terrorist incidents, etc. Each type of hazard may require a different type of action, and for those with pets, the situation is even more complicated. Therefore, the development of your emergency plan should contain information about where you could go with your pets, even if you don't reside in a hurricane evacuation zone. It's better to have the information ahead of time and never need it, than to scramble for it at the last minute.

Your emergency plan should include actions that you take around your home, such as turning off your utilities before you leave and establishing a communication plan so that in the event your entire family is not together when the emergency occurs, you'll be able to reach each other, even if through a third party. Your plan should also include making sure you have proper documentation of insurance policies, medical records, and property inventory records, and that copies of this documentation are located with someone not in the area that wouldn't be affected by the emergency. Pictures of you with your pets are a good idea too, so that you have proof of ownership should your pets become lost and their ID removed. Money is important too. If the power is out, ATM machines don't work, so a small stash of cash can be a real lifesaver.

Your disaster kit is very important. The general rule of thumb was to have enough supplies on hand to be self-sufficient for three days. Hurricane Katrina changed all that, and now the suggestion is to have enough items to sustain you for at least one week, and two weeks is better. This means 1 gallon of water per day per person as a MINIMUM, along with what your pets will need. Very hot conditions increase the need for water, and this is one area where you don't want to skimp. Keep in mind that you may not be able to buy bottled water for several days and tap water may be shut off or be contaminated. Non-perishable food (not too salty, since that will just make you thirsty), pet food, human and pet medications, and the all important can opener are all musts. You may want to consider a small propane camping stove, but be sure to only use outside in a well-ventilated area. Do consider rotating your supplies often in order to maintain freshness, and you'll need a storage place that is easily accessible and protected from heat, sunlight, flooding, etc.

We learned during the 2004 hurricane season when many of us were without power that mosquito repellent was absolutely necessary for disaster kits. And there are now battery-operated fans that can make a big difference in how comfortable you and your pets are until electricity is restored. If you have a generator, please use every precaution when using it. They can be very dangerous if used improperly. Since they must be outside, you may want to consider a long length of very sturdy chain and a padlock in order to prevent theft. Please make sure you don't position a generator too close to an open window... one of the biggest generator stories in 2004 was the family in New Tampa who almost lost their 3 children due to the generator which was outside in the driveway, but too close to the slightly open garage door.

If you live in an area where you must evacuate, you are probably aware that Red Cross shelters do not allow pets, and the counties where we all live are in the infancy of planning pet-friendly shelters. It's best to make plans now to stay with family, friends, at a pet-friendly hotel or one of GREAT's wonderful "emergency evacuation" families so that you can keep your pets safe with you. They will be much happier, and so will you.

For much more detailed information about personal disaster planning and recovery from disaster, please check out www.fema.gov/areyouready. You can download the entire publication or order a copy from the website, or simply view the information online.



Disaster Preparedness Checklist

Adapted from FEMA's Animals in Disaster training course & "Are You Ready" publication as well as WFLA's Storm Team website, these steps and items will be necessary whether or not you are evacuating or sheltering at home. If you do plan to evacuate, please do it early - the last place you want to be when disaster strikes is sitting in an interstate traffic jam:

Before the storm:

- Automobiles maintained, gas tanks full
- Cash & credit cards available, including dimes & quarters for pay phones
- Items for securing windows and doors (plywood, storm barriers, sandbags, etc.)
- Locations of utility shut-off points noted
- Trim trees
- Check smoke detectors
- Determine your evacuation zone
- Mobile home residents - prepare to evacuate no matter what zone you live in
- List of emergency phone numbers (hospitals, electric companies for downed wires, etc.)

Personal items for you and your family:

- Clothing & bedding if evacuating
- Water (minimum of 1 gallon per person per day, for 3-7 days. Include extra for cleaning, etc.)
- Ready to eat non-perishable foods (meats, fruit, vegetables, peanut butter, etc.)
- Canned or boxed milk, juice or soup
- Cereal, powdered milk
- Granola bars, trail mix, crackers
- Medication (prescription, pain relief, stomach upset, allergy, etc.)
- Vitamins
- Special foods for those on special diets
- Coffee, cookies, etc.
- Hygiene items (toothbrushes & paste, soap, feminine supplies, toilet paper, insect repellent, contact solution, towelettes, deodorant, etc.)

Items for coping during and after storms, etc.:

- Batteries, all sizes needed, lots of extras
- Portable battery operated radio or television
- NOAA weather radio
- Cell phones & car chargers, car inverters (to plug in laptops, other items)
- Generators, gas to power them (must use outside in well-ventilated area)
- Flashlights

(Continued on page 4)



Disaster Preparedness Checklist *continued*

(Continued from page 3)

- Matches in waterproof container
- Tools
- Duct tape & Scissors
- Tarps
- Fire Extinguisher
- Can opener
- Bleach
- Plastic bags, all sizes, including resealable bags
- Small camp cooking stove with fuel (use ONLY outside)
- Games, books, toys for kids

Administrative information:

- Written family disaster plan (see page 2)
- Personal ID
- Extra house & car keys
- Cash & Credit Cards
- Emergency Contact Info (include out of state contacts)
- Important Documents in water-proof containers (insurance policies, deeds, wills, medical records)
- Household inventory (written, photographs, video)

For pets:

- Food, water (get plenty), manual can opener and dishes
- Crate and bedding
- Plastic bags, paper towels, newspaper (when shredded, can be used as cat litter), disinfectant
- Collars, leashes, harnesses
- Muzzles
- ID tags
- Current medical and vaccination records
- Extra bottles of medications, copies of current prescriptions (not expired)
- Current photos of your pets WITH you
- Pet comfort items: towels, blankets, toys
- A list of hotels, motels and kennels that accept pets
- Detailed instructions for animal care and rescue workers
- First aid kit (see pages 4 & 5)

This is just a guideline, but hopefully it will help you to prepare your own checklist, suitable for your family's needs.



Canine First Aid Kit

By Anne McGuire. Copyright (1995)©. May be reprinted for distribution free of charge and for educational purposes only.

This article appeared in the January 2003 issue of the GREATvine, and contains very useful information. Please consider printing this information and keeping it in a handy spot.

Assembling a canine first aid kit for home or travel use is fairly simple. In fact, it's pretty easy to assemble a kit that will serve both human and canine members of your family! Before reading further, know that I am NOT a veterinarian. The contents of my first aid kit were assembled using common sense and my experiences with my own dogs. Dosage information listed here comes from the Merck Manual or from my own veterinarian.

*****PLEASE consult your own vet about appropriate uses and doses before giving your dog any of these medications. Also be sure to become familiar with the side effects and adverse reactions before using any of these medications -- while they are considered fairly safe and are not prescription medications, there may be some dogs (like greyhounds) that will react badly to some of these drugs.*****

The first thing you need for a good first aid kit is a suitable container. On the outside, with permanent marker, label the box "First Aid" on all sides -- in an emergency someone else might have to locate and use this kit. Tape a card that lists the following information to the inside of the box lid:

- your name, address, phone #
- name & phone # of someone to contact, in an emergency, who will take care of your dogs if you are incapacitated
- your dogs' names and any information about any medications they take, any allergies or significant medical conditions
- name & phone # of your vet

Also tape to the inside of the box lid a card with a list of common medications, their general dosages, and the specific dose for the weights of your own dogs. For example:

- Benadryl 1-2 mg per pound, every 8 hrs
- aspirin 5 mg per pound every 12 hrs
- hydrogen peroxide to induce vomiting: 1-3 teaspoons every 10 minutes until dog vomits
- Pepto Bismol 1 teaspoon per 5 pounds per 6 hours
- Kaopectate 1 ml per 1 pound per 2 hours
- Immodium 1 mg per 15 pounds 1-2 times daily



(NOTE: List the actual doses needed for your OWN dog's weights. This way they are quickly and easily available and you don't have to be searching for a calculator or trying to recall from memory when your dog needs medication.)

NEVER EVER give Tylenol (toxic to liver) or ibuprofen (Nuprin, Motrin, Advil, etc.). Ibuprofen is very toxic and fatal to dogs at low doses. Only aspirin is safe for dogs, and buffered aspirin or ascriptin is preferred to minimize stomach upset. Check with your vet to confirm dosages before using. If symptoms persist, consult your vet ASAP -- do NOT continue to try to treat at home, the problem might be more serious than you think! Give liquid medications using an oral syringe tucked into the side of the dog's mouth, holding jaws closed (rather than poking straight down the throat and risking getting liquid into the lungs.)

It's also a good idea to keep copies of your dog's vaccination records, including a copy of the Rabies Certificate, in the First Aid kit, or in a packet in your car. I keep packets with shot records, what heartworm preventative the dogs get and which day of the month it should be given, emergency contact information, and my vet's name and phone number, in EACH car, and in my dog show equipment bag. Also, the emergency contact and vet information are clearly posted on my refrigerator door at home where anyone who needs it can find the information. You never know when you may be incapacitated in an accident and your dogs may be in the hands of a complete stranger who will need this information.

Be sure to clearly LABEL all medications and supplies with their name and expiration date. Replace medications that may have exceeded their recommended expiration date. Go through your kit at least once a year, replacing expired medications, replenishing used supplies, etc. We do this right before going on vacation with the dogs, so we know the kit is updated and complete when we are traveling and away from close veterinary care.



*(Continued from page 5)***THINGS TO PUT IN THE FIRST AID KIT**

- cotton gauze bandage wrap - 1.5 inch width, 3 inch width
- Vet Wrap -- 2 inch width, and 4 inch width (4 inch is sold for horses)
- first aid tape
- cotton gauze pads
- regular band aids
- cotton swabs or Q-tips
- Benadryl
- ascriptin (buffered aspirin)
- Pepto Bismol tablets
- New Skin liquid bandage (useful for patching abrasions on pads)
- oral syringes (for administering liquid oral medicines, getting ear drying solution into ears, etc...very useful!)
- needle & thread
- safety pins in several sizes
- razor blade (paper wrapped for protection)
- matches
- tweezers
- hemostat (useful for pulling ticks, thorns, large splinters, etc)
- small blunt end scissors
- canine rectal thermometer (get one made specifically for dogs)
- antibiotic ointment (such as Bacitracin, Betadine, or others)
- Eye rinsing solution (simple mild eye wash)
- small bottle of 3% hydrogen peroxide
- small bottle of isopropyl alcohol (rubbing)
- alcohol or antiseptic wipes (in small individual packets)
- small jar of Vaseline
- specific medications YOUR dog may need (for allergies, seizures, etc.)
- *Otomax (ointment for ear infections)
- *Chlorasone eye ointment (or a similar cortisone-antibiotic eye ointment)
- *Gentocin topical spray
- hydrocortisone topical spray (such as Cortaid brand)
- ear cleaning solution (Nolvasan Otic, Epi-Otic, or your favorite)
- Epsom salts
- Hot spot remedy, such as EMT Gel (www.emtgel.com)



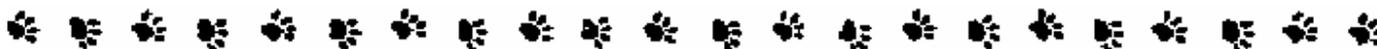
Those supplies preceded by a "*" must be obtained from a veterinarian. All other supplies can be purchased, over the counter, at any drug store. Several dog supply catalogs, such as Drs. Foster & Smith, offer a variety of medical and first aid supplies.

For good canine first aid descriptions and instructions: [Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook](#), by D.G. Carlson and J.M. Giffin

For more detail: [The Merck Veterinary Manual](#), C.M. Fraser et al. (editors)

If in doubt, see your vet! Your dog's health is too precious to play guessing games! Remember, first aid is just that -- the "first" aid given as you get the patient to a doctor for proper medical attention.

Editor's Note: I have often found my Canine First Aid kit to be useful for people too! For example, EMT gel is awesome on paper cuts, and when I couldn't find a band-aid for a blister, a bit of gauze and some vet wrap did the job quite well.



No Pets Left Behind - the PETS Act

excerpted from The Scoop, an e-newsletter from Animalsheltering.org & Humane Society University

The images are all too familiar: A child is forced to give up his cat to board an evacuation bus. A woman refuses to leave her flooding home without her dog. A man floats on a makeshift raft for days with his pets because he refuses to be rescued without them.

These images are permanently fused into our minds after Hurricane Katrina. Animal welfare professionals and volunteers didn't just watch these events unfold on television and in the newspapers; they experienced them firsthand as so many went to the Gulf region to help with animal rescues and sheltering. Many ultimately transported animals from the temporary shelters in Louisiana and Mississippi back to their own communities to make room for more animals to be rescued, and many then worked diligently to reunite the animals with their people.

As this year's hurricane season approaches, Congress is considering legislation designed to help keep pets and people together in future emergency situations. The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS Act, H.R. 3858 and S. 2548), introduced by Tom Lantos (D-CA) and Chris Shays (R-CT) in the House of Representatives and by Ted Stevens (R-AK) and Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) in the Senate, calls for pets and service animals to be included in local and state disaster plans. The House of Representatives passed H.R. 3858 on May 22 with a vote of 349 to 24.

Just as the animal welfare community came together to help animals during the disaster, we can come together now to ensure that animals in the next disaster can stay with their families. Passage of the PETS Act is critical to ensuring that state and local emergency and preparedness authorities get the funding and support required to accommodate the needs of pets, service animals, and people. You can contact your Senators and Representatives and encourage your community members to do the same by using the following link: https://community.hsus.org/campaign/FED_2006_PETS2.

Tax Free Days

It's not too late to get your hurricane supplies tax-free! Florida's sales tax free period for hurricane readiness began on 5/21/06 and ends at midnight on 6/1/06. The tax exemption applies to the following items:

- Portable self-powered light source
- Battery powered flashlights
- Battery & gas powered lanterns
- Gas or diesel fuel containers
- Batteries, specific sizes only **
- Coolers & Ice chests, non-electrical
- Cell phone chargers
- Cell phone batteries
- Radios (self or battery powered)
- Tarpis
- Ground anchor systems
- Bungee cords
- Ratchet straps
- Storm shutter devices
- Generators

For a complete list of items that are included in the sales tax exemption, or for information on items packaged together, mail order items, who to call with questions or disputes, etc., please go to www.myflorida.com/dor and click on one of the links in the Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday section, located in the blue box in the middle of the page.

GREAT Crates

We have a limited supply of used XL plastic airline crates for sale for \$35. This is an excellent way to get a wonderful deal on these crates which retail for \$70 or more, and they can be very useful in emergency situations. All proceeds go towards supporting our efforts to assist greyhounds in need, so it's a win-win situation for all!

If you are interested in purchasing one of these crates, please contact us at GREATinfo@great-greyhound.org, but please don't delay - there are only a few available!

Members Helping Members

If you are in an area where you will not have to evacuate during a hurricane and are willing to serve as an emergency foster home for a current foster parent that must evacuate and cannot take the foster dog along, please contact us at GREATinfo@great-greyhound.org.

Likewise, if you are willing to take in a fellow GREAT member family and pets that must evacuate, please do let us know. During the 2004 hurricane season, we were very grateful to have several families that extended a welcome to those who needed to evacuate!

Last but not least, if you find yourself needing assistance after the storm (fence repair, etc.) OR you are available to help our members after a storm, please let us know!

