

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NAPPS Advises Animal Lovers about Emergency Planning Essentials**

*Pet parents and sitters alike should prepare ahead of time for unexpected situations*

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. – If you were faced with a sudden disaster, would you be ready and able to act in your pets' best interests? The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, is raising awareness about the importance of developing plans to ensure emergency preparedness accounts for your pets' well-being.

NAPPS' Emergency Planning Committee has created a 19-page emergency planning guide that includes specific recommendations for monitoring and coping with tornadoes, thunderstorms, hurricanes, floods, winter storms, extreme heat, wildfires, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes. The manual is available for free download by visiting [www.petsitters.org](http://www.petsitters.org).

“We can't always predict when emergencies – whether severe weather or ‘man-made’ disasters – will arise, but we *can* do our best to be organized and thorough in our response to them,” said NAPPS President Monica Leighton. “Establishing plans to prepare for, mitigate and respond to urgent situations is essential for the safety of your entire family, including furry, feathery or four-legged members.”

While the appropriate actions vary depending on the specific emergency, several responses are applicable to most situations, and include:

- Completing pet identification forms for each animal in the household;
- Familiarizing yourself with local (county, state, etc.) emergency plans;
- Crating pets before they are able to sense danger, so they are unable to seek hiding places that would make catching them challenging; and
- Providing plenty of TLC to pets after the emergency has passed.

Given the importance of pet identification, NAPPS also reminds pet parents and sitters that the most important thing you can do for your pets is purchase simple identification tags; however, since even the best collars can slip off, NAPPS recommends considering the Microchip as a back-up.

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**About NAPPS:** NAPPS is the only national non-profit member association for full pet sitters, dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals. The association aims to assist pet-owners, those interested in pet sitting, and professionals engaged in the in-home pet care industry by fulfilling its vision statement, “To be the most respected authority in professional pet sitting.” It does so by providing the tools and support to foster the success of its members. Additionally, pet parents can benefit from NAPPS' free resources including a disaster preparedness guide, tips on how to select a pet sitter, nationwide referral service, and quarterly teleconferences aimed to educate the pet owning public. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS' nationwide “Pet Sitter Locator” at [www.petsitters.org](http://www.petsitters.org). For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](https://twitter.com/TheNAPPS) on Twitter or find them on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TheNAPPS](https://www.facebook.com/TheNAPPS).

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