

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NAPPS Provides Hurricane Preparation Advice
Throughout the 2010 Hurricane Season**
Disaster Preparation is Essential for Pet Parents

Natural disasters often leave a path of devastation, and with the beginning of the 2010 Hurricane Season, disaster preparation is essential for these potentially life-changing events. The National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), a national non-profit dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals, is encouraging pet parents facing the possibility of a hurricane to take precautions to protect the lives of their pets.

“Hurricane Katrina gave us a clear indication that we need to have a plan to help household pets in such dangerous hurricanes,” states Monica Leighton, President of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS). “Preparation can save lives.”

Hurricanes usually strike coastal areas, but may also affect inland regions. They begin as tropical depressions (low-pressure center), progress to become tropical storms and finally hurricanes. Tornadoes may develop as a hurricane passes.

When preparing for a hurricane, it is important to create an emergency supply kit for your pet, including a pet identification form with photos, microchip number, shot records, food, water, veterinarian and emergency contact information (including one contact outside of the emergency area,) first aid supplies, and a three-week supply of medications. Keep the emergency kit in a sealed, waterproof bag or container.

Determine sheltering options for you and your animals — consider the following in your area and within a 100-mile radius. Keep in mind that some sheltering options could reach full capacity and a second or third option might be necessary.

- Motels/hotels/shelters that allow pets.
- Boarding kennels.
- Veterinary offices with boarding facilities.
- Grooming shops.
- Dog or horse race track, and approved areas at fairgrounds or parks.

Other tips

- Set up a buddy system with friends or relatives outside your area where an animal can be safely evacuated.
- Do not leave animals behind, even if you are not sure where to take them.
- Do not attempt to evacuate during a hurricane — stay indoors, in windowless rooms or hallways. Keep your small animals in carriers or confined areas.
- After the hurricane, dispose of perishable, contaminated or water-soaked pet foods. This will ensure stray or wild animals are not attracted.

- If there is a “boil water order” in effect, do not drink or give animals tap water unless you know it is safe. Official notices will be given about the safety of the water supply.
- Avoid loose or dangling wires, and report them to the power company. Inspect areas where animals are kept for loose wires.
- Make any temporary repairs necessary to prevent further losses, including repair to fencing needed to keep animals confined. Ensure substantially damaged structures are elevated above the base flood elevation or relocated when reconstructed.

NAPPS provides a [comprehensive guide to disaster preparation](#) for pet parents at its website. The guide includes disaster preparation tips, pet identification forms, disaster preparation checklists, and preparation information for specific natural disasters.

In addition to disaster preparation, NAPPS equips pet parents with the tools to face everyday pet emergencies through its [pet parent resource page](#) on its website.

About NAPPS: NAPPS is a national non-profit trade association dedicated to promoting the welfare of animals. The Association aims to help the pet owning public, 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. For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](#) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

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