

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAPPS Provides Safety Tips to Pet Parents in Tornado-Stricken Areas

NAPPS Offers Pet Parents Tips for Tornado Safety

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. March 13, 2012 – In only a year’s time, 1,600 tornados hit the United States, forcing thousands of people and their pets to overcome the tragedy and recover from the disastrous effects a tornado brings with its mighty wind. To help prepare pet parents in tornado-stricken areas, the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS), offers proactive safety tips to help minimize the impact of the natural disasters.

“Tornados are unavoidable and can be extremely harmful to people and animals. The key to staying safe and increasing the likelihood of a positive outcome is to be prepared,” said John D’Ariano, President of NAPPS. “Establishing a safety plan for weather emergencies will help reduce panic when the storm hits. An animal will feel more comfortable and safe if their pet parent is displaying calm behavior.”

If there is a thunderstorm watch, you should take the necessary measures to protect yourself and your pets. Many animals, especially dogs, can hear thunderstorms before humans can. They hide and vocalize, which shows their anxiety. Horses have been known to run frantically around pastures.

Severe thunderstorm conditions may include heavy rain, lightning or damaging winds close to 60mph, and hail reaching a diameter of 0.75 inches.

For pet parents in high or moderate risk areas of tornados and other harmful storms, NAPPS offers these tips to increase safety:

- Identify a group of volunteer spotters who watch the sky during threatening weather and report signs of a tornado to local emergency management officials, the regional office of the National Weather Service and local farmers.
- Designate a safe area in or near your home to shelter your family and animals in a severe thunderstorm. Teach family members what to do in a storm if they are at home, outside or in a car, including how to relocate animals to safe locations.
- If you have animals that get nervous and pose a safety risk in thunderstorms, contact your veterinarian for advice on how to mitigate this situation.
- The best preparation for a tornado is to designate a tornado shelter for yourself and your animals. Tornado shelters are safest if they are underground — a storm cellar or basement away from windows offers the best protection.
- If your home has no basement, stay in the center of the house away from the windows or in a small room on the ground floor away from outside walls. Take cover under solid furniture or mattresses. Protect your head.
- Do not drive. If you are driving and spot a tornado, get out of your car and go into a nearby building or ditch and take your animals with you. Protect your head and stay low to the ground.

- Know the location of the designated shelter where you work or go to school. If you frequently travel with your dog in the car, keep a leash in the vehicle at all times in case you have to vacate the car during a tornado.

NAPPS provides a comprehensive guide to disaster preparation for pet parents at its website: <http://bit.ly/wrPOip>

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, serving as “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](https://twitter.com/TheNAPPS) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

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