

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
[DATE]

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
[NAMES AND NUMBERS]

[AREA AFFECTED] Residents Urged to Take Pets with Them as [DISASTER] Prompts Evacuations

[CITY, State] — Intro Paragraph explaining disaster situation, which areas are at risk and urging those people to take their pets with them in case of evacuation.

Quote from local official or shelter director urging residents to plan ahead for their pets in an emergency, providing specific local information, etc.

Standard emergency preparedness language:

All pet owners are urged to keep a pet emergency supply kit, which should include the following:

- Three-or-more-day supply of food in airtight, water proof container and drinking water.
- Bowls for food and water.
- Current photos and physical description of your pets, including details on markings.
- Medications, vaccination records (especially rabies records) and first aid pet supplies.
- Comfort items such as a toy and blanket.
- Small garbage bags.
- For dogs —include a leash, harness and a sturdy carrier large enough to use as a sleeping area.
- For cats include a litter box and litter as well as a sturdy carrier large enough for transport.

If officials call for an evacuation, pet owners should be aware that many evacuation shelters do not accept pets, and they must plan their destination in advance. Many hotels, motels, campsites and other facilities around the country now allow pets. Check out AAA or www.petswelcome.com to find a list of those in your area. Hotels and motels may be willing to lift "no pet" restriction in an emergency. Friends and family members living outside the area may be able to provide shelter too. (Please check with your local animal shelter or emergency management office to determine if a pet-friendly emergency shelter will be set up in your location.)

More than 358 million pets reside in 63 percent of American households. A Zogby International poll found that 61 percent of pet owners will not evacuate if they cannot bring their pets with them.

For more tips on preparedness plans that include your pets, visit http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources/disaster_preparedness_for_pets.html or www.ready.gov.

[DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION, MISSION STATEMENT, WEB SITE, ETC.]