



Hurricane Preparedness For Your Dogs

By Heidi Herriott

Summer is upon us and that means hurricane season in Florida. Of course, memories of last year's devastating storms bring a great deal of anxiety. It is not uncommon for people to consider riding out the storm because they do not want to have to evacuate with their pets or leave them behind. Consider the following...

The starting point for me is always training! If your dog is well trained and comfortable in their kennel, this will go a long way towards making a difficult time much easier for both you and your pets. If you have not already done so, embark on a basic training program with your dog(s). Trainers can assist you, or you can undertake this on your own. A great option is the AKC Canine Good Citizen program. They have wonderful resources and tutorials online. Search "[Training Resources – American Kennel Club](#)"

Why am I talking about training when this should be about preparing for a hurricane? Because helping your dog through any type of issue will always be easier with a well-trained, well-adjusted pet. When I train for others as a professional dog trainer, I insist that kennel training be part of the program. A dog who is comfortable in their kennel will go a long way towards making an evacuation easier for both you, your dog, and the potential caretakers involved along the way. Many people do not evacuate because their dogs are not kennel trained, and pet friendly shelters require your pet to be in their kennel. Realistically, this is the **ONLY** way they can manage these shelters. You will not necessarily be allowed to be with your pet. If they are kennel trained, and well mannered, they are going to do very well in these situations. Not evacuating because of your pets can put first responders at risk, so one should consider this very carefully and thoughtfully.

- Well trained, kennel trained pets will be much easier to deal with in a hotel or friend's home.
- They will have much less anxiety during a stressful time
- If someone else must care for them, it should not be a problem
- If you are housebound during the storm, make a potty area inside of mulch, sand, litter, etc.
- Write their name and your number on their collar
- Ensure all their vet records are up to date and with the kennel. Digital copies on your phone
- Check the county website for more great info about pets and storms
- And Remember! ***Training your dog is the most responsible and loving thing you can do to secure their well-being for life!***

<https://heidiherriott.com/dog-training>



Heidi Herriott Animal Training