

## *During the hurricane: evacuating the island*

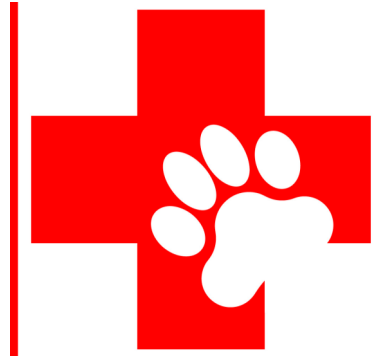
- If you should have to evacuate without your pets, fill the bathtub with water, place the toilet seat up, and ensure that pet food is accessible
- Again, make sure that your pets have the proper identification (i.e., a microchip)
- If you are called upon to evacuate 24-48 hrs in advance, call friends, family, or an animal rescue shelter to see if you may board your pet there



## *After the hurricane: staying on the island*

- Secure your home; after storms animals may become disoriented and wander off, or try to escape
- Take your pet on a long, calming walk and familiarise him/her with what may be new surroundings
- After a disaster, animals can become aggressive or defensive. Monitor their behaviour, especially if you have children
- If your pets escape or cannot be found after the hurricane, contact the CIDOA to find out where lost animals may be claimed. Have a recent photograph or identification (e.g. microchip) papers on hand

The Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture will be open to assist with export and import permit processing up until the very last moment during a hurricane; as long as conditions are deemed to be safe. We can be contacted on our emergency mobile number at 916 2218, or on the main landline at 947 3090 while phone lines remain functional.



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## *PET SAFETY:*

*What to do  
before, during,  
and after  
a hurricane*



It is always a good idea to be prepared for any situation or series of events. In terms of hurricane preparedness, many of us have pets to consider, along with our familial needs and possessions. As past hurricanes have shown us, we may not have the option of taking pets with us to hurricane shelters. The information within this brochure should assist you with making the best plan for you and your pet, regardless of your particular circumstances.

### *Before the hurricane: planning to remain on island*

- Contact your Veterinarian or the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture (CIDOA) regarding current information, vaccinations or special precautions required in case of a disaster
- Make sure your pet is micro-chipped, as collars and tags can be ripped off during a disaster or panicked flight
- Have a current photograph of your pet, and a list of identifying features just in case you have to identify your pet (store in a watertight container)
- Make sure you stock up on pet food (marked with name for each animal), cat litter, and have a pet first aid kit\* in case of any injuries
- Keep all current vaccination, allergy, and current medicinal information in a watertight container (Ziploc Bag). Have your veterinarian's phone number in the container

- Have a carrier ready should you need to evacuate and are able to take your pet
- Keep a collar with identification on your pet (address, phone number etc.), and a leash on hand to control your pet (muzzles, should your animal become panicky or distressed)
- Have clean-up items such as bleach, newspapers, plastic bags, paper towels, and grooming items

\*First aid kit should include: Current medications your pets may be on (labelled with pets name), bandages, thermometer, splints, hydrocortisone cream/spray, medicated shampoo (in case of chemical spills) and burn cream.



### *Before the hurricane: planning to leave the island*

- **PLAN AHEAD!!** The Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture has strict guidelines for importing your animals back into the island. Make sure your animal is compliant should you have to leave and want to return (this process takes months so prepare prior to hurricane season).

- Find out if the Humane Society, any of the rescue shelters/pet hotels, friends, or family are able to take your pet in, should you have to leave the country in a hurry and your animal cannot travel with you
- If you decide to travel with your pets, make sure that they are properly identified with a microchip
- Make sure that your pet can stand up and move freely in the carrier that they will be transported in
- Check import requirements of country you are travelling to and make sure you have all the proper paperwork before you leave
- If you are planning to stay in a hotel abroad, make sure that they accept pets. Some hotels will accept pets in an emergency

### *During the hurricane: staying on the island*

- Bring all pets indoors, and try to keep them calm and reassured. Remain calm yourself as animals can sense fear
- Dogs with 'thunder phobia' or other anxiety disorders may need to be tranquilised, as you do not know how they will react to you or your children during a hurricane. Discuss this information with your veterinarian well in advance of hurricane season so that an appropriate management plan can be created.

