

Disaster Plan for Cats and Dogs

During Hurricane Preparedness Week, the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters encourages all pet owners to prepare for natural disasters.

With hurricane season approaching, NAPPS reminds pet owners to plan for themselves and their animals. To help them do so, the organization offers a disaster preparedness guide at its website, www.petsitters.org. The plan can help pet owners and pet sitters develop personalized disaster plans for their homes and businesses. The guide includes a pet identification form, checklist for a disaster supply kit and special recommendations for owners of small animals such as birds and reptiles.

The guide offers tips for dealing with all types of natural and man-made disasters, from earthquakes to hurricanes, tsunamis to volcanic eruptions. Pet owners can also learn what to do in case of evacuation or in situations where they must leave their pets behind.

To help pets in times of emergency, NAPPS is also working to develop a national disaster preparedness network. The network would help local pet sitters coordinate disaster response efforts with pet-related organizations and businesses, such as animal shelters and veterinarians. NAPPS hopes to include national corporations that could provide pet supplies if a disaster occurred.

NAPPS, a national trade association, promotes the concept of in-home pet care and supports the professionals who provide at-home pet care. Posted: May 27, 2006, 5:00 a.m. EST