



**Pet-Emergency Kit Checklist:**

- Proper ID collar and rabies tag/license.
- Copy of current vaccinations.
- Carrier or cage (large enough for your pet to move around).
- Contact phone numbers.
- Collar, leash and muzzle.
- Ample food supply (at least two weeks).
- Water/food bowls.
- Medications.
- Paper towels/newspapers, cat litter, scoop and plastic bags (for handling waste).
- Disinfectant and cleaning materials.
- Proper ID on all belongings (including emergency contact information if you evacuate).
- Current photo of you with your pet.
- A comfort item such as a favorite toy, blanket or treats.
- Manual can opener.
- Microchipping your pet is strongly recommended.

**List of Sarasota County dog and cat friendly shelters:**

SHELTER	REGION	ADDRESS
Brookside Middle School	North	3636 South Shade Ave., Sarasota
Riverview High School	North	1 Ram Way, Sarasota
Pine View School	Central	501 Old Venice Road, Sarasota
Woodland Middle School	South	2700 Panacea Blvd., Venice
Heron Creek Middle School	South	6501 West Price Blvd., Venice
North Port High School	South	6400 West Price Blvd., Venice

**Things To Consider:**

Don't leave your pet behind and don't use your pet as an excuse not to evacuate.

Don't put yourself, your family and your pet at risk! You are responsible for planning for your pet. If you are ordered to evacuate, take your Pet-Emergency Kit if you go to friends, relatives or a hotel. Unless there are pet-friendly shelters in your county, shelters cannot accept pets.

After the storm has passed, be careful allowing your pet outdoors. Familiar scents and landmarks may be altered, and your pet could easily be confused and become lost.

Downed power lines, other animals and insects brought in with high water could present real dangers to your pet. Take care not to allow your pet to consume food or water which may have become contaminated.

Nearly 80 percent of pets displaced by a storm are never reunited with their owners.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
**Sarasota County Contact Center**  
 941- 861-5000  
 scgov.net

**Sarasota County Animal Services**  
 941-861-9500  
 sarasotasheriff.org/animal.asp

**Humane Society of Sarasota County**  
 941-951-4131  
 hssc.org

**American Red Cross**  
 941-379-9300  
 southwestflorida.redcross.org



# Disaster Planning for Pets

*How to protect your pets during an emergency*



**BE PREPARED**

**GET IT TOGETHER**



## PREPARE-PLAN-PROVIDE

Planning for an emergency now will save you time and worry when the moment arrives to evacuate with your pets.

The safety of your family pets depends on you, especially in an emergency. During severe weather or other emergency situations, if it is unsafe for you to stay in your home, it is also unsafe for your pets. Just as you should prepare an emergency kit for yourself, you should also prepare one for your pets. The safety and successful evacuation of your family and pets depends on a good plan and being prepared with the proper supplies. Sarasota County has several shelters throughout the county that accept dogs and cats, but you must **be prepared** before you go.

### PREPARE – Your Emergency Kit

**Food and Water** – your pet’s emergency kit should include food and water bowls and at least a three-day supply of food and water stored in airtight, waterproof containers.

**First-Aid and Medical Kit** – Keep an extra supply of the medicines your pet takes on a regular basis including flea and tick prevention, in a waterproof container. Your pet’s medical kit should also include bandages, tape, scissors, latex gloves,

antibiotic ointment, iodine and saline solution. You may also want to include a pet first-aid reference book to help prepare you and your pet for the unexpected. Talk to your veterinarian about what else might be appropriate for your pet’s needs. (Pets may also develop special needs due to a change in accommodations and increasing stress levels.)

### Collar, Leash, ID Tags and Vaccination Records

– Your pet should wear a collar with its rabies tag and identification at all times, but especially during an evacuation. Include an extra collar and leash for each pet; copies of your pet’s vaccination information and prescriptions. Also include current photos of you with your pet in the event that you and your pet become separated.

### Crate, Pet Carrier, Towels, Blankets and Toys

– In the event of an emergency evacuation the safest way to transport your animals is in a crate or pet carrier. Sarasota County pet shelters REQUIRE that your pet remains in a crate or pet carrier. A crate or carrier will also ensure that your pet remains safe should you have to leave your pet to assist others. The carrier should be large enough for your pet to stand, turn around and lie down and for cats; large enough to accommodate a small litter box. Your pet may also find comfort in a blanket or towel that smells and looks familiar. Bringing along a favorite toy might also help reduce your pet’s stress.

**Sanitation** – Include pet litter and litter boxes, newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags and wet-wipes. You may also want to include a bottle of plain bleach as it can be used as disinfectant. (Use 16 drops of regular bleach per gallon of water to disinfect and clean soiled pet areas.)

### PLAN – What You Can Do in Advance

**Create an Emergency Plan** – Plan ahead how you will gather your pets and what vehicle you will transport them in. Keep in mind that if you go to a public shelter, not all shelters allow pets

inside. Get to know possible evacuation routes and identify hotels or motels that you might stay in that accept pets. You may also want to research kennels or veterinary hospitals near your target safe location that could be used as alternative housing options for your pets.

**Designate a Pet Care Surrogate** – Ask a friend, neighbor or relative to care for or evacuate your pet in the event that you are unable to do so. Share your emergency plan with your surrogate and make sure he or she knows where your emergency kit is located. Mark medicines, collars and leashes with labels to make it easy for caregivers to know what belongs to each pet and how medicines are to be administered and supplies used.

**Talk to Your Veterinarian** – Discuss the types of things that you should include in your pet’s first-aid kit. Get the names of vets or hospitals in other cities where you might need to seek temporary shelter. You might also want to inquire about permanent identification such as microchipping and enrolling your pet in a recovery database.



## PROVIDE - Provide a Safe Place

If you do have to take shelter with your pet in a public shelter know that you must provide your own transportation to the shelter and you may not be permitted to leave during sustained winds of 45 mph or higher for your safety. Be prepared with your supplies and your plan, so that you can provide you and your pet with a safe place.

### Pet Shelter Rules:

- Sarasota County pet shelters allow cats and dogs ONLY. No other species of animal may be kept at these shelters.
- Pet owners must show current medical records of their pets when requested.
- Pets are to be leashed at all times when outside of their carriers.
- Owners are responsible for the daily care of their pet(s).
- Pets are to be fed and exercised twice daily.
- Owners must dispose of waste immediately.
- Cage doors must be latched and secured.
- Animals that are diseased, have parasites or are unruly are not allowed in public shelters.
- Animals abandoned at the shelter will be relocated to Sarasota County Animal Services (SCAS). Disposition is at the discretion of SCAS.
- Pet owners are liable for damages or injury caused by their pets to any person, other animals or property.
- People are not permitted to reside in “pet-designated” areas. (There are separate “living areas” for pets at the shelter.)
- Pet owners/representatives are required to sign a release upon arrival at the shelter.
- Sarasota County reserves the right to refuse admittance to any animal that poses a risk to other animals or people.