

The Hoof Print

Don't Be Blown Away This Hurricane Season



June 1st through November 30th means hurricane season. This means you need to have your home and pets prepared for disaster. As many as 600,000 pets were lost or killed during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 (<http://www.hurricanekatrinarelief.com>). Here are a few things that you need to have ready for your pets in the event of an emergency:

- **Proper Identification.** Up to date tags on collars are a must, and if you want to take it one step further, microchips ensure that your pets will be identified, with or without a collar. Ask your vet about implanting a microchip in your pet. You should also have ID cards in your Hurricane Pet Kit (see below), including a picture, physical description, vaccination dates, and other pertinent medical information about each pet.
- **Hurricane Pet Kit.** Do yourself a favor now, and get each pet's kit ready and waiting, in case you need to grab and go. Your kit should include: a carrier (for smaller pets), your pet's ID card, immunization records, collars and leashes, 2 weeks supply of medications, several days supply of food, two spare bowls, and some bottled water.
- **Disaster Plan.** When the time comes to evacuate, you'll need to know ahead of time what your plan is, both for your family, and for your pets. Not all shelters will allow pets, but if you bring your pets to a shelter in Alachua County, Animal Control Services will take pets during the storm, and return them to you once weather has stabilized (www.alachuacounty.us). You can also call 311 for information on shelters.

Upcoming Holidays

Friday, June 20th is the first day of summer! Be sure you and your pets beat the heat this year!

Friday July 4th still has limited availability. Book early to ensure your pets will receive "A Plus" care while you're enjoying the holiday weekend!

The Better to Hear You With...

Summer in Florida can be tough on ears... yep, that's right, ears. With the hot and humid air, warm, dark, pet ears are party central for all sorts of nasty little microorganisms. While floppy eared pets are more prone to infection, pets with erect ears (especially those who spend time in the pool!) are still at risk. Regular ear cleaning can prevent infection and keep your pets' ears sharp (no one wants to miss a can of tuna opening in the next room...).

Use a cotton ball or piece of gauze doused in ear cleaning solution to gently swab the insides of your cat or dog's ears. Don't pour cleaner directly into the ear canal, and only swab the areas you can see. Always use a new cotton ball when switching ears, to prevent the spread of bacteria! A Plus Pet Nanny can provide this service the next time your out of town, saving you the hassle.

Pet of the Month
Dave



This is Dave, the world's greatest Oscar. He is a hand-fed perfect specimen of the Tiger Oscar family. He enjoys swimming, fishing, & watching American Idol. He never sheds, messes on the floor or barks at other animals. His wonderful behavior is rewarded with crickets, worms, & Tetra jumbo sticks. Other than an occasional runny nose, his health is perfect.

Patriotic Pet Contest! Submit a photo of your patriotic pet (be creative!) by June 23rd to enter. The winner will earn a \$5 credit toward the next service, and the photo will be featured in July's Pet of the Month! Send submissions to apluspetnanny@yahoo.com.

Pets with Allergies

Warmer months bring on allergies, and not just for people. Your pets may suffer the effects as well. Pollen, poisonous plants, insects, and food can bring on allergic reactions that may be as mild as a little sneezing or dry, itchy skin, or as serious as anaphylaxis. Other signs of allergy can include redness of skin and eyes, swelling, wheezing, vomiting, or diarrhea. If your pet seems to be exhibiting any signs of allergic reaction, you should immediately contact a veterinarian.

Benadryl is a great tool to have on hand in your medicine cabinet, just in case your pet has a sudden outbreak. Generally speaking, Benadryl can be given orally at a rate of 1 milligram per pound. In other words, if your pet weighs 50 pounds, offer 50 mg of Benadryl. ***Never give any medication to your pet without first consulting your veterinarian!***

Prevention is key, so the next time you see your vet, ask if your pet's medications would result in negative interaction with Benadryl, and if he thinks it would be safe for you to keep on hand.

Tip of the Month
Homemade Ear Cleanser



You can make your own pet ear cleaner with things you already have in your home! Mix equal parts of water and white or apple cider vinegar and store in a lidded jar. This is a great staple to keep handy in your medicine cabinet.

This solution works great as a preventative for human swimmer's ear too! When we were kids, my mom used an eyedropper to put a few drops of this mixture in our ears after getting out of the pool. Keep your pets' – and your kids' – ears healthy this summer!