

Don't Forget Me!

Make your pet part of your disaster preparedness plan

Polk County has pet-friendly shelters available for you and your pet



Pet shelter requirements:
Dogs, Cats, Birds only
Pet owners stay with their pets

Pet owners must provide:
Current vaccinations and records
Airline approved carrier
Food, water, cleaning supplies

For details, visit:
www.polk-county.net

Pet Shelter Locations:
Lake Region High School
Alta Vista Elementary School
Philip O'Brien Elementary School



Polk's Pets

Preparing for Disaster

Pre-Registration

When pre-registering for the pet-friendly shelter, please include the following items:

- ◆ Name of pet owner
- ◆ Number of family members being sheltered
- ◆ Number of pets being sheltered
- ◆ Type and weight of pet(s)



For more information, please visit www.polk-county.net or call Emergency Management at 863.519.7350.

Before the Storm

- ◆ Be sure your pet is current on all vaccinations
Store these in a water proof bag
- ◆ Have an ID microchip implanted between the pet's shoulder blades
- ◆ Have a current photograph of your pet (best if taken to include a family member)
- ◆ Have a properly-sized pet carrier for each animal
- ◆ If you plan to board or shelter your pet, work this into your evacuation route planning
- ◆ Stock up on medications and pet food
- ◆ Have a fully stocked first-aid kit

Pet Survival Kit

Include the following in your pet survival kit:

- ◆ Collar with ID tags
- ◆ Sturdy leash
- ◆ Medical records and current vaccination information (in watertight containers)
- ◆ Pet medications and/or first-aid supplies
- ◆ Airline approved crate or carrier, with bedding, large enough for each pet. Should be large enough for pet to stand and turn around. Help your pet adjust to the carrier before the storm by placing it in the carrier along with a treat or toy. Start with short periods of time; then slowly increase the time.
- ◆ Two week supply of food (stored in water tight containers)
- ◆ Water (at least a 2-week supply)
- ◆ Manual can opener
- ◆ Food and water bowls
- ◆ Plastic trash bags to handle waste
- ◆ Treats and toys
- ◆ Emergency phone numbers for veterinarian, animal shelters and friends/relatives
- ◆ Photo of you with your pet (in water tight containers)
- ◆ Cleaning supplies (newspaper, plastic bags with ties, paper towels, disinfectant)

Store all items in containers that are easy to transport and won't easily tear or break. DO NOT use plastic or paper bags or pillow cases. Use waterproof containers to store items that would be damaged if wet.

If you stay at home

It is important to adequately plan for your pets even if you do not have to evacuate your home during a disaster. Carriers, collars with proper identification and leashes should be maintained for your pets at all times. Frightened animals may not act normally; approach and handle pets with caution.

Your pets will be most comfortable and secure in their carriers in a safe area of your home until the storm has passed. If they are not secured during the storm and your house is damaged, your pets may escape and become disoriented. If your pets become lost, proper identification will help to ensure their return to you.

Remember - if you bring plants indoors before a storm, keep pets away from them. Many plants are poisonous.

Pet shelter guidelines

- ◆ Pet owners are required to remain at the shelter and to care for their pets
- ◆ Must provide proof of current vaccinations
- ◆ Pets must be disease and parasite-free and must be well-behaved
- ◆ Pets must be crated (airline approved)
- ◆ Must provide sufficient food and water supplies for pets
- ◆ Present photo identification of yourself, pets and family members
- ◆ Leash pets at all times when outside of carrier.
- ◆ Dispose of waste immediately
- ◆ Owners are liable for damages or injury caused by their pets to any property, person or other animal

Animals abandoned in the shelter will be relocated to Polk County Animal Services for disposition at their discretion. Polk County reserves the right to refuse admittance to any animal that poses a risk to other animals or people.

Important Contact Information

Polk County Citizen's Information Line
863.401.2234 or toll free 866.661.0228

Polk County Animal Services
863.499.2600

Polk County Emergency Management
863.519.7350



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