



# Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning





## **Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning Lesson Plan**

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## About Florida SART

SART is a group of governmental and private agencies dedicated to effectively communicating and planning for animal and agriculture emergencies and disasters in Florida.

SART operates at the local level through county SART organizations.

SART combines the skills and resources of many agencies, organizations and individuals.

SART supports the county, regional and state emergency management efforts.

### **SART Mission**

Empower Floridians through training and resources to enhance animal and agriculture disaster response.

### **SART Goals**

- Promote the establishment of a coordinator in each county responsible for all agriculturally related incidents
  - Provide assistance in the development and writing of county ESF-17 plans
  - Promote the establishment of a County SART for each county
  - Provide annual training for all SART and agriculturally-related personnel
  - Identify county resources available for an emergency or disaster
  - Promote counties to work at a regional level for mutual aid
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**Subject:** Ways to plan on a personal level for pets in disasters.

**Mission:** Share information on personal preparations for pets in disasters and encourage participants to make plans.

## **Introduction**

This lesson plan is designed to be part of the Pets & Disasters SART module. This lesson plan gives the instructor direction for the educational portion of the unit. The mechanics of planning, organizing and publicizing the entire training event are covered in the companion piece, *Toolkit for Implementing a State Agricultural Response Team Training Event*. For information on obtaining this publication, please refer to the Resources section at the end of this publication.

This lesson plan is structured to provide an overview of personal planning for pets in disasters.

A PowerPoint presentation has been created to accompany this lesson. Throughout the lesson plan, box-like symbols have been placed in the margins to indicate that a PowerPoint slide is available for that section.

Approximately one hour and 10 minutes should be allocated for this program.

## **Session Outline**

<b>Part 1 - Beginning the Lesson</b>	<b>(10 minutes)</b>
<b>Part 2 - Overview</b>	<b>(10 minutes)</b>
<b>Part 3 - Preparing a Disaster Kit</b>	<b>(10 minutes)</b>
<b>Part 4 - Evacuate or Shelter in Place?</b>	<b>(5 minutes)</b>
<b>Part 5 - Evacuation Planning</b>	<b>(10 minutes)</b>
<b>Part 6 - Recovery</b>	<b>(10 minutes)</b>
<b>Part 7 - Resources</b>	<b>(5 minutes)</b>
<b>Part 8 - Summary and Wrap-up</b>	<b>(10 minutes)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>(1 hour, 10 minutes)</b>

## **Options for Community Planning for Pets & Disasters**

Various options exist for organizing community planning for animals in disasters. The participants' community may be like many others: it has some organized effort to address animal concerns during disasters, but those efforts could be better organized and better coordinated.

The *Pets & Disasters* module is designed in the following sequence:

*Identifying Community Needs and Resources*

*Preparing an Action Plan*

*Sheltering Options in Mass Evacuations*

*Personal Planning*

This sequence progresses from the starting point of identifying a community's needs and resources through reaching out to the public in helping people develop their own plans for their pets in disasters.

Leaders of SART in a community may choose to follow this sequence or adapt it to their community's needs.

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## **Specific Learning Objectives**

At the end of this training module, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the potential risks they face
2. List and discuss ways they can reduce those risks
3. Use the checklist to make plans for their pet disaster kit
4. Name actions they can take to prepare for possible scenarios
5. Identify key resources they can easily access for more information

## **Learning Environment/Aids**

To complete this lesson plan, you will need the PowerPoint and workbooks for *Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning*.

To conduct this training unit, you will need:

- A means to show the PowerPoint presentation: a computer with a projector. (Note: Master black and white copies of the slides are included at the end of this manual if you prefer to use an overhead projector.)
- Sufficient seating for all participants

Each participant will need:

- A pen or pencil
- A participant workbook or paper for notes

## **Before the Workshop**

On the day of the unit, check that all equipment needed is in place. Double-check that electronic media works on the equipment you have. Also, make certain that any materials such as paper, workbooks and pens/pencils for participants are available in sufficient numbers to cover all participants.

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## **Part 1: Beginning the Workshop**

**Time: 10 minutes**

### **Focus: Helping participants appreciate the importance of developing personal plans for pets in disasters**

Once all participants have taken their seats and have settled down, welcome them to the *Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning* unit. Thank them for attending and congratulate them on taking the time to learn about this important topic. Remind them that the best way to respond to an emergency involving animals is to have a foundation of knowledge from which to build.

At this point you may elect to have the participants take the Pre-Test provided on Page 28 of this manual. This, together with the Post-Test, located on Page 29, can be used to gauge how much knowledge participants gained during the session.

This unit is aimed at pet owners. However, people from organizations involved with pets and people from agencies involved in disasters may also wish to participate. Its objective is to spur people into action in developing their own plans for their pets in disasters. After this introductory glance, some participants may choose to become involved in community planning efforts for pets in disasters.

Remind participants that they are attending the workshop because they realize the value of being prepared by knowing their risks and taking actions to reduce those risks. The workshop also will help them get ready for possible scenarios and practice what they would do in a disaster.

This introduction should not extend past 10 minutes. This is a time when members of the audience are getting comfortable with the unit they have decided to attend, the surroundings and you, the presenter. At the same time, you are getting comfortable with the audience and being a presenter. Pay close attention to time; you may find yourself a bit nervous getting started. These “nerves” can make people ramble or talk faster or slower than normal. And others forget the time and forget to move on. Even if your audience is enjoying what it is doing, it will appreciate your discipline when the unit ends on time. As they say in show business, “Always leave ‘em wanting more!”

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**Part 2: Overview**

**Time: 10 minutes**

**Focus: Empower participants with an understanding of their risks, keys to reducing those risks and steps to take in planning for dealing with animals in disasters**

SLIDE  
6

Begin by talking about the importance of participants knowing their own risks. Ask participants to reflect on what has actually happened to them and people in their community. Then ask them to consider what could happen.

SLIDE  
7

As they plan for dealing with animals in disasters, they should consider the following: 1. What resources do they need, and which of these resources are available to them? 2. How can they mitigate damage? 3. Who should they work with in planning?

SLIDE  
8

Steps that participants should take include: 1. Developing a plan; 2. Organizing their resources; 3. Mitigation, which includes fixing up their homes; 4. Preparing for possible scenarios; 5. Sheltering; and 6. Evacuation. The more that participants practice their plans and train their families on what to do in disasters, the better they will do in an actual disaster.

SLIDE  
9

What is mitigation? It is reducing the potential damage of a disaster on homes and families. The advantages of mitigation are: 1. Avoiding or substantially reducing the potential damage to property; 2. Possibly reducing insurance costs; 3. Shortening recovery time after a disaster; and 4. Helping keep homes in good shape, which is always a good idea.

SLIDE  
10

Special considerations for animals in disasters include the risks of toxic substances, heavy items, loose and blowing items and debris that could inflict cuts or punctures. Participants also need to factor into their planning the extra time it will take to get their pets ready to evacuate.

SLIDE

11

In planning how to handle their finances during disasters, participants need to make sure that their insurance policies are current and reflect replacement costs of their property. They should keep extra cash available since credit and debit cards may not work. They need to keep copies of important financial records and papers stored in an accessible location so they can take these documents with them during an evacuation.

SLIDE

12

It's important for participants to know their community's warning systems for emergencies. This includes radio and television stations, NOAA weather stations that they can pick up on weather radios, the Internet, local emergency officials or police and the local rumor control line.

SLIDE

13

The best early-warning system is people's own alertness. Participants should always pay attention to the weather around them. They should take action when they think severe weather may be moving into their area, even if no official warning has been given. Participants should bring their animals inside or confine them.

SLIDE

14

Understanding the difference between a watch and a warning is important. A watch indicates that conditions are ripe for severe weather to develop. People should stay alert. A warning is posted when severe weather has been reported or is imminent. Everyone should seek safety immediately.

SLIDE

15

Ask participants to consider their special needs. Do they have lots of animals, large animals or exotic animals? Do they have very young, very old, handicapped or mobility impaired family members or animals? Do they live far off the main road? If they answer yes to any of these questions, they will need to plan more carefully and take action sooner.

### **Do you need a generator?**

SLIDE

16

If people have fish or reptiles, they may rely on electricity to maintain water quality and provide heat.

If participants live in a rural area, their power may not be restored as soon as it is restored in urban areas. If they have horses or livestock, they may rely on an electric pump for the water for the animals. A generator may be a worthwhile investment for people with fish, reptiles, horses or livestock.

[This a good time to get participants involved. Ask if anyone has special needs that they would like to share. This will help other participants reflect on their own special needs and keep participants involved in the workshop.]

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## **Background for Watch vs. Warning**

### **Example of Watch**

BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
TORNADO WATCH NUMBER 547  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TALLAHASSEE, FL  
1229 PM EDT TUE JUL 1 2004

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A TORNADO WATCH FOR PORTIONS OF NORTH FLORIDA EFFECTIVE THIS TUESDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING FROM 100 PM UNTIL 700 PM EDT.

TORNADOES...THUNDERSTORM WIND GUSTS TO 75 MPH...AND DANGEROUS LIGHTNING ARE POSSIBLE IN THIS AREAS.

REMEMBER...A TORNADO WATCH MEANS CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE FOR TORNADOES AND SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS IN AND CLOSE TO THE WATCH AREA. PERSONS IN THESE AREAS SHOULD BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THREATENING WEATHER CONDITIONS AND LISTEN FOR LATER STATEMENTS AND POSSIBLE WARNINGS.

WEISS

### **Example of Warning**

URGENT - HIGH WINDS WARNING  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TALLAHASSEE, FL  
1259 PM EST MON FEB 14 2005

...VERY STRONG WINDS ARE POSSIBLE FROM S OF ST GEORGE ISLAND EXTENDING OUT TO 60 NM...LOW PRESSURE TRACKING WILL BE BRINGING A STRONG COLD FRONT ACROSS THE AREA BY MIDDAY TUESDAY. AHEAD OF THIS FRONT...WINDS WILL INCREASE DRAMATICLY FROM THE SOUTH TONIGHT WITH DAMAGING WIND GUSTS POSSIBLE LATE TONIGHT INTO TUESDAY MORNING. WINDS SHOULD DIMINISH NOTABLY BY MIDDAY TUESDAY.

HEWITT

## Part 3: Preparing a Disaster Kit

**Time: 10 minutes**

**Focus: Review the items that participants should include in their disaster kit**

SLIDE

17

Participants should consider the following in preparing their disaster kits: 1. See to their own specific pet and family needs. 2. Recognize that needs vary for evacuation or for sheltering at home. 3. Start simple, then augment the kit.

SLIDE

18

Clothing for participants and their family needs to be appropriate for specific hazards. For example, they will need heavy boots for walking through debris and rain gear for storms. Their needs will vary depending on the season. Their clothing should be comfortable and easy to care for.

SLIDE

19

Recommend that participants plan for the food needs of both them and their pets. Some of the stored food may be perishable. It's best to use up items that are becoming dated and replace them with fresh ones. Participants should plan food for evacuation as well as sheltering in place. It's important to have food that tastes good without cooking and dishes that don't need to be reconstituted with hot water.

SLIDE

20

Suggest that participants include generous amounts of water. They should have one to two gallons for each member of their family per day. The amount of water that pets need depends upon species. Participants should have enough water to last three to five days. They should store their water in clean containers and rotate the supply to maintain freshness. Recommend including extra water for cleaning for both people and animals.

SLIDE

21

Participants should make sure that they store their disaster supplies in portable containers so they can take the supplies with them in an evacuation. Containers should be watertight and easily accessible. Everyone in a family should know where the family's supplies are stored and what the family is going to use them for. Suggest keeping a basic kit in the car.

SLIDE

22

This car kit should include: 1. water in plastic bottles, food and dishes; 2. extra leashes, collars and toys; 3. a familiar blanket or thick towel; 4. a pet first-aid kit and normal medication; 5. an appropriate carrier; 6. identification for owners and pets; and 7. pets' records.

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**SLIDE**  
**23**

Other supplies for a pet disaster kit include: 1. tools, 2. clothing and bedding, 3. sanitation supplies, 4. special items that are important to your pets, 5. a radio and flashlights with batteries and 7. cell phones with chargers.

**SLIDE**  
**24**

Options for identifying animals include tags on collars, tattoos and microchips. Participants may choose a combination of methods. Suggest that members of the audience include a phone number of friends or family members outside of their area. It's important to have a photograph of themselves with the animal to use for establishing ownership.

**SLIDE**  
**25**

Here are the pros and cons of identification methods. A tag might fall off, but it can be read instantly, which could result in your pet being returned immediately. Microchipping is the most secure form of identification, but it could be hard to read at a disaster shelter. A tattoo won't fall off, but sometimes it is hard to read and no national registry exists to get the owner's information.

**SLIDE**  
**26**

[This a good time to get participants involved. Discuss *Worksheet 1— Pet Disaster Kit Checklist*. Give participants five minutes to check what they have prepared. Ask them to share what they noticed in doing this exercise and encourage them to work on their disaster kits over the next week. This participation will keep the audience connected to the presentation and give them a practical way to take action immediately.]

## Worksheet 1 Pets & Disasters

### ***Pet Disaster Kit Checklist***

Use this checklist as a guide to assembling your disaster kits for your pets. You may need to add items or subtract them. Store your disaster kits where you can place them in your vehicle quickly.

Item	In Kit	Item	In Kit
Pet carrier		Antiseptic wipes	
Photos with you and your pet		Antibacterial cream/ointment	
Up-to-date health records		Tweezers	
Emergency shelter contact list		Scissors	
Extra collar with ID tags and leash		Pooper scooper and plastic bags, such as diaper bags	
Muzzle		Instant cold pack	
Food for up to two weeks		Latex disposable gloves	
Water for up to 3-5 days		Waterproof container	
Blankets/beds/pillows		Antiseptic, nonstinging wound wash	
Litter box with litter		Medications	
Bandages		Handheld can opener	
Cotton-tipped applicators			

More information on pet disaster kits is available at:

<<http://www.fema.gov/kids/pets.htm>>

<<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu>>

<<http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu>>

## Part 4: Evacuate or Shelter in Place

**Time: 5 minutes**

**Focus: Help participants understand why sometimes sheltering in place is the best option**

SLIDES

27-28

What is sheltering in place? It is staying indoors where people are and making themselves as safe as possible until the emergency passes or they are told to evacuate.

SLIDE

29

Why would participants need to shelter at home? The trend is more toward sheltering in place, which means that better mitigation measures are needed. Sheltering at home is used during or after emergencies in which people can be as safe or safer at home than on the road or in a remote shelter. It is potentially less stressful for them and their animals.

SLIDE

30

What hazards lend themselves to sheltering in place? First, a hurricane, if people are not in a vulnerable area and if their house is hurricane-resistant. Second, in a haz-mat emergency involving an inhalant substance that is not explosive, it may be safer to be indoors than outdoors.

SLIDE

31

For an inhalant haz-mat incident, people should take the following action: 1. Prepare as soon as possible. 2. Close all windows in your home. 3. Bring into the house all animals that you can. 4. Close up any outbuildings that house animals. 5. Close off air intakes.

SLIDE

32

In preparing their animals for sheltering in place, people should put pets in carriers or cages and practice so they will get some idea about how their animals will react.

SLIDE

33

Last-minute preparations for participants should include: 1. taking disaster supplies, family and pets with them; 2. closing window shades, blinds or curtains; 3. staying away from windows; 4. going to an above-ground room if they are in a flood-prone area and 5. staying in the interior of their houses or a room with the fewest windows and doors.

SLIDE

34

Once people are sheltered listen to your radio, they should watch television or check the Internet and not come out until they are told all is safe or they are told to evacuate.

## Part 5: Evacuation Planning

**Time: 10 minutes**

**Focus: Help participants focus on what's involved in evacuation planning**

SLIDES

35-36

Why prepare for evacuation? Encourage participants to not be complacent; no one is immune from disasters. Animals take more time to evacuate. Also, planning helps people leave earlier and preserves their options.

SLIDE

37

Will participants be ordered to evacuate? Evacuation orders depend upon: 1. the speed of onset of the disaster, 2. the threat to life anticipated as a result of the disaster, 3. the amount of damage caused or expected to be caused to dwellings, 4. the ability and availability of emergency services resources to support people's needs at their location.

SLIDE

38

How will people know when to evacuate? They should: 1. keep checking local warning systems, including radio, television and the Internet. 2. listen for information about evacuation plans in their area. They may not know at first whether they should evacuate or shelter at home.

SLIDE

39

Where will they go? They should consider their support network of family and friends. Suggest that they pre-arrange a place to stay with people who will welcome them and their animals. Encourage participants to use the Web sites and phone numbers for chambers of commerce and visitors and convention bureaus in areas in which they intend to evacuate. Many of these organizations track hotel and motel availability. Recommend that they consider public shelters a last resort.

SLIDE

40

[This is a good time to get participants involved. Discuss *Worksheet 2—Evacuation Options*. Give participants five minutes to list the options that come to mind. Ask them to share what they noticed in doing this exercise and encourage them to work on clarifying their options over the next week.]

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## Worksheet 2 Personal Planning

<b><i>Evacuation Options</i></b>	
Types of Shelters	Options and Contact Information
Family and friends	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>
Hotels and motels in other cities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>
Chambers of commerce and visitors and conventions bureaus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>
Public shelters	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>

**SLIDES****41-43**

What should participants do to be safe in an evacuation? They should ask local authorities for the best evacuation routes for their families. It's a good idea to avoid potentially hazardous areas. They also should avoid congested areas, especially near rush-hour travel routes. Suggest they take routes they know and survey them in advance.

Other considerations include planning their routes to cover all family members if they were to evacuate from home, work, school or a pet sitter. The time of day makes a difference.

Leaving pets in a parked vehicle is dangerous. The temperature inside a parked vehicle, even with the windows open, can rise to more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit in a few minutes. Some people have left animals in their vehicles with the engine running and the air conditioner on, only to return and find their vehicles or AC has quit and their pets have died.

Encourage participants to be good guests. They should have pet carriers or containers to use as dens. Remind them to respect household or shelter rules and to be prepared to clean up after their pets.

**SLIDES****44-45**

Suggest that participants practice their evacuation. They should get their families and animals used to the drill. They can make evacuation practice fun by inviting several families to practice evacuating with them.

If they are ordered to evacuate, they should leave immediately after the order is given. They should take their disaster supplies, lock their homes and follow their evacuation plans. Suggest that they listen to the radio for weather, news and evacuation instructions. Emphasize the importance of maintaining direct control of their animals.

**SLIDE****46**

If participants are not home when evacuation is ordered, they should notify appropriate authorities so that animals can be evacuated by animal responders. If possible, they should call a neighbor. It's important to make plans for helping each other in advance.

**SLIDE****47**

Waiting until the last minute might prevent people from being able to take their animals with them. Emergency responders are trained and required to save lives, not animals. People may be taking physical and legal risks to help their animals. The bottom line is: Don't wait!

**Part 6: Recovery**

**Time: 10 minutes**

**Focus: Help participants anticipate the challenges they may face in recovery and suggest how they can meet those challenges**

SLIDES  
48-50

First steps in recovery after a disaster involve determining if it is safe to come out. People need to identify injuries, hazards, damage and needs.

In determining if they should come out, people should stay tuned to the radio or television or check the Internet. They should remain sheltered until they know it is safe to leave. Recommend that participants not leave an evacuation shelter until they know where they will go.

SLIDES  
51-52

During recovery, people should be prepared for a very different situation. They should be aware of particular dangers for their animals. Den animals and small children are likely to try to hide in areas in which dangers may also be hiding.

SLIDES  
53-54

Dangers after a disaster include shock, gas and other hazardous materials, standing and moving water, dangers after fires, injury from above and underfoot and dangers from animals and disease.

Shock and electrical problems include downed power lines from high winds, broken or twisted wiring and damaged fixtures and appliances.

SLIDE  
55

In dealing with potential gas leaks, people should sniff the air to detect gas leaks, turn off the gas if it is still on, open windows and leave the house. It's important to not cause sparks. If there is structural damage, participants should assume that gas lines could be broken.

SLIDES  
56-57

Hazardous materials that participants may encounter in recovery include chemicals, sewage and other substances in flood waters or from overturned containers. Animals may attempt to drink from puddles, especially if the drinking water supply has been compromised and the animals are thirsty.

**SLIDES****58-60**

Dangerous household fluids that may be exposed include medications; automotive fluids, particularly antifreeze; and household cleaners. Anything that carries a warning label is a potential threat.

Standing and moving water can conceal dangerous debris, storm drains, swimming pools, sinkholes or dangerous currents.

Dangers after fires include hot spots that might flare up and charred and hot material from lingering and hidden fires. Smoldering fires may give off toxic fumes.

**SLIDES****61-62**

Objects falling from above may be caused by structural problems in homes, tree limbs and debris falling from trees.

Danger underfoot includes twisted debris with sharp edges and unstable porches and other structures. Animals' feet are vulnerable. People should wear protective clothing and footwear.

**SLIDES****63-65**

In dealing with structural damage, participants should examine buildings from all angles on the outside. They should realize that buildings may be weakened and could collapse. They should get an expert if they are unsure.

If participants encounter loose animals and exotics, they should anticipate that normally calm animals may behave unexpectedly. This includes their pets, if they are uncontrolled. Participants should be aware that exotics may have been released by the disaster.

Wildlife also will be affected by a disaster. It may be frightened and disoriented and perhaps stranded. Generally, it is best to leave wildlife to fend for themselves.

Wildlife may be in houses, having sought refuge from flood waters in the upper levels of the houses. If people meet one face to face, they shouldn't panic. They should make sure that the animal can escape. It's a good idea to open windows or doors. The animal will probably leave on its own.

**SLIDES****66-67**

Concerns about diseases include mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus. Animal carcasses may pose disease problems.

Urge participants to report suspected diseases. They should keep in touch

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**SLIDE**  
**68**

with their local public health and emergency management authorities for warnings. Suggest that they report any problems that they encounter. A good slogan is “use common sense and uncommon caution.” Suggest that participants watch for emotional and behavioral reactions. These include unexpected reactions in themselves and in their animals. Pets are especially vulnerable to humans’ moods. Also, sick or injured animals may behave unpredictably. Participants should handle sick or injured animals only if they have special training.

**SLIDE**  
**69**

Animals may be disorientated because they have lost marker cues that tell them “this is home.” Suggest people keep their pets contained or on leashes and accompany them outside when they need to go. Participants should make sure that any damaged fences are repaired quickly.

**SLIDE**  
**70-71**

If people get separated from their pets, they should use the following approach in looking for their pets. First, call and visit the local animal shelters. Second, call local animal control authorities. Third, distribute posters with a description or a picture of their animals, the area in which the animals were last seen and their contact information.

**SLIDE**  
**72**

Encourage participants to be patient. Many animals will hide or flee. People should search their neighborhood and make posters with descriptions of their animals. Also, they should use the Internet, including services such as the Missing Pet Network, <<http://www.missingpet.net>>.

**SLIDE**  
**73**

If they find a lost animal, they should call the local animal shelter or animal control authorities and describe it (including its color, breed and sex) and its location. People shouldn’t handle an injured animal unless they are professionals or are familiar with animal handling techniques.

**SLIDE**  
**74-77**

Suggest that participants get their family members and pets back to their normal routines as soon as possible. This is as important for the participants’ animals and children as well as for themselves.

People should help their pets and remember that they will likely be disoriented and can become easily confused. Recommend that participants walk their pets around their house and yard on a leash to reassure them. Also, they should follow up with veterinary care, if needed.

Participants should find “normal” things to do. Some elements of their routines may be hard to resume. For example, if they don’t have electric power yet, they can’t watch television. In that case, they should find something else to fill that space in their routine, such as reading out loud, playing catch with their dog or engaging in another recreational activity.

## Part 6: Resources

**Time: 5 minutes**

**Focus: Review the lesson's learning objectives and encourage a commitment to SART**

SLIDE

78

This publication and other materials for SART training programs are available on the World Wide Web at <[www.flsart.org](http://www.flsart.org)>, the Web site of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team program. The material includes:

*Make It Happen! Toolkit for Planning a Community-Based SART Training Event*

Training Module Topics Available:

- *Introducing SART*
- *Introducing Florida Aquaculture*
- *Aquaculture: Emerging and Endemic Diseases*
- *Aquaculture: Quarantine Issues*
- *Aquaculture: Emergency Management of Aquaculture Facilities*

Note: As new modules become available, they will be posted on the Web site <[www.flsart.org](http://www.flsart.org)>.

**The following is a source of additional information about the subjects and agencies mentioned in this module.**

Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management  
Emergency Response Team  
<<http://www.floridadisaster.org>>

**Resources directly related to animals and disasters include:**

American Red Cross  
<<http://www.redcross.org/services/>>  
Topics include *Pets and Disaster — Be Prepared, First Aid for Pets and Barnyard Animal Rescue Plan*

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*Animal Management in Disasters*, Sebastian E. Heath, Mosby, 11830 Westline Industrial Drive, St. Louis, MO 64164. Available through many Internet booksellers.

Missing Pet Network  
<<http://www.missingpet.net>>

*Triumph Over Tragedy, Disaster Handbook Video Series: Helping Four-Legged Friends Survive the Storm* (18 minutes). The video is to be available to view in its entirety at the National Ag Safety Database Web site, <<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/>>.

Humane Society of the United States Disaster Center  
<<http://www.hsus.org/ace/18730>>  
Links include *Disaster Preparedness Brochures, Disaster Preparedness for Pets, Disaster Preparedness for Horses and HSUS Disaster Planning Manual for Animals*.

Laura Bevan, director, The Humane Society of the United States Southeast Regional Office, 1624 Metropolitan Circle, Suite B, Tallahassee, FL 32308, (850) 386-3435, [lbevan@hsus.org](mailto:lbevan@hsus.org)

The National Ag Safety Database has articles on handling horses and livestock safely. Go to “animals” under “Locate by Topics” at <<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/>>.

*Hawkins Guide on Equine Emergencies and Horse Trailering on the Road*  
Blue Green Publishing Co., PO Box 1255, Southern Pines, NC 28388

*Equine Trailer Rescue* video, Horse Park of New Jersey, PO Box 548, Allentown, N.J. 08501

**The following are sources of information on emergency management in general.**

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
<<http://www.fema.gov>>

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*IFAS Disaster Handbook*, prepared by the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

<<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu>> **CHECK**

Other parts of *Triumph Over Tragedy, Disaster Handbook Video Series* are:

- *Surviving the Storm—Coordination, Communication and Cooperation* (30 minutes)
- *A Community Response to Managing Post-Disaster Stress* (45 minutes)

The entire three-part video series is available at the *IFAS Disaster Handbook* Web site, <<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu>> **CHECK**. Go to the *Other Disaster Products* link. The series also is available at IFAS Publications, PO Box 110011, Gainesville, FL 32611, (800) 226-1764.

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)

<<http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/eden/>>

Occupational Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) Emergency Preparedness and Response Page

<<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/index.html>>

**Other resources related to agricultural safety are listed below.**

National Agricultural Safety Database (NASD)

<<http://www.cdc.gov/nasd>>

Florida AgSafe network

<<http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu/>>

**Online training courses from FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) are available at no cost at <http://training.fema.gov>.** CEU certificates are available.

Especially useful may be:

- *Animals in Disaster: Module A, Awareness And Preparedness, IS 10*. Access this course at:  
<<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is10.asp>>.
-

- *Animals in Disaster: Module B, Community Planning, IS 11.* Access this course at <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is11.asp>>.

Other related EMI courses are:

- *Introduction to CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), IS-317.* It provides background information on the concept of community members being able to work together during a disaster. Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is317.asp>>.
- *Basic Incident Command System, IS-195.* Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is195.asp>>.
- *Livestock in Disasters, IS-111.* Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is111.asp>>.

Other courses that might be useful with this module include:

- *Emergency Preparedness, IS-2.* Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is2.asp>>.
- *State Disaster Management (IS-208).* Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is208.asp>>.
- *The EOC's Role in Community Preparedness, Response and Recovery Activities (IS-275).* Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is275.asp>>.
- *The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management (IS-288).* Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is288.asp>>.
- *Disaster Basics (IS-292).* Access this course at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is292.asp>>.

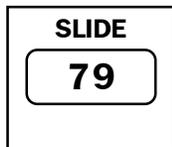
A listing of all the IS courses offered by FEMA can be found at: <<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/crslist.asp>>.

## Part 8: Summary and Wrap-Up

**Time: 10 minutes**

**Focus: Review the lesson's learning objectives and encourage a commitment to SART**

You and the participants have had a stimulating and practical session, but it is almost over. Prior to answering any audience questions or listening to any comments, summarize for the participants what they just learned:



- The potential risks they face
- Ways they can reduce those risks
- What they need in their pet disaster kits
- Actions they can take to prepare for possible scenarios
- Key resources they can easily access for more information

Thank participants for their attention and involvement. Congratulate participants on their commitment to the SART endeavor and on their desire to be part of the solution.

If your community has an active committee for animals in disasters, invite the participants to become involved in it. Encourage them to get in touch with local contacts.

At this point, you may elect to have the participants take the Post-Test provided in the Resources section of this manual. Remember to review the answers to the test questions after all participants complete the test.

A content-specific evaluation is provided on Page 27 of this manual. A more generic evaluation is available in *Make It Happen! Toolkit for Planning a Community-Based SART Training Event*. Please have participants complete an evaluation at the conclusion of this module. Encourage participants to be as honest and forthright as possible because it helps you, the presenter, make adjustments for future presentations, which, in turn, benefits future participants.

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## **Participant’s Evaluation of *Personal Planning***

Please circle the number that best expresses your opinions about the following statements.

		Fully Dis- Agree	Dis- Agree	Neutral	Agree	Fully Agree
1.	The training module’s format was appropriate.	1	2	3	4	5
2.	The information presented is useful to me.	1	2	3	4	5
3.	The time it took to complete this module was acceptable.	1	2	3	4	5
4.	The reasons why personal planning for pets in disasters is important were explained fully.	1	2	3	4	5
5.	The way to prepare a disaster kit was explained fully.	1	2	3	4	5
6.	The things to consider in deciding whether to evacuate or shelter in place were explained fully.	1	2	3	4	5
7.	The steps in evacuation planning were explained fully.	1	2	3	4	5
8.	What to do in recovery was explained fully.	1	2	3	4	5
10.	Available up-to-date resources were clearly outlined.	1	2	3	4	5
11.	We welcome your comments about this program:					

---



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Please use the back of this sheet for any further comments.

*Thank you for your time!*

## ***Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning Participant Pre-Test***

This pre-test is intended to gauge the level of knowledge that you have **before** participating in the *Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning SART* training. Please answer all the following questions to the best of your ability.

1. You should inspect areas where animals are kept for loose or dangling wires during which phase of the disaster process?
  2. \_\_\_\_\_  
During the disaster planning process, which of the following is NOT an important step?
    - a. Keep vaccinations current
    - b. Take photos and videotapes of your pets
    - c. Confine animals to a small room in your home
    - d. Adequately identify all pets
  3. It is best to keep your disaster kit in which of the following places?
    - a. The kitchen, where it is easily accessible
    - b. In a room that everyone in the family has access to
    - c. In the garage, where it is not likely to be damaged in a house fire
    - d. On a high shelf, so rodents won't eat the supplies
  4. A warning indicates that conditions are ripe for severe weather to develop.  
True or False
  5. What are three types of supplies that are essential in a pet disaster kit?  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
  6. You should allow more time to evacuate if you have pets.  
True or False
  7. It is best to capture an animal that became trapped in your house during a disaster.  
True or False
  8. If you smell gas, you should open the windows.  
True or False
  9. Which action is the most important one to take if you find a lost animal?
    - a. Call your animal shelter or animal control authorities
    - b. Get control of the animal as soon as possible
    - c. Make posters indicating you have found a lost animal
    - d. Place an ad about the animal in the newspaper
  10. During recovery, you should get family members and pets back into their normal routines as soon as possible.  
True or False
-

## ***Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning Participant Post-Test***

This post-test is intended to gauge the level of knowledge that you have **after** participating in the *Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning SART* training. Please answer all the following questions to the best of your ability.

1. You should inspect areas where animals are kept for loose or dangling wires during which phase of the disaster process?
  
  2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 During the disaster planning process, which of the following is NOT an important step?
    - a. Keep vaccinations current
    - b. Take photos and videotapes of your pets
    - c. Confine animals to a small room in your home
    - d. Adequately identify all pets
  
  3. It is best to keep your disaster kit in which of the following places?
    - a. The kitchen, where it is easily accessible
    - b. In a room that everyone in the family has access to
    - c. In the garage, where it is not likely to be damaged in a house fire
    - d. On a high shelf, so rodents won't eat the supplies
  
  4. A warning indicates that conditions are ripe for severe weather to develop.  
 True or False
  
  5. What are three types of supplies that are essential in a pet disaster kit?  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2 . \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
  
  6. You should allow more time to evacuate if you have pets.  
 True or False
  
  7. It is best to capture an animal that became trapped in your house during a disaster.  
 True or False
  
  8. If you smell gas, you should open the windows.  
 True or False
  
  9. Which action is the most important one to take if you find a lost animal?
    - a. Call your animal shelter or animal control authorities
    - b. Get control of the animal as soon as possible
    - c. Make posters indicating you have found a lost animal
    - d. Place an ad about the animal in the newspaper
  
  10. During recovery, you should get family members and pets back into their normal routines as soon as possible.  
 True or False
-

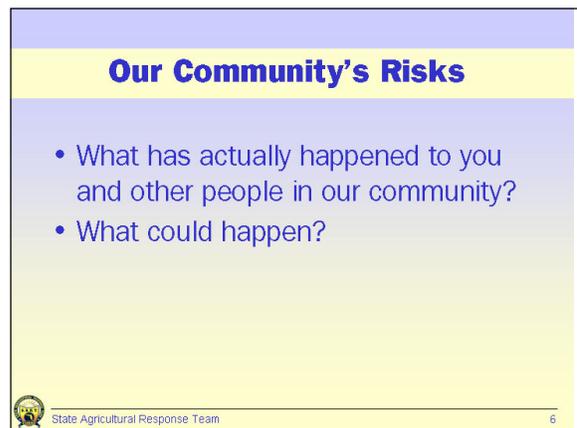
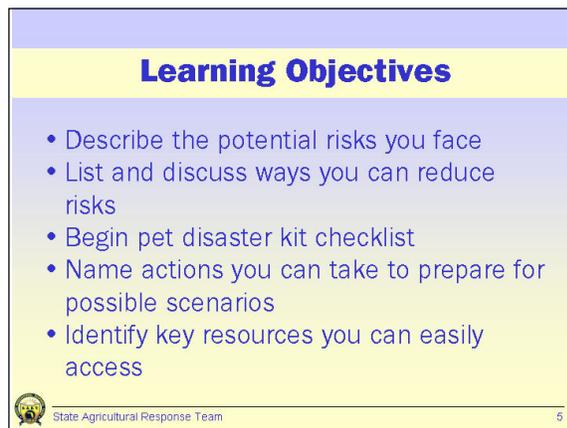
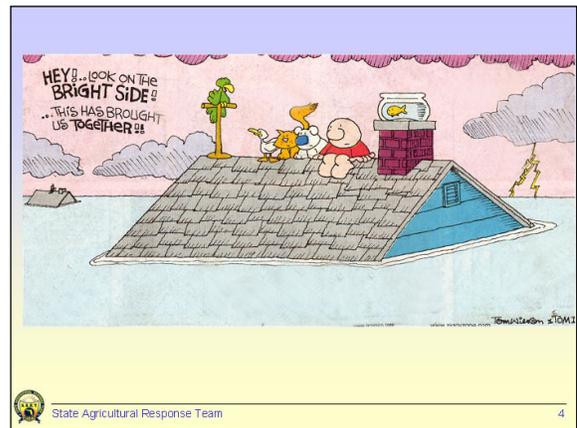
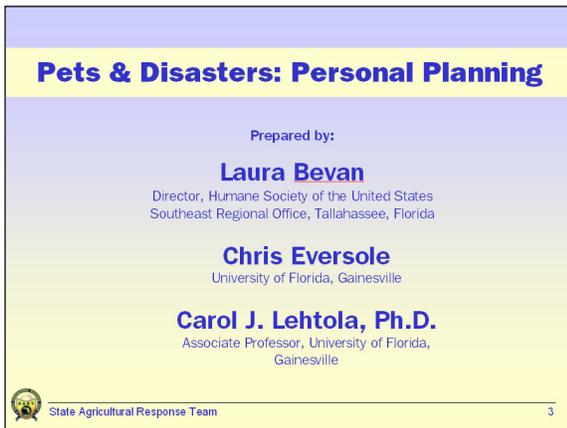
## **Answer Key to *Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning* Pre- and Post-Test**

1. **You should inspect areas where animals are kept for loose or dangling wires during which phase of the disaster process?**  
Recovery
  2. **During the disaster planning process, which of the following is NOT an important step?**
    - c. Confine animals to a small room in your home
  3. **It is best to keep your disaster kit in which of the following places?**
    - b. In a room that everyone in the family has access to
  4. **A warning indicates that conditions are ripe for severe weather to develop. True or False**
    - b. False
  5. **What are three types of supplies that are essential in a pet disaster kit?**  
Any of these answers are acceptable: Pet carrier, water, food, pet first aid kit, photos with you and your pets, up-to-date health records, medications
  6. **You should allow more time to evacuate if you have pets. True or False**  
True
  7. **It is best to capture an animal that became trapped in your house during a disaster. True or False**  
False
  8. **If you smell gas, you should open the windows. True or False**  
True
  9. **Which action is the most important one to take if you find a lost animal?**
    - a. Call your animal shelter or animal control authorities
  10. **During recovery, you should get family members and pets back into their normal routines as soon as possible. True or False**  
True
-



# PowerPoint Slides

## Slides 1-6



## PowerPoint Slides

### Slides 7-12

### Planning Considerations

- What resources do you need and what are available to you?
- How can you mitigate damage?
- Who should you coordinate it with?



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### Steps to Take

- Develop a plan
- Organize your resources
- Fix up your home—mitigation
- Prepare for possible scenarios:
  - Sheltering
  - Evacuation
- Practice and train frequently



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8

### Mitigation

- What is mitigation?
  - Avoid or substantially reduce the potential damage to property
- Advantages of mitigation
  - Possibly reduce your insurance costs
  - Shorten recovery time after a disaster
  - Help you keep your home in good shape



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### Special Considerations for Animals

- Toxic substances
- Heavy items
- Loose, blowing items
- Debris that could inflict cuts/punctures
- Evacuation time



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### Your Finances

- Insurance
  - Keep current
  - Reflect replacement costs
- Available cash
  - Keep on hand
  - Credit cards may not work
- Record-keeping
  - Keep copies of important financial records & papers




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### Warning Systems

- Know your community's warning systems
  - Radio and TV stations
  - NOAA weather radios
  - Internet
  - Local emergency officials or police
  - Rumor control line




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## PowerPoint Slides

### Slides 13-18

### Best Early-Warning System

Your own alertness

- Always pay attention to weather
- Take action when you think severe weather may be moving into your area, even if no official warning is given
- Bring your animals inside or confine them



State Agricultural Response Team 13

### Watch vs. Warning

- **Watch:** Conditions are ripe for severe weather to develop
  - Prepare!
- **Warning:** Severe weather has been reported or is imminent
  - Seek safety immediately

HIGH WINDS WARNING

URGENT - WEATHER MESSAGE

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TALLAHASSEE, FL1259 PM EST MON FEB 14

2005 ...VERY STRONG WINDS ARE POSSIBLE ALONG COASTAL WATERS FROM S OF PANAMA CITY TO S OF ST GEORGE ISLAND EXTENDING OUT TO 60 NM



State Agricultural Response Team 14

### Special Needs

- If you have lots of animals, large animals or exotic animals...
- If you have very young, very old, handicapped or mobility impaired family members or animals...
- If you live far off the main road...

**Plan more carefully and act sooner**



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### Do You Need a Generator?

- Electricity needed to clean water and provide heat for fish and reptiles
- Power needed for pumps to supply water to horses & livestock



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### Preparing Disaster Kit

Considerations

- See to your own specific pet and family needs
- Needs vary for evacuation or for sheltering at home
- Start simple, then add as needed



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### Clothing

- Clothing appropriate for specific hazards
  - Heavy boots for walking through debris
  - Rain gear for storms
- Different needs depending on season
- Comfortable and serviceable



State Agricultural Response Team 18

## PowerPoint Slides

### Slides 19-24

**Food**

Provide for both your family & your animals

- May be perishable
  - Cycle through dated items
- For evacuation as well as sheltering in place
- Foods that are edible & tasty without cooking
- Foods that don't need to be reconstituted with hot water

 State Agricultural Response Team 19

**Water**

Generous amounts

- For your family—1-2 gallons per day per person
- For your animals—amount depends upon species
- At least 3-5 days worth
- Clean containers
- Rotate supply to maintain freshness
- Extra water for cleaning for people & animals

 State Agricultural Response Team 20

**Storing Disaster Supplies**

- Should be portable for evacuation
- Watertight containers
- Easily accessible
- Location known to all family members
- Use understood by all family members
- Keep basic kit in your car

 State Agricultural Response Team 21

**Pet Emergency Kit for Car**

- Water in plastic bottles, food & dishes
- Extra leashes, collars & toys
- Familiar blanket or thick towel
- Pet first-aid kit & normal medication
- Appropriate carrier
- Identification & records

 State Agricultural Response Team 22

**Other Supplies**

- Tools
- Clothing & bedding
- Sanitation supplies
- Special items for pets
- Radio & flashlights & batteries for both
- Cell phones (with chargers)

 State Agricultural Response Team 23

**Identification of Your Animals**

- Tags on collars (best option)
- Tattoos
- Microchips
- Combination of methods
- Include phone number *outside* of your area
- Photograph of yourself with the animals
  - Helps establish ownership



 State Agricultural Response Team 24

# PowerPoint Slides

## Slides 25-30

### Pros & Cons of ID Methods

- Tag might fall off but can be read instantly
  - Animal might be returned immediately
- Microchipping – most secure, but possibly hard to read at a disaster shelter
- Tattoo – won't fall off, often hard to read & no national registry to get the owner's information

State Agricultural Response Team
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### Worksheet 1 Pet Disaster Kit Checklist

**Worksheet 1  
Pets & Disasters**

**Pet Disaster Kit Checklist**

Use this checklist as a guide to assembling your disaster kit for your pet. You may want to add items or adjust items. Use your disaster kit when you are placed back in your pet's care.

Item	Yes	No	Item	Yes	No
Pet carrier			Collar/identification tags		
Photos with you and your pet			Antibiotic ointment		
Up-to-date health records			Antibiotic/electrolyte solution		
Emergency shelter contact list			Bandages		
Extra collar with ID tag and leash			Blankets		
Maple			Instant cold pack		
Food for up to two weeks			Leak deodorizer		
Water for up to two weeks			Waterproof container		
Disinfectant/antiseptic			Whiskers, nail clippers, second leash		
Other box with other supplies			Medications		
			Microchipped/ID card		

Take information and disaster kit to shelter at: <http://www.human.gov/florida>  
<http://www.human.gov/florida>  
<http://www.human.gov/florida>

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26

### Evacuate or Shelter in Place?



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27

### Evacuate or Shelter in Place?

What is sheltering in place?

- Staying indoors where you are
- Making yourself as safe as possible until the emergency passes or you are told to evacuate

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28

### Why Shelter at Home?

- Trend is now more toward sheltering in place
  - Means better mitigation measures are needed
- Used during or after emergencies in which you can be as safe or safer at home than on the road or in a remote shelter
- Potentially less stressful for you & your animals

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29

### When to Shelter in Place?

- Hurricane
  - If you are not in a vulnerable area and if your house is hurricane-resistant
- Hazmat emergency
  - For inhalant substance (except explosive), may be safer to be indoors than outdoors

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# PowerPoint Slides

## Slides 31-36

### For Inhalant Incident

- Prepare as soon as possible
- Close all windows
- Bring in all animals that you can
- Close any outbuildings that house animals
- Close air intakes



State Agricultural Response Team 31

### Water

Generous amounts

- For your family—1-2 gallons per day per person
- For your animals—amount depends upon species
- At least 3-5 days worth
- Clean containers
- Rotate supply to maintain freshness
- Extra water for cleaning for people & animals



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### Last-Minute Preparations

- Take your disaster supplies, family and pets with you
- Close windows shades, blinds or curtains
- Stay away from windows
- Go to an above-ground room if you are in a flood-prone area
- Stay in the interior of your house or a room with the fewest windows and doors



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### Once You are Sheltered

- Listen to your radio or watch your television
- Don't come out until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate




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### Evacuation Planning




State Agricultural Response Team 35

### Evacuation Planning

Why prepare for evacuation?

- Don't be complacent
  - No one is immune
- Animals take more time to evacuate
- Planning helps you leave early & preserves your options



State Agricultural Response Team 36

## PowerPoint Slides

### Slides 37-42

### Will You be Ordered to Evacuate?

Evacuation orders depend upon:

- Speed of onset of the disaster
- Threat to life anticipated
- Amount of damage caused or expected to be caused to dwellings
- Ability and availability of emergency services resources to support your needs at your location



State Agricultural Response Team 37

### How Will You Know When to Evacuate?

- Keep checking local warning systems—radio, television and Internet
- Listen for information about evacuation plans in your area
- You may not know at first whether you should evacuate or shelter at home



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### Where Will You Go?

- Consider your support network of family and friends
- Pre-arrange a place to stay with people who will welcome you and your animals
- Use the Web sites and phone numbers for chambers of commerce and visitors & convention bureaus
  - May track hotel and motel availability
- Consider public shelters a last resort



State Agricultural Response Team 39

### Worksheet 2 Evacuation Options

Worksheet 2 Personal Planning Evacuation Options	
Type of Disaster	Options and Contact Information
Flood and Trench	1. 2. 3.
Holds and cracks in other Pex	1. 2. 3.
Operational concerns and safety and maintenance	1. 2. 3.
Flood and Trench	1. 2. 3.



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### Safety in Evacuation



- Ask authorities for best evacuation routes
  - Avoid potentially hazardous areas
- Avoid congested areas, especially near rush-hour travel routes
- Take routes you know
  - Survey them in advance



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### Other Considerations

- Plan your route to cover all family members
  - Home
  - Work
  - Schools
  - Pet sitter
- Time of day makes a difference
- Don't leave pets in parked vehicle
  - Even with windows open, temp can exceed 120° quickly
  - Running engine & AC can quit & pets can die



State Agricultural Response Team 42

# PowerPoint Slides

## Slides 43-48

### Be a Good Guest

- Have pet carriers or containers to use as dens
- Respect household or shelter rules



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### Practice Evacuating

- Helps your family and animals know the drill
- Makes evacuation practice fun
- Invite several families to practice evacuation with you

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### If Evacuation is Ordered

- Evacuate immediately when ordered to
- Take your disaster supplies
- Lock your home
- Follow your evacuation plan
- Listen to the radio for weather, news & evacuation instructions
- Maintain direct control of your animals

State Agricultural Response Team 45

### If You're Not Home when Evacuation is Ordered

- Notify appropriate authorities so that animals can be evacuated by animal responders
- Call a neighbor
  - *Did you plan with your neighbors?*

State Agricultural Response Team 46

### Waiting until the Last Minute

- You might not be able to take your animals with you
- Emergency responders are trained and required to save human lives, not animals
- They may be taking physical and legal risks to help your animals
- Bottom line: Don't wait!

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### Recovery



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## PowerPoint Slides

### Slides 49-54

### First Steps

Is it safe to come out?

- Identify injuries
- Identify hazards
- Identify damage
- Identify needs



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### Coming Out?

- Stay tuned to the radio or television
- Remain sheltered until you know it is safe to leave
- Don't leave an evacuation shelter until you know where you will go



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### More Tips for Recovery




State Agricultural Response Team 51

### More Tips for Recovery

- Be prepared for a very different situation
- Be aware of particular dangers for your animals
- Den animals (and small children) are likely to try to hide in areas in which dangers may also be hiding



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### Dangers Afterwards

- Shock
- Gas and other hazardous materials
- Standing & moving water
- Dangers after fires
- Injury from above and underfoot
- Danger from animals
- Disease



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### Shock & Electrical Problems



- Downed power lines from high winds
- Broken or twisted wiring
- Damaged fixtures and appliances



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# PowerPoint Slides

## Slides 55-60

### Gas Leaks

- Sniff the air to detect gas leaks
- Turn off the gas if it is still on
- Open windows and leave the house
- Don't cause sparks
- Assume that if there is structural damage, gas lines could be broken



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### Hazardous Materials

- Chemicals, sewage and other materials in flood waters or from overturned containers
- Animals may attempt to drink from puddles
  - Especially if drinking water compromised & animals are thirsty



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### Dangerous Household Fluids

- Medications
- Automotive fluids, particularly antifreeze
- Household cleaners
- Anything that carries a warning label is a potential threat

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### Standing & Moving Water



- Can conceal dangerous debris
- Unseen storm drains, swimming pools, sinkholes or dangerous currents

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### Dangers after Fires

Hot spots that might flare up

- Charred & hot material from lingering and hidden fires
- Toxic fumes

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### Objects Falling from Above

- Structural problems in homes
- Tree limbs
- Debris falling from trees

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## PowerPoint Slides

### Slides 61-66

### Danger Underfoot

- Twisted debris with sharp edges
- Unstable porches, etc.
- Animals' feet are more vulnerable than yours
- Wear protective clothing & footwear

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### Structural Damage

- Examine building from all angles on the outside
- Buildings may be weakened & could collapse
- Get an expert if you are not sure

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### Loose Animals & Exotics

- Animals may behave erratically
- This includes your pets, if uncontrolled
- Be aware that exotics may have been released by the disaster

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### Wildlife



- Also affected by disaster
- May be frightened and disoriented
- May best be left to fend for themselves

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### Wildlife in Houses

- Wild animals may seek refuge from flood waters in the upper levels of your house
- If you meet one face to face, don't panic
- Make sure that the animal can escape
- Open windows or doors, and the animal will probably leave on its own

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### Diseases

- Mosquitoes & animal carcasses may pose disease problems
- Example: West Nile Virus

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## PowerPoint Slides

### Slides 67-72

### Report Suspected Diseases

- Keep in touch with your local public health and emergency management authorities for warnings
- Report any problems that you encounter
- Use common sense and uncommon caution



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### Watch for Emotional & Behavioral Reactions

- Unexpected reactions in yourself & in your animals
- Companion and service animals are especially vulnerable to human moods
- Sick or injured animals may behave unpredictably
- Handle only if you have training to do so



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### Disoriented Animals

- Loss of marker cues which tell them that 'this is home'
- Keep your pets contained or on leashes
- Accompany companion and service animals outside when they need to go
- Make sure that any damaged fences are repaired quickly



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### If You Get Separated from Your Pets




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### Looking for Your Pets

- Call and visit the local animal shelters
- Call the local animal control authorities
- Distribute posters with a description or a picture of your animals, area last seen & your contact information




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### Be Patient

- Many animals will hide or flee
- Search your neighborhood
- Make posters with the description of your animals
- Use the Internet, including free services such as the Missing Pet Network  
— <http://www.missingpet.net>



State Agricultural Response Team

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## PowerPoint Slides

### Slides 73-78

#### If You Find a Lost Animal

- Call the local animal shelter or animal control authorities
  - Describe the animal (color, breed, sex) & its location
- Don't try to handle an injured animal unless you are a professional or are familiar with animal handling techniques

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#### Getting Back to Normal

- Get your family members & pets back to their normal routines as soon as possible
- This is as important for your animals & children as it is for you

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#### Help Your Animals

- Pets will likely be disoriented & can become easily confused
- Walk your pets around your house and yard on a leash to reassure them
- Follow up with veterinary care, if needed

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#### Find Normal Things to Do

- Some parts of your routine may be hard to resume
  - If you don't have electric power yet, you can't watch television
- Find something else to fill that space in your routine
  - Reading out loud
  - Playing catch with your dog
  - Other recreational activity

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State Agricultural Response Team 77

#### Resources

- SART Web site
  - [www.fsart.org](http://www.fsart.org)
- Animal-related resources
- Emergency management resources
- Ag safety resources
- FEMA training

State Agricultural Response Team 78

# PowerPoint Slides

## Slides 79-80

**Summary & Wrap-Up**

- Potential risks you face
- Ways you can reduce those risks
- What you need in your pet disaster kits
- Actions you can take to prepare for possible scenarios
- Key resources

 State Agricultural Response Team 79

**Thank You**



 State Agricultural Response Team 80

## PowerPoint Slides

The *Identifying Community Needs & Resources* PowerPoint slides are reproduced full-size on the following pages. You can use these pages as a display or photocopy them onto plastic overhead sheets for use with an overhead projector.

Color versions of these slides can be downloaded at the SART Web site:

<[www.flisart.org](http://www.flisart.org)>.





# Pets & Disasters

## *Personal Planning*



# Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning

Prepared by:

**Laura Bevan**

Director, Humane Society of the United States  
Southeast Regional Office, Tallahassee, Florida

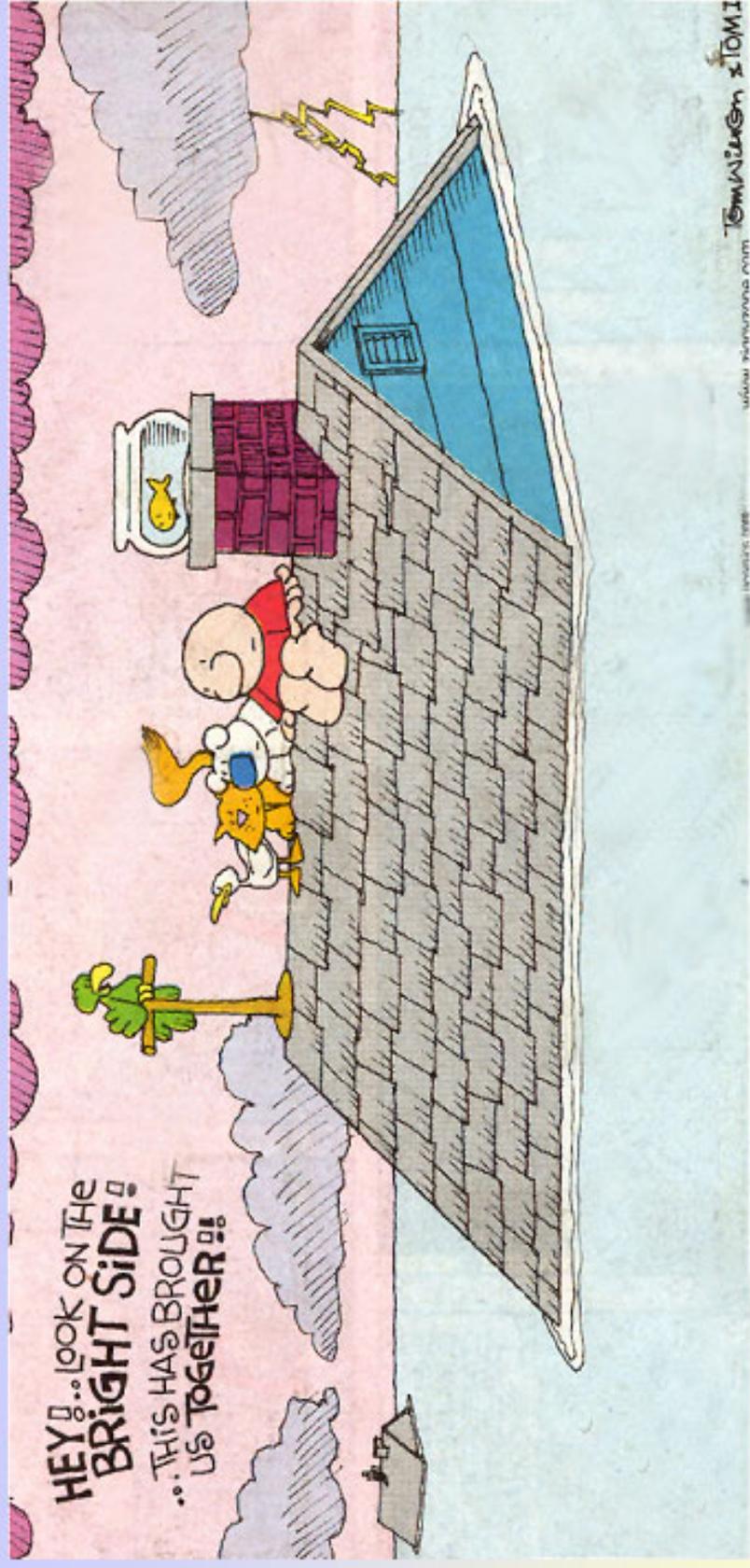
**Chris Eversole**

University of Florida, Gainesville

**Carol J. Lehtola, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, University of Florida,  
Gainesville





## Learning Objectives

- Describe the potential risks you face
- List and discuss ways you can reduce risks
- Begin pet disaster kit checklist
- Name actions you can take to prepare for possible scenarios
- Identify key resources you can easily access



## **Our Community's Risks**

- What has actually happened to you and other people in our community?
- What could happen?



## Planning Considerations

- What resources do you need and what are available to you?
- How can you mitigate damage?
- Who should you coordinate it with?



# Steps to Take

- Develop a plan
- Organize your resources
- Fix up your home—mitigation
- Prepare for possible scenarios:
  - Sheltering
  - Evacuation
- Practice and train frequently



# Mitigation

- What is mitigation?
  - Avoid or substantially reduce the potential damage to property
- Advantages of mitigation
  - Possibly reduce your insurance costs
  - Shorten recovery time after a disaster
  - Help you keep your home in good shape



# Special Considerations for Animals

- Toxic substances
- Heavy items
- Loose, blowing items
- Debris that could inflict cuts/punctures
- Evacuation time



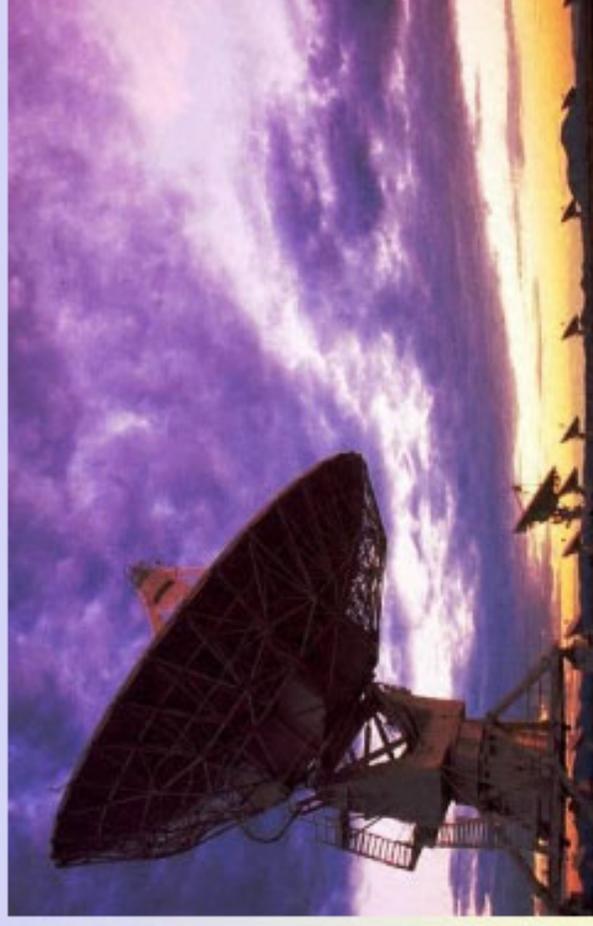
# Your Finances

- Insurance
  - Keep current
  - Reflect replacement costs
- Available cash
  - Keep on hand
  - Credit cards may not work
- Record-keeping
  - Keep copies of important financial records & papers



# Warning Systems

- Know your community's warning systems
  - Radio and TV stations
  - NOAA weather radios
  - Internet
  - Local emergency officials or police
  - Rumor control line



# Best Early-Warning System

## Your own alertness

- Always pay attention to weather
- Take action when you think severe weather may be moving into your area, even if no official warning is given
- Bring your animals inside or confine them



## Watch vs. Warning

- **Watch:** Conditions are ripe for severe weather to develop
  - Prepare!
- **Warning:** Severe weather has been reported or is imminent
  - Seek safety immediately

HIGH WINDS WARNING  
URGENT - WEATHER  
MESSAGE  
NATIONAL WEATHER  
SERVICE TALLAHASSEE,  
FL1259 PM EST MON FEB 14  
2005 ...VERY STRONG  
WINDS ARE POSSIBLE  
ALONG COASTAL WATERS  
FROM S OF PANAMA CITY  
TO S OF ST GEORGE ISLAND  
EXTENDING OUT TO 60 NM



## **Special Needs**

- If you have lots of animals, large animals or exotic animals...
- If you have very young, very old, handicapped or mobility impaired family members or animals...
- If you live far off the main road...

**Plan more carefully and act sooner**



## Do You Need a Generator?

- Electricity needed to clean water and provide heat for fish and reptiles
- Power needed for pumps to supply water to horses & livestock



# Preparing Disaster Kit

## Considerations

- See to your own specific pet and family needs
- Needs vary for evacuation or for sheltering at home
- Start simple, then add as needed



## Clothing

- Clothing appropriate for specific hazards
  - Heavy boots for walking through debris
  - Rain gear for storms
- Different needs depending on season
- Comfortable and serviceable



# Food

Provide for both your family & your animals

- May be perishable
  - Cycle through dated items
- For evacuation as well as sheltering in place
- Foods that are edible & tasty without cooking
- Foods that don't need to be reconstituted with hot water



# Water

## Generous amounts

- For your family—1-2 gallons per day per person
- For your animals—amount depends upon species
- At least 3-5 days worth
- Clean containers
- Rotate supply to maintain freshness
- Extra water for cleaning for people & animals



## Storing Disaster Supplies

- Should be portable for evacuation
- Watertight containers
- Easily accessible
- Location known to all family members
- Use understood by all family members
- Keep basic kit in your car



## **Pet Emergency Kit for Car**

- Water in plastic bottles, food & dishes
- Extra leashes, collars & toys
- Familiar blanket or thick towel
- Pet first-aid kit & normal medication
- Appropriate carrier
- Identification & records



## Other Supplies

- Tools
- Clothing & bedding
- Sanitation supplies
- Special items for pets
- Radio & flashlights & batteries for both
- Cell phones (with chargers)



# Identification of Your Animals

- Tags on collars (best option)
- Tattoos
- Microchips
- Combination of methods
- Include phone number *outside* of your area
- Photograph of yourself with the animals
  - Helps establish ownership



## Pros & Cons of ID Methods

- Tag might fall off but can be read instantly
  - Animal might be returned immediately
- Microchipping – most secure, but possibly hard to read at a disaster shelter
- Tattoo – won't fall off, often hard to read & no national registry to get the owner's information



# Worksheet 1

## Pet Disaster Kit Checklist

### Worksheet 1 Pets & Disasters

#### Pet Disaster Kit Checklist

Use this checklist as a guide to assembling your disaster kits for your pets. You may need to add items or subtract them. Store your disaster kits where you can place them in your vehicle quickly.

Item	In Kit	Item	In Kit
Pet carrier		Cotton-tipped applicators	
Photos with you and your pet		Antiseptic wipes	
Up-to-date health records		Antibacterial ointment/ointment	
Emergency shelter contact list		Tweezers	
E-collar with ID tags and leash		Scissors	
Muzzle		Instant cold pack	
Food for up to two weeks		Late disposable gloves	
Water for up to two weeks		Waterproof container	
Blankets/bedding/pillows		Antiseptic, nonstinging wound wash	
Litter box with litter		Medications	
Bandages		Handheld can opener	

More information on pet disaster kits is available at:

<<http://www.farms.gov/kitz/pets.htm>>

<<http://disaster.fas.uff.edu/>>

<<http://www.fsg.state.uff.edu/>>



# Evacuate or Shelter in Place?



# **Evacuate or Shelter in Place?**

What is sheltering in place?

- Staying indoors where you are
- Making yourself as safe as possible until the emergency passes or you are told to evacuate



## Why Shelter at Home?

- Trend is now more toward sheltering in place
  - Means better mitigation measures are needed
- Used during or after emergencies in which you can be as safe or safer at home than on the road or in a remote shelter
- Potentially less stressful for you & your animals



## When to Shelter in Place?

- Hurricane
  - If you are not in a vulnerable area and if your house is hurricane-resistant
- Hazmat emergency
  - For inhalant substance (except explosive), may be safer to be indoors than outdoors



## For Inhalant Incident

- Prepare as soon as possible
- Close all windows
- Bring in all animals that you can
- Close any outbuildings that house animals
- Close air intakes



## Preparing Your Animals

- Put pets in carriers or cages
- Practice so you will get some idea about how your animals will react



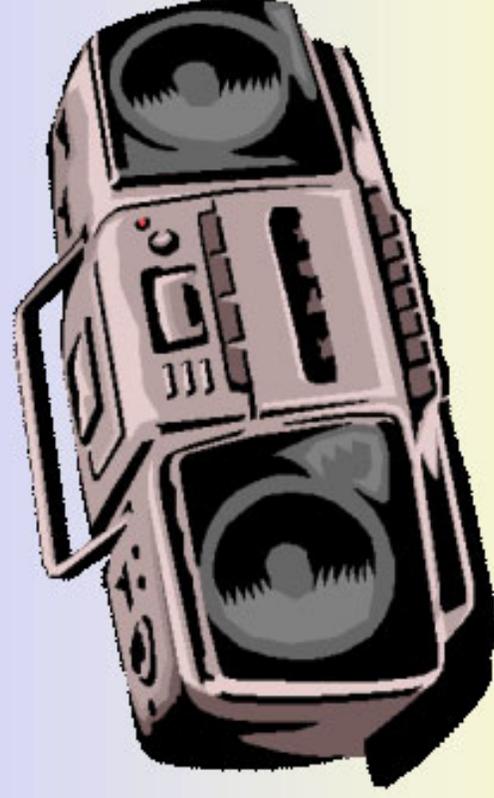
## Last-Minute Preparations

- Take your disaster supplies, family and pets with you
- Close windows shades, blinds or curtains
- Stay away from windows
- Go to an above-ground room if you are in a flood-prone area
- Stay in the interior of your house or a room with the fewest windows and doors



## Once You are Sheltered

- Listen to your radio or watch your television
- Don't come out until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate



# Evacuation Planning



# Evacuation Planning

## Why prepare for evacuation?

- Don't be complacent
  - No one is immune
- Animals take more time to evacuate
- Planning helps you leave early & preserves your options



# Will You be Ordered to Evacuate?

Evacuation orders depend upon:

- Speed of onset of the disaster
- Threat to life anticipated
- Amount of damage caused or expected to be caused to dwellings
- Ability and availability of emergency services resources to support your needs at your location



## **How Will You Know When to Evacuate?**

- Keep checking local warning systems—radio, television and Internet
- Listen for information about evacuation plans in your area
- You may not know at first whether you should evacuate or shelter at home



## Where Will You Go?

- Consider your support network of family and friends
- Pre-arrange a place to stay with people who will welcome you and your animals
- Use the Web sites and phone numbers for chambers of commerce and visitors & convention bureaus
  - May track hotel and motel availability
- Consider public shelters a last resort



# Worksheet 2

## Evacuation Options

### Worksheet 2 Personal Planning

Type of Shelter	Options and Contact Information
Family and friends	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>
Hotels and motels in other areas	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>
Chambers of commerce and visitors and convention bureaus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>
Public shelters	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> <li>3.</li> </ol>



# Safety in Evacuation

- Ask authorities for best evacuation routes
  - Avoid potentially hazardous areas
- Avoid congested areas, especially near rush-hour travel routes
- Take routes you know
  - Survey them in advance



## Other Considerations

- Plan your route to cover all family members
  - Home
  - Work
  - Schools
  - Pet sitter
- Time of day makes a difference
- Don't leave pets in parked vehicle
  - Even with windows open, temp can exceed 120° quickly
  - Running engine & AC can quit & pets can die



# Be a Good Guest

- Have pet carriers or containers to use as dens
- Respect household or shelter rules



## Practice Evacuating

- Helps your family and animals know the drill
- Makes evacuation practice fun
- Invite several families to practice evacuation with you



## **If Evacuation is Ordered**

- Evacuate immediately when ordered to
- Take your disaster supplies
- Lock your home
- Follow your evacuation plan
- Listen to the radio for weather, news & evacuation instructions
- Maintain direct control of your animals



## **If You're Not Home when Evacuation is Ordered**

- Notify appropriate authorities so that animals can be evacuated by animal responders
- Call a neighbor
  - *Did you plan with your neighbors?*



## Waiting until the Last Minute

- You might not be able to take your animals with you
- Emergency responders are trained and required to save human lives, not animals
- They may be taking physical and legal risks to help your animals
- Bottom line: Don't wait!



# Recovery



# First Steps

Is it safe to come out?

- Identify injuries
- Identify hazards
- Identify damage
- Identify needs



## Coming Out?

- Stay tuned to the radio or television
- Remain sheltered until you know it is safe to leave
- Don't leave an evacuation shelter until you know where you will go



# More Tips for Recovery



## More Tips for Recovery

- Be prepared for a very different situation
- Be aware of particular dangers for your animals
- Den animals (and small children) are likely to try to hide in areas in which dangers may also be hiding



## **Dangers Afterwards**

- Shock
- Gas and other hazardous materials
- Standing & moving water
- Dangers after fires
- Injury from above and underfoot
- Danger from animals
- Disease



# Shock & Electrical Problems



- Downed power lines from high winds
- Broken or twisted wiring
- Damaged fixtures and appliances



## Gas Leaks

- Sniff the air to detect gas leaks
- Turn off the gas if it is still on
- Open windows and leave the house
- Don't cause sparks
- Assume that if there is structural damage, gas lines could be broken



# Hazardous Materials

- Chemicals, sewage and other materials in flood waters or from overturned containers
- Animals may attempt to drink from puddles
  - Especially if drinking water compromised & animals are thirsty



# Dangerous Household Fluids

- Medications
- Automotive fluids, particularly antifreeze
- Household cleaners
- Anything that carries a warning label is a potential threat



# Standing & Moving Water



- Can conceal dangerous debris
- Unseen storm drains, swimming pools, sinkholes or dangerous currents



# Dangers after Fires

Hot spots that might flare up

- Charred & hot material from lingering and hidden fires
- Toxic fumes



## **Objects Falling from Above**

- Structural problems in homes
- Tree limbs
- Debris falling from trees



## **Danger Underfoot**

- Twisted debris with sharp edges
- Unstable porches, etc.
- Animals' feet are more vulnerable than yours
- Wear protective clothing & footwear



## Structural Damage

- Examine building from all angles on the outside
- Buildings may be weakened & could collapse
- Get an expert if you are not sure



## **Loose Animals & Exotics**

- Animals may behave erratically
- This includes your pets, if uncontrolled
- Be aware that exotics may have been released by the disaster



# Wildlife



- Also affected by disaster
- May be frightened and disoriented
- May best be left to fend for themselves



## Wildlife in Houses

- Wild animals may seek refuge from flood waters in the upper levels of your house
- If you meet one face to face, don't panic
- Make sure that the animal can escape
- Open windows or doors, and the animal will probably leave on its own



## Diseases

- Mosquitoes & animal carcasses may pose disease problems
- Example: West Nile Virus



## **Report Suspected Diseases**

- Keep in touch with your local public health and emergency management authorities for warnings
- Report any problems that you encounter
- Use common sense and uncommon caution



## Watch for Emotional & Behavioral Reactions

- Unexpected reactions in yourself & in your animals
- Companion and service animals are especially vulnerable to human moods
- Sick or injured animals may behave unpredictably
- Handle only if you have training to do so



## Disoriented Animals

- Loss of marker cues which tell them that ‘this is home’
- Keep your pets contained or on leashes
- Accompany companion and service animals outside when they need to go
- Make sure that any damaged fences are repaired quickly



# If You Get Separated from Your Pets



## Looking for Your Pets

- Call and visit the local animal shelters
- Call the local animal control authorities
- Distribute posters with a description or a picture of your animals, area last seen & your contact information



## Be Patient

- Many animals will hide or flee
- Search your neighborhood
- Make posters with the description of your animals
- Use the Internet, including free services such as the Missing Pet Network  
— <http://www.missingpet.net>



## **If You Find a Lost Animal**

- Call the local animal shelter or animal control authorities
  - Describe the animal (color, breed, sex) & its location
- Don't try to handle an injured animal unless you are a professional or are familiar with animal handling techniques



## Getting Back to Normal

- Get your family members & pets back to their normal routines as soon as possible
- This is as important for your animals & children as it is for you



## Help Your Animals

- Pets will likely be disoriented & can become easily confused
- Walk your pets around your house and yard on a leash to reassure them
- Follow up with veterinary care, if needed



## Find Normal Things to Do

- Some parts of your routine may be hard to resume
  - If you don't have electric power yet, you can't watch television
- Find something else to fill that space in your routine
  - Reading out loud
  - Playing catch with your dog
  - Other recreational activity





## Resources

- SART Web site
  - [www.flstart.org](http://www.flstart.org)
- Animal-related resources
- Emergency management resources
- Ag safety resources
- FEMA training



## Summary & Wrap-Up

- Potential risks you face
- Ways you can reduce those risks
- What you need in your pet disaster kits
- Actions you can take to prepare for possible scenarios
- Key resources



# Thank You



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## PowerPoint Slides — Handout Pages

The “Introducing SART” PowerPoint slides are reproduced on the following pages at reduced size with space for participant notes.

(Also included in *Introducing SART*, Workbook I-1, available on the SART Web site:

<[www.flsart.org](http://www.flsart.org)>

Slides 1-3




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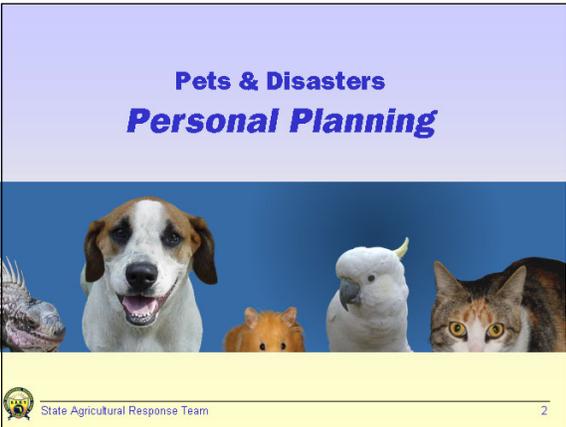
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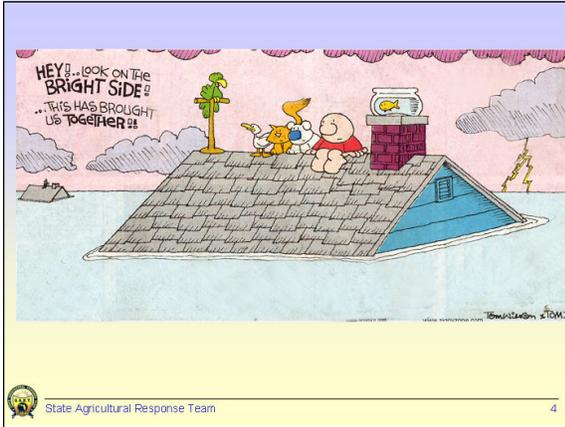
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Slides 4-6



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### Learning Objectives

- Describe the potential risks you face
- List and discuss ways you can reduce risks
- Begin pet disaster kit checklist
- Name actions you can take to prepare for possible scenarios
- Identify key resources you can easily access

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### Our Community's Risks

- What has actually happened to you and other people in our community?
- What could happen?

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**Slides 7-9**

**Planning Considerations**

- What resources do you need and what are available to you?
- How can you mitigate damage?
- Who should you coordinate it with?

 State Agricultural Response Team 7

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**Steps to Take**

- Develop a plan
- Organize your resources
- Fix up your home—mitigation
- Prepare for possible scenarios:
  - Sheltering
  - Evacuation
- Practice and train frequently

 State Agricultural Response Team 8

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**Mitigation**

- What is mitigation?
  - Avoid or substantially reduce the potential damage to property
- Advantages of mitigation
  - Possibly reduce your insurance costs
  - Shorten recovery time after a disaster
  - Help you keep your home in good shape

 State Agricultural Response Team 9

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Slides 10-12

**Special Considerations for Animals**

- Toxic substances
- Heavy items
- Loose, blowing items
- Debris that could inflict cuts/punctures
- Evacuation time

 State Agricultural Response Team 10

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**Your Finances**

- Insurance
  - Keep current
  - Reflect replacement costs
- Available cash
  - Keep on hand
  - Credit cards may not work
- Record-keeping
  - Keep copies of important financial records & papers



 State Agricultural Response Team 11

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**Warning Systems**

- Know your community's warning systems
  - Radio and TV stations
  - NOAA weather radios
  - Internet
  - Local emergency officials or police
  - Rumor control line



 State Agricultural Response Team 12

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Slides 13-15

### Best Early-Warning System

Your own alertness

- Always pay attention to weather
- Take action when you think severe weather may be moving into your area, even if no official warning is given
- Bring your animals inside or confine them



State Agricultural Response Team 13

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### Watch vs. Warning

- **Watch:** Conditions are ripe for severe weather to develop
  - Prepare!
- **Warning:** Severe weather has been reported or is imminent
  - Seek safety immediately

HIGH WINDS WARNING  
URGENT - WEATHER MESSAGE  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TALLAHASSEE, FL1259 PM EST MON FEB 14  
2005 ...VERY STRONG WINDS ARE POSSIBLE ALONG COASTAL WATERS FROM S OF PANAMA CITY TO S OF ST GEORGE ISLAND EXTENDING OUT TO 60 NM



State Agricultural Response Team 14

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### Special Needs

- If you have lots of animals, large animals or exotic animals...
- If you have very young, very old, handicapped or mobility impaired family members or animals...
- If you live far off the main road...

**Plan more carefully and act sooner**



State Agricultural Response Team 15

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**Slides 16-18**

**Do You Need a Generator?**

- Electricity needed to clean water and provide heat for fish and reptiles
- Power needed for pumps to supply water to horses & livestock

 State Agricultural Response Team 16

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**Preparing Disaster Kit**

Considerations

- See to your own specific pet and family needs
- Needs vary for evacuation or for sheltering at home
- Start simple, then add as needed

 State Agricultural Response Team 17

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**Clothing**

- Clothing appropriate for specific hazards
  - Heavy boots for walking through debris
  - Rain gear for storms
- Different needs depending on season
- Comfortable and serviceable

 State Agricultural Response Team 18

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**Slides 19-21**

**Food**

Provide for both your family & your animals

- May be perishable
  - Cycle through dated items
- For evacuation as well as sheltering in place
- Foods that are edible & tasty without cooking
- Foods that don't need to be reconstituted with hot water

 State Agricultural Response Team 19

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**Water**

Generous amounts

- For your family—1-2 gallons per day per person
- For your animals—amount depends upon species
- At least 3-5 days worth
- Clean containers
- Rotate supply to maintain freshness
- Extra water for cleaning for people & animals

 State Agricultural Response Team 20

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**Storing Disaster Supplies**

- Should be portable for evacuation
- Watertight containers
- Easily accessible
- Location known to all family members
- Use understood by all family members
- Keep basic kit in your car

 State Agricultural Response Team 21

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**Slides 22-24**

**Pet Emergency Kit for Car**

- Water in plastic bottles, food & dishes
- Extra leashes, collars & toys
- Familiar blanket or thick towel
- Pet first-aid kit & normal medication
- Appropriate carrier
- Identification & records

 State Agricultural Response Team 22

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**Other Supplies**

- Tools
- Clothing & bedding
- Sanitation supplies
- Special items for pets
- Radio & flashlights & batteries for both
- Cell phones (with chargers)

 State Agricultural Response Team 23

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**Identification of Your Animals**

- Tags on collars (best option)
- Tattoos
- Microchips
- Combination of methods
- Include phone number *outside* of your area
- Photograph of yourself with the animals
  - Helps establish ownership



 State Agricultural Response Team 24

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Slides 28-30

**Evacuate  
or Shelter in Place?**

What is sheltering in place?

- Staying indoors where you are
- Making yourself as safe as possible until the emergency passes or you are told to evacuate



State Agricultural Response Team 28

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**Why Shelter at Home?**

- Trend is now more toward sheltering in place
  - Means better mitigation measures are needed
- Used during or after emergencies in which you can be as safe or safer at home than on the road or in a remote shelter
- Potentially less stressful for you & your animals



State Agricultural Response Team 29

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**When to Shelter in Place?**

- Hurricane
  - If you are not in a vulnerable area and if your house is hurricane-resistant
- Hazmat emergency
  - For inhalant substance (except explosive), may be safer to be indoors than outdoors



State Agricultural Response Team 30

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**Slides 31-33**

**For Inhalant Incident**

- Prepare as soon as possible
- Close all windows
- Bring in all animals that you can
- Close any outbuildings that house animals
- Close air intakes

 State Agricultural Response Team 31

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**Preparing Your Animals**

- Put pets in carriers or cages
- Practice so you will get some idea about how your animals will react

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**Last-Minute Preparations**

- Take your disaster supplies, family and pets with you
- Close windows shades, blinds or curtains
- Stay away from windows
- Go to an above-ground room if you are in a flood-prone area
- Stay in the interior of your house or a room with the fewest windows and doors

 State Agricultural Response Team 33

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**Slides 34-36**

**Once You are Sheltered**

- Listen to your radio or watch your television
- Don't come out until you are told all is safe or you are told to evacuate



State Agricultural Response Team 34

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**Evacuation Planning**



State Agricultural Response Team 35

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**Evacuation Planning**

Why prepare for evacuation?

- Don't be complacent
  - No one is immune
- Animals take more time to evacuate
- Planning helps you leave early & preserves your options

State Agricultural Response Team 36

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**Slides 37-39**

**Will You be Ordered to Evacuate?**

Evacuation orders depend upon:

- Speed of onset of the disaster
- Threat to life anticipated
- Amount of damage caused or expected to be caused to dwellings
- Ability and availability of emergency services resources to support your needs at your location

 State Agricultural Response Team 37

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**How Will You Know When to Evacuate?**

- Keep checking local warning systems—radio, television and Internet
- Listen for information about evacuation plans in your area
- You may not know at first whether you should evacuate or shelter at home

 State Agricultural Response Team 38

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**Where Will You Go?**

- Consider your support network of family and friends
- Pre-arrange a place to stay with people who will welcome you and your animals
- Use the Web sites and phone numbers for chambers of commerce and visitors & convention bureaus
  - May track hotel and motel availability
- Consider public shelters a last resort

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Slides 40-42

**Worksheet 2  
Evacuation Options**

Worksheet 2 Personal Planning Evacuation Options	
Type of Shelter	Options and Contact Information
Family and friends	1. 2. 3.
Relatives and friends in other cities	1. 2. 3.
Charter of government or other organizations Hotels	1. 2. 3.
Public shelters	1. 2. 3.

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**Safety in Evacuation**



- Ask authorities for best evacuation routes
  - Avoid potentially hazardous areas
- Avoid congested areas, especially near rush-hour travel routes
- Take routes you know
  - Survey them in advance

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**Other Considerations**

- Plan your route to cover all family members
  - Home
  - Work
  - Schools
  - Pet sitter
- Time of day makes a difference
- Don't leave pets in parked vehicle
  - Even with windows open, temp can exceed 120° quickly
  - Running engine & AC can quit & pets can die

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**Slides 43-45**

**Be a Good Guest**

- Have pet carriers or containers to use as dens
- Respect household or shelter rules



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**Practice Evacuating**

- Helps your family and animals know the drill
- Makes evacuation practice fun
- Invite several families to practice evacuation with you



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**If Evacuation is Ordered**

- Evacuate immediately when ordered to
- Take your disaster supplies
- Lock your home
- Follow your evacuation plan
- Listen to the radio for weather, news & evacuation instructions
- Maintain direct control of your animals



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Slides 46-48

**If You're Not Home when Evacuation is Ordered**

- Notify appropriate authorities so that animals can be evacuated by animal responders
- Call a neighbor
  - *Did you plan with your neighbors?*

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**Waiting until the Last Minute**

- You might not be able to take your animals with you
- Emergency responders are trained and required to save human lives, not animals
- They may be taking physical and legal risks to help your animals
- Bottom line: Don't wait!

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**Recovery**



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**Slides 49-51**

**First Steps**

Is it safe to come out?

- Identify injuries
- Identify hazards
- Identify damage
- Identify needs

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**Coming Out?**

- Stay tuned to the radio or television
- Remain sheltered until you know it is safe to leave
- Don't leave an evacuation shelter until you know where you will go

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**More Tips for Recovery**



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Slides 52-54

**More Tips for Recovery**

- Be prepared for a very different situation
- Be aware of particular dangers for your animals
- Den animals (and small children) are likely to try to hide in areas in which dangers may also be hiding

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**Dangers Afterwards**

- Shock
- Gas and other hazardous materials
- Standing & moving water
- Dangers after fires
- Injury from above and underfoot
- Danger from animals
- Disease

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**Shock & Electrical Problems**



- Downed power lines from high winds
- Broken or twisted wiring
- Damaged fixtures and appliances

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**Slides 55-57**

**Gas Leaks**

- Sniff the air to detect gas leaks
- Turn off the gas if it is still on
- Open windows and leave the house
- Don't cause sparks
- Assume that if there is structural damage, gas lines could be broken



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**Hazardous Materials**

- Chemicals, sewage and other materials in flood waters or from overturned containers
- Animals may attempt to drink from puddles
  - Especially if drinking water compromised & animals are thirsty



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**Dangerous Household Fluids**

- Medications
- Automotive fluids, particularly antifreeze
- Household cleaners
- Anything that carries a warning label is a potential threat

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**Slides 58-60**

**Standing & Moving Water**



- Can conceal dangerous debris
- Unseen storm drains, swimming pools, sinkholes or dangerous currents

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**Dangers after Fires**

Hot spots that might flare up

- Charred & hot material from lingering and hidden fires
- Toxic fumes

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**Objects Falling from Above**

- Structural problems in homes
- Tree limbs
- Debris falling from trees

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**Slides 61-63**

**Danger Underfoot**

- Twisted debris with sharp edges
- Unstable porches, etc.
- Animals' feet are more vulnerable than yours
- Wear protective clothing & footwear

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**Structural Damage**

- Examine building from all angles on the outside
- Buildings may be weakened & could collapse
- Get an expert if you are not sure

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**Loose Animals & Exotics**

- Animals may behave erratically
- This includes your pets, if uncontrolled
- Be aware that exotics may have been released by the disaster

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**Slides 64-66**

**Wildlife**



- Also affected by disaster
- May be frightened and disoriented
- May best be left to fend for themselves

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**Wildlife in Houses**

- Wild animals may seek refuge from flood waters in the upper levels of your house
- If you meet one face to face, don't panic
- Make sure that the animal can escape
- Open windows or doors, and the animal will probably leave on its own

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**Diseases**

- Mosquitoes & animal carcasses may pose disease problems
- Example: West Nile Virus

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**Slides 67-69**

**Report Suspected Diseases**

- Keep in touch with your local public health and emergency management authorities for warnings
- Report any problems that you encounter
- Use common sense and uncommon caution

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**Watch for Emotional & Behavioral Reactions**

- Unexpected reactions in yourself & in your animals
- Companion and service animals are especially vulnerable to human moods
- Sick or injured animals may behave unpredictably
- Handle only if you have training to do so

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**Disoriented Animals**

- Loss of marker cues which tell them that 'this is home'
- Keep your pets contained or on leashes
- Accompany companion and service animals outside when they need to go
- Make sure that any damaged fences are repaired quickly

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Slides 70-72

**If You Get Separated from Your Pets**



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**Looking for Your Pets**

- Call and visit the local animal shelters
- Call the local animal control authorities
- Distribute posters with a description or a picture of your animals, area last seen & your contact information



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**Be Patient**

- Many animals will hide or flee
- Search your neighborhood
- Make posters with the description of your animals
- Use the Internet, including free services such as the Missing Pet Network — <http://www.missingpet.net>

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**Slides 73-75**

**If You Find a Lost Animal**

- Call the local animal shelter or animal control authorities
  - Describe the animal (color, breed, sex) & its location
- Don't try to handle an injured animal unless you are a professional or are familiar with animal handling techniques

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**Getting Back to Normal**

- Get your family members & pets back to their normal routines as soon as possible
- This is as important for your animals & children as it is for you

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**Help Your Animals**

- Pets will likely be disoriented & can become easily confused
- Walk your pets around your house and yard on a leash to reassure them
- Follow up with veterinary care, if needed

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**Slides 76-78**

**Find Normal Things to Do**

- Some parts of your routine may be hard to resume
  - If you don't have electric power yet, you can't watch television
- Find something else to fill that space in your routine
  - Reading out loud
  - Playing catch with your dog
  - Other recreational activity

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**Resources**

- SART Web site
  - [www.fsart.org](http://www.fsart.org)
- Animal-related resources
- Emergency management resources
- Ag safety resources
- FEMA training

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**Slides 79-80**

**Summary & Wrap-Up**

- Potential risks you face
- Ways you can reduce those risks
- What you need in your pet disaster kits
- Actions you can take to prepare for possible scenarios
- Key resources

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**Thank You**



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