



## LEE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

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### **Domestic Cat and Dog Hurricane Sheltering Plan**

Rev. 05/19/08

#### **Introduction**

Lee County has recognized the need to provide for the well-being of the public prior to, during, and after disasters by supporting the humane care and treatment of companion animals during an emergency evacuation. Therefore, Lee County has entered into an inter-local agreement with the Lee County School Board to provide owners and their cat(s) and/or dog(s) temporary housing at the South Fort Myers High School, located at 14021 Plantation Road, Ft. Myers, in the event of a *mandatory* evacuation.

Due to limited capacity and limited resources, temporary housing at the South Fort Myers High School should be an owner's last resort exhausting all efforts to find temporary housing at local motels and hotels (see attached listing of motels and hotels that accept pets). Temporary housing at South Fort Myers High School is available for owners who remain at the South Fort Myers High School with their pets. Pets cannot be accepted by owners who will not remain or register at the shelter. If an owner chooses to vacate the temporary shelter, the owner will be required to take their pets with them upon departure.

The Lee County Animal Services facility will be solely responsible for supporting the protection of *stray* animals affected by an emergency to include rescue, sheltering, control, feeding and preventative immunization of animals including animals left homeless, abandoned lost or strayed as a result of an emergency. Requests for animal protection assistance and resources will be routed through the Lee County Emergency Operations Center who will notify Lee County Animal Services to respond to emergency situations.

#### **Housing of Cats and Dogs**

The housing area shall be large enough to separate species and, if necessary, quarantine for the health and safety of animals, owners, employees and volunteers. Separate areas should be designated for dogs and cats. All pets must be current on rabies and annual shots and wearing a collar and identification. If the pet is not current with rabies or booster shots, the necessary vaccines will be given at a nominal fee. Pets without collars and/or identification will be given a temporary collar and identification. **Farm and exotic animals cannot be housed at the South Fort Myers High School as it is only equipped for housing of domestic cats and dogs. Owners who require assistance with farm animals should contact the Lee Civic Center.**

#### **Care of Cats and Dogs**

Owners will be solely responsible for the care and clean up of their pets and must bring with them all of the pet items including a carrier or cage, food, water, bowls, litter pan, litter, bedding, medications, collars, leash and other necessary supplies. Lee County Animal Services strongly recommends owners provide pets with toys such as rawhides or munchies to prevent boredom and reduce anxiety while animals are housed in carriers and cages. It is suggested that due to inclement weather that may prevent dogs relieving themselves outside the building that newspaper and/or wee-wee pads are purchased by pet owners to avoid accidents from happening on floors so that soiled newspapers or wee-wee pads may be immediately discarded. Wee-wee pads and newspapers can also be used as bedding in carriers and cages as well to discard in the event of accidents inside the carriers and cages. Pet owners are reminded to clean up after their dogs when allowing dogs to relieve themselves either inside or outside of the building. Owners are responsible for the clean up of their pets' carriers and cages to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitization. All cleaning supplies including cleaning agents, paper towels, buckets, mops, etc. will be provided by Lee County Animal Services.

Lee County Animal Services employees and/or volunteers will be responsible for disinfecting floors daily and as needed. Lee County Animal Services employees, volunteers and owners are required to thoroughly wash and disinfect their hands after handling each animal, any cages, containers, cleaning any relief area and after any contact with the pets and/or their supplies. As a part of the closing process, the Lee County Animal Services employees and/or volunteers will clean and disinfect the "pet-sheltering" areas and return the building to its original condition.

### **Registration and Necessary Paperwork**

Lee County Animal Services employees or designated volunteers will assist owners with completing necessary paperwork to ensure proper and timely registration of all pets. Owners will be given a numbered wristband which will correspond with the identical wristband that will be placed on the pet's carrier or cage. Owners vacating the shelter will be required to sign a release form upon departure to ensure proper tracking of animals exiting the temporary shelter.

### **Visitation**

Only owners with a valid wristband will be granted entry to the pet housing area during visiting hours established by Lee County Animal Services personnel. Lee County Animal Services encourages frequent visits by owners with their pets. Preferably no children shall be in the pet area and Lee County Animal Services employees and/or volunteers have the authority to restrict children entering the pet housing area.

### **Pet Medications**

Owners are responsible for administering all medications to their pets. Since Lee County Animal Services will not have pet medications on hand and in inventory, owners must remember to bring all necessary pet medications to temporary housing.

### **Applicable Rules for Pet Owners to Follow**

1. There are designated "living areas" for residents and designated "living areas" for cats and dogs. Do NOT bring your cat or dog to the "resident living areas".
2. As the owner, you agree to feed, water, sanitize and exercise your cat or dog on a scheduled frequency of no less than twice daily.
3. Do not permit other shelter occupants to handle or approach your pet.
4. Cage doors will be latched and secured with a latch, wire or rope.
5. As the owner, you agree to allow Lee County Animal Services employees to administer necessary vaccines to prevent the spread of disease to other pets.
6. As the owner, you agree that if your pet(s) becomes unruly, aggressive, shows signs of contagious disease, is infected by parasites (fleas, ticks, lice, etc.) your pet(s) may be removed to a more isolated location.
7. As the owner, you acknowledge that failure to follow these rules may result in being asked to remove Pet(s) and vacate the facility.
8. As the owner, you acknowledge that any decision concerning the care and welfare of your pet(s) and the shelter population as a whole are within the sole discretion of Lee County Animal Services whose decisions are final.
9. After the storm, any pet(s) found abandoned or without an owner in the shelter, will result in the pet(s)' relocated to Lee County Animal Services with final disposition left to the discretion of Lee County Animal Services.

**Lee County Animal Services  
Pet Owner Sheltering Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ the owner  
of \_\_\_\_\_

understand that emergencies exist and that limited arrangements have been made to allow myself, family and pet(s) to remain in the shelter facility. I understand and agree to abide by the pet care rules contained in this agreement and have explained them to any other family member accompanying me and my pet:

1. My pet will remain contained in its approved carrier except at scheduled times. During scheduled relief time, my pet will be properly confined with leash, harness and muzzle (if necessary). Scheduled visitation times will be strictly adhered to per Lee County Animal Services.
2. I agree to properly feed, water and care for my pet as instructed by Lee County Animal Services.
3. I agree to properly sanitize the area used by my pet, including proper waste disposal and disinfecting.
4. I certify that my pet is current on rabies and all other vaccinations recommended. If my pet is not up to date on rabies and other vaccinations, I give my consent to allow Lee County Animal Services to administer rabies and other vaccines to my pet(s) to prevent the risk and spread of infectious diseases.
5. I will not permit other shelter occupants to handle or approach my pet either while it is in its carrier or during exercise time.
6. I will maintain proper identification on my pet and its carrier at all times.
7. I permit my pet to be examined by animal shelter personnel if necessary.
8. I acknowledge that my failure to follow these rules may result in the removal of my pet. I further understand that if my pet becomes unruly, aggressive, show signs of contagious disease, is infested with parasites or begins to show signs of stress-related conditions, my pet may be removed to a remote location. I understand that any decision concerning the care and welfare of my pet and the shelter population as a whole are within the sole discretion of Lee County Animal Services whose decisions are final.
9. I certify that my pet has no history of aggressive behavior and has not been diagnosed with any contagious diseases for which it has not received successful treatment.

I understand my name will be taped to my pet's carrier, and I will be required to provide my driver's license for visitations with my pet(s).

I hereby agree to hold harmless Lee County, Lee County Animal Services or its agents responsible for any damage, injury or harm caused directly or indirectly by myself, my family or my pet(s) during our stay in temporary housing. I further agree to indemnify any persons or entities which may have suffered any loss or damage as a result of the care and sheltering of my pet(s).

_____ Pet Owner's Signature	_____ Date
_____ Witness Signature	_____ Date

# Shelter Admission/Discharge for Pet Form

(to be completed by owner for EACH pet)

Owner's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Information: (Relative Not Living in Same Household)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Animal:**    Cat    Dog

Male            Male Neutered            Female            Female Spayed

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Microchip    Yes    No            Microchip No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Veterinarian \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## **BELOW TO BE COMPLETED BY LCAS AT ARRIVAL:**

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes    No    Proof of:**

Written proof of vaccinations during the past 12 months

Rabies Tag # \_\_\_\_\_

## **Items Registered with Pet:**

Carrier or cage

Collar/Leash

Food

Water/Food Bowls

Medications    Types: \_\_\_\_\_

Newspapers or wee-wee pads for handling waste

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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## **BELOW TO BE COMPLETED BY LCAS AT DEPARTURE:**

Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

By signature of this document I attest that I have removed my pet(s) and its belongings upon departure from temporary housing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

