



Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning

Training Guide



SART Training Media



Pets in Disaster: Personal Planning Training Guide

Prepared in 2005 by:

Laura Bevan

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

Chris Eversole

University of Florida, Gainesville

Carol J. Lehtola

Associate Professor
University of Florida, Gainesville

Updated in 2018 by:

Laura Bevan

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

Copyright by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Published March 2005

SART Training Media are available for download from the Florida SART
Web site <www.flisart.org>.

Contents

About Florida SART	1
Specific Learning Objectives	2
Resources	3
Training Slides	Appendix A

About Florida SART

- SART is a multi-agency coordination group.
- SART is made up of over 25 partner agencies (state, federal and non-governmental organizations).
- SART provides preparedness and response resources for Emergency Support Function 17 [(ESF 17) Animal and Agricultural Issues].
- SART statutory authority
 - State Emergency Management Act (Section 252.3569, Florida Statutes)

SART Mission

Empower Floridians through training and resource coordination to enhance all-hazard disaster planning and response for animal and agricultural issues.

SART Goals

- Support the county, regional and state emergency management efforts and incident management teams.
- Identify county resources available for animal and/or agricultural issues.
- Promote the cooperation and exchange of information of interested state, county and civic agencies.

Specific Learning Objectives

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

- 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

Resources

The following are sources of additional information about the subjects mentioned in this introduction.

For a complete listing of SART Training Materials, visit the Florida SART Web site:

www.flsart.org

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

Florida 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.

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 can be viewed in its entirety at the National Ag Safety Database Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/nasd/>

Humane Society of the United States Personal Planning

www.humanesociety.org/make-disaster-plan-your-pet

Resources, continued

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

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

Animals in Disasters: Module A, Awareness And Preparedness, IS 10. Access this course at: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-10.a>

Animals in Disaster: Module B, Community Planning, IS 11.
Access this course at <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-11.a>

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

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

IFAS Disaster Handbook, prepared by the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.
<http://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu>

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)

Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)
<https://eden.lsu.edu/>

Occupational Safety & Health Administration’s (OSHA) Emergency Preparedness and Response Page
<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/emergencypreparedness/index.html>

Resources, continued

Other resources related to agricultural safety are listed below: **National Agricultural Safety Database (NASD)**

<http://nasdonline.org/>

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: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=is-317>

Livestock in Disasters, IS-111

Access this course at:

<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-111.a>

Other courses that might be useful with this module include:

The Role of Voluntary Agencies in Emergency Management IS-288

Access this course at: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-288.a>

A listing of all the IS courses offered by FEMA can be found at:

<https://training.fema.gov/is/crslist.aspx?page=1>



Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning

Appendix A - Training Slides



SART Training Media



Pets & Disasters
Personal Planning



 State Agricultural Response Team 2

Pets & Disasters: Personal Planning

Prepared by: Laura Bevan Director, Humane Society of the United States Southeast Regional Office, Tallahassee, Florida	Updated in December 2018 by: Laura Bevan Director, Southeast Region, The Humane Society of the United States Tallahassee, Florida
Chris Eversole University of Florida, Gainesville	
Carol J. Lehtola, Ph.D. Associate Professor, University of Florida, Gainesville	

 State Agricultural Response Team 3



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
- Take photos or scan important documents and store in iCloud or other secure internet based account where the information can be retrieved even if all other storage methods are compromised



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,
FL 1259 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 Pet Disaster Kit Checklist		
Pet Disaster Kit Checklist		
Item	Yes	No
Pet name		
Photos with you and your pet		
Up-to-date health records		
Emergency shelter contact list		
Extra collars with ID tags and bells		
Maple		
Food for up to two weeks		
Water for up to two weeks		
Disinfectant/bleach		
Collar for walk/leash		
Flashlight		

Have information on pet disaster kit available at:
 • <http://www.aggcenter.com>
 • <http://www.aggcenter.com/pet>
 • <http://www.aggcenter.com/pet/pet>



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 Evacuation Options	
Type of Evacuee	Options and Contact Information
Ready and Ready	1. 2. 3.
Evacuee and Evacuee in other area	1. 2. 3.
Character of community and how that community behaves	1. 2. 3.
Public facilities	1. 2. 3.



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 degrees Fahrenheit 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.flsart.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


