

# PET HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

A practical emergency checklist for dog and cat owners in Lake Worth & Palm Beach County

**DO THIS BEFORE THE STORM: Prepare your pet's go-bag, confirm your evacuation destination, and make sure your pet's identification, medications, vaccinations, and veterinary records are current.**

## 1. Build Your Pet's Hurricane Go-Bag

- ☐ **Food:** Pack at least 5–7 days of your pet's regular food; include special or prescription diets.
- ☐ **Water:** Store enough drinking water for your pet. Palm Beach County recommends at least 3 days for pets; its Pet Friendly Shelter checklist calls for 5 days.
- ☐ **Medications:** Keep at least 5 days of necessary medications, plus written dosing instructions.
- ☐ **Bowls:** Include food and water bowls; collapsible bowls save space.
- ☐ **Carrier/crate:** Make sure it is secure, labeled, and familiar to your pet.
- ☐ **Leash & collar:** Pack a sturdy leash and make sure your pet wears current identification.
- ☐ **Litter & litter box:** For cats, include litter, a box, scoop, and waste bags.
- ☐ **Waste supplies:** Pack dog waste bags, paper towels, disinfecting wipes, and trash bags.
- ☐ **Comfort items:** Bring bedding, a blanket, favorite toy, or other familiar item.
- ☐ **Pet first-aid supplies:** Include basic supplies recommended by your veterinarian.

## 2. Identification & Medical Records

- ☐ **Microchip:** Confirm your pet has a functioning microchip and that your phone number and address are current in the registry.
- ☐ **ID tag:** Check that your pet's collar tag has current contact information.
- ☐ **Rabies/license:** Keep required county license and rabies information current.
- ☐ **Veterinary records:** Place vaccination records, medication list, medical history, and your veterinarian's contact information in a waterproof bag.
- ☐ **Recent photos:** Keep several clear photos of your pet and at least one photo of you with your pet.
- ☐ **Proof of ownership:** Keep adoption, purchase, or other ownership documentation when available.

## 3. Evacuation Plan

- ☐ **Know your zone:** Check Palm Beach County's current evacuation information before hurricane season.
- ☐ **Choose a destination:** Identify a friend, family member, pet-friendly hotel, boarding facility, or other safe location outside the evacuation area.
- ☐ **Confirm acceptance:** Call ahead. A property that normally accepts pets may have different policies during a hurricane.
- ☐ **Know the county shelter:** Palm Beach County currently identifies one Pet Friendly Shelter; space is limited and eligibility rules apply.
- ☐ **Transportation:** Keep your vehicle fueled and practice loading your pet calmly into a carrier or vehicle.
- ☐ **Leave early:** If evacuation is ordered, follow official instructions and allow extra travel time.
- ☐ **Never leave your pet behind:** If it is unsafe for you to remain, it is unsafe for your pet.



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## 4. Before the Hurricane Arrives

- ☐ Bring dogs and cats indoors well before dangerous winds arrive.
- ☐ Move carriers, leashes, medications, food, water, and the emergency kit to an easy-to-reach location.
- ☐ Keep pets away from windows, doors, and areas that could be damaged or flooded.
- ☐ Fill extra water containers and keep your pet's normal food routine as much as possible.
- ☐ Do not allow pets outside except when necessary; keep dogs on a leash.
- ☐ If your pet becomes highly anxious during storms, contact your veterinarian before hurricane season to discuss a plan.
- ☐ Never give your pet a medication or sedative that was not prescribed or specifically recommended for them by a veterinarian.

## 5. After the Storm

- ☐ Keep pets indoors or securely leashed until your property and surrounding area are safe.
- ☐ Watch for floodwater, downed power lines, broken glass, nails, debris, damaged fencing, wildlife, and contaminated water.
- ☐ Do not assume your yard is safe simply because the storm has passed.
- ☐ Monitor your pet for injuries, illness, dehydration, unusual behavior, or signs of severe stress.
- ☐ If your pet is lost, contact Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control and check local lost-and-found resources.

**Prepared pets are safer pets.**

**If your pet needs a wellness exam, vaccination update, microchip check, medication refill, or advice about storm anxiety, contact the team at Regal Animal Hospital before hurricane season.**

| Contact                  | Name / Purpose        | Phone / Details      |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Veterinarian             | Regal Animal Hospital | (561) 766-1380       |
| Regal address            | 8906 Lantana Road     | Lake Worth, FL 33467 |
| Pet-friendly destination |                       |                      |
| Out-of-area contact      |                       |                      |



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## KEEP THESE OFFICIAL RESOURCES HANDY

- **Palm Beach County Office of Emergency Management – Hurricanes:**  
<https://discover.pbc.gov/oem/Hazards/Hurricanes.aspx>
- **Palm Beach County Office of Emergency Management – Planning for Pets:**  
<https://discover.pbc.gov/oem/Sections/Planning-Pets.aspx>
- **Palm Beach County Animal Care & Control – Hurricane Information:**  
<https://discover.pbc.gov/publicsafety/animalcare/Pages/Hurricane.aspx>
- **Palm Beach County Hurricane Shelter Information:**  
<https://discover.pbc.gov/oem/pages/shelters.aspx>
- **List of Pet Friendly Boarding Facilities:**  
[https://discover.pbc.gov/publicsafety/animalcare/pdf/Boarding\\_Facilities.pdf](https://discover.pbc.gov/publicsafety/animalcare/pdf/Boarding_Facilities.pdf)

### PALM BEACH COUNTY PET-FRIENDLY SHELTER

West Boynton Recreation Center • 6000 Northtree Blvd., Lake Worth, FL 33463 • (561) 233-1200

Eligibility, registration, operating status, accepted animals, and space availability can change. Verify current instructions with Palm Beach County before evacuating.