

## Special Considerations

Only persons sheltering at a County facility can shelter pets there. There are no “drop offs.”

At no time will pets be allowed in buildings housing human evacuees.

Pet owners are responsible for the care of their pets while at shelters. However, visitation times will be limited and scheduled by shelter staff.

Only one person per household will be designated to care for the household’s pets.

Any pets that are overly aggressive or unruly or show symptoms of contagious disease or parasites will be relocated.

No one will be allowed in the pet shelter during the critical period of a disaster.

Once evacuees are allowed to return home, they **MUST** take their pets at that time.

Any pets not retrieved from the shelter will be taken to Panhandle Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) with final disposition left to the discretion of the Director of Animal Services at PAWS.

Please Help Save  
Lives--  
both human and  
animal--  
by copying and  
distributing this  
brochure!

# Your Pet In DISASTER!



Provided by Animal  
Services at Panhandle  
Animal Welfare  
Society (PAWS)

## Facts:

- Approximately 1,835 people died during Hurricane Katrina.
- The American Red Cross estimates that 600 of those died because they would not abandon their pets.
- The Humane Society of the United States estimates that during Katrina over half a million pets were killed or lost.
- 61% of Americans polled after Katrina said they would not abandon their pets even in the event of impending disaster.
- 63% of American households have pets.
- 86% of pet owners in America consider their pets family members.
- Households in Okaloosa County have approximately 131,000 pets.
- In a disaster requiring evacuation, the County can house a maximum of 600 pets in its three Pet-Friendly Shelters:
  - Antioch Elementary (Crestview)
  - Davidson Middle School (Crestview)
  - Northwest Florida State College (Niceville).
- A great majority of residents do not have a Disaster Preparedness Plan for their pets.

DO YOU?



## Develop Your Plan

Just as they should for themselves, pet owners should have Disaster Preparedness Plans for their pets. Plans should include

- Prearranged sites for evacuation that will accept their pets (For example, friends' or relatives' homes out of the area).
- Up-to-date vaccinations for all pets
- A Pet Disaster Evacuation Kit which includes
  - A minimum 3-5 day supply of food and water
  - Food and water bowls, litter pan, litter
  - A kennel/carrier large enough for the pet (along with food and water bowls and small litter pan) to stand comfortably and turn around. Pet's name and contact information should be attached securely to the kennel.
  - Medical records, including vaccinations, rabies certificate, veterinarian contact information
  - Medicines and other special needs items
  - Photos of the pet and the owner *with* the pet.
  - Collars with identification, leash and other needed restraining devices (muzzle)
  - Pet cleaning supplies
  - Comfort items (e.g. special blanket, stuffed animal, toy).

## Okaloosa County Evacuation Shelters

If you need to evacuate, particularly with pets, a County shelter should be your **LAST** option, not your first. They are literally shelters of **LAST RESORT**. If an evacuation advisory is given, and you have the means and ability, please evacuate—and early!

If, however, you find yourself needing to shelter at a County facility and you have pets, you **MUST** bring the following items (preferably ALL items listed under the Pet Disaster Evacuation Kit):

- A minimum 3-5 day supply of food and water
- Food and water bowls, litter pan, litter
- A kennel/carrier large enough for the pet (along with food and water bowls and small litter pan) to stand comfortably and turn around.
- Rabies certificate
- Medicines and other special needs items

**THE COUNTY WILL NOT PROVIDE THESE THINGS FOR YOU!**

Note: Please listen to local radio and television broadcasts for shelter opening notifications. Not all shelters will be open for all emergencies. DO NOT go to a shelter that you aren't certain has been opened!