

August 26, 2006

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Status of Pet Evacuation

If I require city/parish assisted evacuation, where should I go with my pet when a mandatory evacuation is called?

You may bring your pet with you to the evacuation pick up point. Your pet will be registered and identified with a temporary collar bearing your initials and your driver's license or LA ID number. Pets will be transported to a pet evacuation shelter via animal transport. Large pets should be on a leash or in a carrier. Small pets should be in a carrier. You should bring: a one week supply of special food or medication that your pet needs, and copies of medical records.

What if I don't have a kennel for my pet? Will I be turned away?

You will not be turned away if you arrive at a pick-up point without a carrier. However, it's highly recommended that all small animals arrive in carriers as small animals can easily escape. All pet supply stores sell carriers. If your cat arrives without a carrier and slips away, it's unlikely your cat will be caught.

If you don't have the money to purchase a small carrier, please put your cat in a pillow case and tie it at the end. Be sure to support the cat's body weight.

I have a small pet. If I require city/parish assisted evacuation, can my pet ride on my lap with me?

The buses used for evacuation are contracted for the emergency, and pets are not allowed. Only service animals are permitted on contracted buses.

Will there be pet-friendly shelters available for my pet and me if I can self-evacuate?

There will be pet-friendly shelters available on a first-come, first-served basis; they will quickly fill. Pet-friendly shelters should be your last resort. Owners are expected to care for their pets at these facilities. Please bring all necessary items (e.g. kennel, medication, food, cage, leashes, collar, litter box, etc.) that will allow you to provide proper care to your pet.

Residents should make their personal evacuation plans with their pets in mind. Many hotels relax their pet policies during times of disasters. You can also check-out pet-friendly hotels early by visiting websites such as www.petswelcome.com or www.pets-allowed-hotels.com.

Will I be able to stay with my pet in the shelter?

Pets and people cannot stay together in Louisiana shelters (with the exception of service animals who can stay with their owners). However, people and pet shelters are located in close proximity to one another in some locations.

Will my pet be going to the same destination as me?

For people needing city or parish-assisted evacuation, every effort is being made to transport pets and people to the same location, but there is no guarantee that you and your pet will be sheltered in the same town. For that reason, it is critical that you identify your pet.

- Microchip your pet
 - Tag your pet's collar with your name and contact information
 - Take a photo of you with your pet
 - Keep a copy of your pet's medical records with you
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If I require city/parish-assisted evacuation (e.g. I don't have my own transportation) and my pet cannot be accommodated, what should I do?

Recommended options:

- I. Reach out to neighbors, family, and friends and ask them to transport and care for your pet for you.

Last resort:

- I. Shelter your pet at home.
 - a. Be sure to leave adequate water supply that your pet can easily reach and not tip over.
 - b. Allow your pet to freely roam the house; do not kennel or close off rooms. Those animals left behind during Katrina who had full access to the house were more likely to survive. Animals that did not have access to other areas had a significantly higher death rate.
 - c. When you register at the Parish Pick-Up Point, tell animal officials that you left a pet behind and leave your address with them.

How do I find out where to go with my pet?

Once on the road, stop at designated emergency check points along your route for information on where pet-friendly shelters will be located.

Group release pending approval from:

LDAF - yes

LSART – yes

LA/SPCA – yes

LACA – pending

FEMA Special Liaison for Animal Issues – yes

LVMA - pending