

# Be prepared for HURRICANE season!

Article by Carol Caridad



© IstockPhoto by BanksPhotos

## Pet Preparedness for Natural Disasters Should Start Before the Storm Warnings!

With hurricane season in full swing, it's never too early to start planning for a natural disaster. Having a disaster plan is a must have for not only rescues and shelters, but for pet owners too. Here at Paws 4 You Rescue, we developed Plan Hurri-K9, because not all of our dogs are lucky enough to be in foster care during their stay with our rescue. Those without foster homes are placed in kennels where they are boarded in between being rescued and finding their forever home. Although these runs provide ample space and comfort for our dogs day to day, they are at risk during hurricane season. Plan Hurri-K9 is designed to place them in temporary homes during hurricanes that are not life threatening to humans. For those storms that we are able to ride out in the safety of our homes, volunteers are able to pre-register to foster one of our dogs in case of a storm. Please go to [paws4you.org/](http://paws4you.org/) foster for more information on our Hurri-K9 Program.

We organize our disaster plan all year round and encourage you to do the same. Whether you stay home during a storm or are forced to evacuate, you'll need a disaster kit that contains a week's worth of your pet's food in an airtight waterproof container, one to two gallons of water, plastic bowls, a two-week supply of your pet's medications, a first-aid kit and clean-up supplies such as paper towels. Also set aside important documents like vaccine records, vet records, proof of ownership and photographs of your pet to have on hand in case he or she gets lost during the storm.

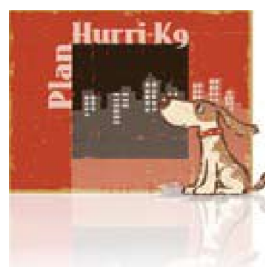
In addition to staying with relatives or at a pet-friendly hotel, Miami-Dade County has two pet-friendly



Whether you stay home during a storm or are forced to evacuate, you'll need a disaster kit... Also set aside important documents like vaccine records, vet records, proof of ownership and photographs of your pet to have on hand in case he or she gets lost during the storm.



shelters that open to residents in mandatory evacuation zones during hurricanes. But pre-registration is mandatory and can be done by downloading an application at [www.miamidade.gov/animals](http://www.miamidade.gov/animals). The shelter allows up to four pets per family. Keep in mind that all pets' vaccine records and dog licenses will have to be up to date in order to stay at the shelter, and all pets at the shelter are required to remain in a crate. If you don't currently use a crate for your pet, consider buying one ahead of time so your pet can familiarize himself with it without the added anxiety he may feel from being in a new environment as the storm passes.



Should you have enough space in your heart and home to include one of our dogs in your disaster plan, please e-mail [foster@paws4you.org](mailto:foster@paws4you.org) with the subject line "Hurri-K9." Best wishes in keeping yourself and your four legged friends safe this hurricane season!