



**CITRUS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*

—SHERIFF—  
**JEFFREY J. DAWSY**



## Pets:

Plan your evacuation strategy and don't forget your pet! Specialized pet shelters, animal control shelters, veterinary clinics and friends and relatives out of harm's way are ALL potential refuges for your pet during a disaster. If you plan to shelter your pet, work it into your evacuation route planning.

Contact your veterinarian or local humane society for information on preparing your pets for an emergency.

1. Have a leash and a collar or halter with identification tags for most animals. (Animals, such as birds and some reptiles, that cannot have identification on their bodies must have proper identification on their cage in case of separation.
2. Provide a portable carrier in which the animal can easily move around.
3. Since the pet may have to live in the carrier for several days, make sure it is large enough for the pet to stand, stretch and turn around. For cats, the carrier must be able to hold a small litter box and still leave room for the cat to move around.
4. Supply water in gallon-sized plastic containers, dry pet food and food dishes. There should be a 1 to 2-week supply of food and water for the pet.
5. Include a supply of the pet's regular medications, such as heartworm medicine and flea prevention products.
6. Provide up-to-date health records, including vaccination history. Many veterinary clinics or kennels will not board dogs and cats without proof of vaccinations. Without that proof, you may have to pay for the animal to be re-vaccinated.
7. Have written instructions on the pet's feeding schedule and diet, medications and any special needs.
8. Include newspapers or trash bags for cleanup.
9. Bring pets indoors before bad weather hits - reassure them and remain calm.
10. If severe damage occurs, walk pets on a leash until they become reoriented to their home. Downed power lines, reptiles and debris can all pose a threat for animals after a disaster.
11. If pets cannot be found after a disaster, contact the animal control office to find out where lost animals can be recovered. Bring along a picture of your pet.
12. After a disaster, animals can become aggressive or defensive - monitor their behavior.