

Coastal Poodle Rescue offers these helpful hints for you and your pet.

## Preparing ahead of time is simple!

Be Prepared with your pet. Visit [www.floridadisaster.org](http://www.floridadisaster.org) for details on how to prepare your family for disasters that happen in Florida. These tips will alleviate issues when you must deal with a disaster or emergency. Personal emergencies can happen at any time and weather disasters are not uncommon in Florida. Having taken the tips listed to heart can alleviate stress for both you and your pet during the unexpected.

Specifics for preparing your pet supplies for a disaster:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have a plastic travel quality or wire <b>crate</b> for EACH pet you own. Even if your animals are best buddies, during an emergency stress can cause them to act differently. You can place crates next to each other to allow them to be close.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keep the crate in a place where your animal has access, like the bedroom or living area, porch. You want each pet to be familiar and comfortable with the crate and this will help them feel safe in the crate during times of stress such as travel or evacuation.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have a spare leash, harness or collar attached to the crate with a tag.</li><li>• <b>Microchips</b> – if your pet has a microchip – BE SURE TO REGISTER IT, there are free services plus the paid services. Register the rescue and an out of town person. These allow an increased chance your pet will be returned to you. Disasters are typically localized so someone out of town will less likely be affected – be sure to tell them what you want to happen. Most sites now offer to store extra information such as vet, medications etc. so this information can be accessed during an emergency.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be sure the spare collar/harness has an up to date <b>name tag</b> for your pet. Place multiple phone numbers on your tags if possible, preferably one number that is from out of town. If a disaster strikes having your cell and home phone will not do much good if both are not working. But an out of town number is probably going to work as disasters are usually localized. Be sure to notify the person whose number you use and let them know what you want to happen if they get that call.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is as simple as a <b>Ziploc type storage bag</b> – place all vet paperwork and receipts in a Ziploc type bag and attach to the crate or place in the bag of spare supplies. You will always have up to date information on your animal's records, medications and vet information. Tie wrap it to the crate or store in the backpack. This will help if you have to evacuate and need proof of shots etc. for your pet, it will also allow you to remember what medications your pet is on.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Backpack or bag of supplies</b> – be sure to have spare dishes, toys, blankets (with your family scent – not new) in a bag that is ready to go. Keep this bag with your other supplies in an easily accessed location. Clean-up supplies like bleach wipes, paper towels and of course poop bags and the like. Having your vet paperwork or business card with these supplies will make it easy for someone to contact your vet in case you are out of commission.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Food</b> – try to keep a few extra cans or dry food around for your pet – changing their diet during a disaster can cause stomach upset and messy stools which will make the disruption even worse for everyone. Never mind your pet may not eat a strange food.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Medications</b> – be sure you know what medications your pet is on – store your monthly medications with your vet records if you can, flea/tick/heartworm are the most common medications animals are on monthly. For daily medications, be sure to refill your prescriptions when you hear of weather WATCHES – so you have a good supply to take you through the potential disaster.</li></ul>